

The Village of Alanson

Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

Regular Council Meeting of September 9th, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Village President Greg Babcock at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Council Present: Trustee Mark Fairbairn, Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Josh Larson, Trustee Scott Latva, President Greg Babcock.

Council Absent:

Staff Present: Jason Losey, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Scott Latva to accept the agenda as written for September 9th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- A. *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the minutes as written for the regular council meeting of August 14th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.
- B.

Public Comment: Local Business Owner Charles Rehmann provided a "letter of understanding" to Council along with a check for \$750 that will go toward the Solar Tree project's administrative fee. The Village is to pay the invoice when it arrives from MSU. Rehmann said he has told MSU that he is willing to pay up to \$1500, not to exceed \$2000 towards the project.

Rehmann also mentioned that he has called on the outstanding invoice from MSU on the Sanctuary Island engineering project in the amount of \$703.99. President Babcock commented that he has reached out to MSU as well for clarification.

Rehman stated that he had spoken with Doug Houseworth regarding the Labor Day Bridge Walk. The numbers in attendance were up this year. Rehmann mentioned it was a more "mature" crowd as they didn't have any kids' activities. The food truck was a hit. Houseworth wanted to apologize that they kept the road closed longer than had been approved. Rehmann mentioned they have several booklets available that they plan to hand out to businesses around the Village.

Visitor Presentation:

A. N/A

Four handwritten signatures in blue ink are located at the bottom right of the page. From left to right, they appear to be: a stylized signature, a signature that looks like 'DL', a signature that looks like 'JL', and a signature that looks like 'GB'.

New Business:

- A. **Sewer Clerk Bids:** Two Letters of Intent were received for the Sewer Clerk position; Lucia Brzezinski and Marisa Breithaupt.

Trustee Doug Larson asked the applicants to introduce themselves.

Marisa Breithaupt introduced herself. She mentioned she is the wife of Ordinance Enforcement Officer Jamie Breithaupt. Breithaupt said she has more time on her hands and would like to get involved with the Village. She mentioned she is also looking into other positions that open up.

Lucia Brzezinski introduced herself and mentioned she has been working at Fairbairn Realty for the last two years. Brzezinski is looking to get involved with the community and open to other positions within the Village. Brzezinski mentioned she has had experience working with the BS&A program.

Resident Kim Morgan commented that she has been doing the sewer billing for the Township for 10 years. Morgan said the Township sends bills out quarterly which saves the Township money. Morgan suggested the Village switch from monthly to quarterly billing. Morgan also suggested paying the Sewer Clerk position more money to get a better candidate that stays on. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Doug Larson asked the candidates if they wanted Council to go into closed session to discuss their decision. Both candidates responded they were fine remaining in open session. President Babcock suggested that the Council needs to determine the Sewer Clerk's compensation.

Trustee Mark Fairbairn commented that both candidates are great. Fairbairn said Breithaupt's husband is doing a great job. Fairbairn also commented that Brzezinski has worked with Murphy before and has some experience. Fairbairn also disclosed that Brzezinski is currently dating his nephew. Trustee Fairbairn suggested that the Sewer Clerk position pay needs to be raised. Trustee Fairbairn also asked if they should change the billing cycle to quarterly. Trustee Doug Larson commented that the residents would have an issue with that. Kim Morgan responded that billing quarterly is more cost efficient. Resident Gail Greenwell commented that many people in the Village live paycheck to paycheck and could struggle with the change.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to have President Greg Babcock negotiate the Sewer Clerk salary upon selection of a new Clerk. Seconded by Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion carried.

Kim Morgan commented that the Council should go with someone that has some experience with the BS&A software.

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to select Lucia Brzezinski for the Sewer Clerk position. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll Call Vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- No, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. 4/1. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- A. **Property Owner - Brian Mulcahy:** President Babcock mentioned that at last month's meeting Mulcahy had received a sewer billing refund and was being required to tap into the sewer. Mulcahy

could not make tonight's meeting. Babcock did say Mulcahy mentioned he is in the process of pulling a permit to tap into the sewer and is getting bids from contractors.

B. Par Plan Grant - Fall Cycle Quotes: President Babcock reported the Par Plan grant deadline is coming upon on September 15th. Babcock received a quote from EPS security who services the Village Hall. EPS's quote came back at \$500. Babcock said we are looking to install 4 cameras which we would install ourselves. Discussion ensued.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Inquired as to why the new Banners are not on the roadside but are over the sidewalks. Street Commissioner Jason Losey said they had concerns with trucks hugging the curb could damage them. Losey also said some banners are larger than others and hang out further.

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Trustee Doug Larson- Reported that the fall grant season is beginning. Larson is hoping to get more flower baskets for the streetscape. Hoping to keep the cost under \$6000. Larson is hoping the DDA can contribute with purchasing some of the hardware.

Trustee Scott Latva –N/A

President Greg Babcock-Reported there is a Lock consortium meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Babcock expects them to give an update on the upcoming projects. Babcock reported the Sewer Authority cancelled this month's meeting due to a lack of agenda items. Babcock also mentioned he had received an email from Bee Friendly regarding working in Morgan/Memorial Park. Bee Friendly stopped out and looked at the park and do not have the time next year to do the work. They said, "It's too much for them to take on." Babcock said Bee Friendly recommended we reach out to Peggy's Gardening.

Trustee Doug Larson commented that he had spoken with Doug Houseworth. Houseworth had provided the photo that was used on the new streetscape banners. Larson would like to thank Houseworth and Fire & Ice Photography for providing the photo.

Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy- Absent. Report included.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson – Reported that the DDA purchased new Message Center boards that have been installed at Sanctuary Island and Memorial Park. Wilson mentioned that 48 trash vouchers have come back so far amounting to around \$1300. The deadline was September 1st. Wilson also reported the DPW is getting a new dumpster with a lock on it.

Trustee Mark Fairbairn inquired as to what's going on with the Spring Street project. President Babcock mentioned that project should begin towards the end of the month.

Street Commissioner: Jason Losey reported M&M Excavating will begin the Spring Street project by the end of the month.

Losey reported that at the old Second Handman Store, Tri County excavating is asking to tap into the storm drain to remove excess water from an artesian spring under the building. Tri County plans to install more drain tiles when they lift the building. Tri County needs the council's approval to tie into the storm drain. Trustee Doug Larson expressed concern about the storm drain being used as a permanent drain for the spring. President Babcock commented that they need to make sure it's the storm drain and not a sanitary line. Trustee Doug Larson asked if there is damage to the system, how we are ensured it will be taken care of. Losey said he plans to be down at the site when they tap into the drain.

Trustee Fairbairn asked where the sewer tap project to the DPW building is at. Losey responded that project is on hold.

Losey reported the large plow truck steering gear box went out. Needs to be repaired. The estimate is \$1380 to replace it with a refurbished box.

Losey mentioned the streetlight on the corner of US 31 & River Street has been fixed.

Losey said the trash cans in the park are getting bad. He plans to get bids for new trash cans.

Monthly Bills: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Charles Rehmann mentioned a very well written mailer had gone out from the Sewer Authority.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.