

Minutes
Village of Alanson
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706
Regular Council Meeting of December 9th, 2024



Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Village President Greg Babcock at 6:03pm.
Pledge of Allegiance- Recited

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

Council Absent:

Staff Present: Jason Losey, Jennifer Murphy, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the agenda as amended for December 9th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the minutes as written for the Regular Council meeting of October 14th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Public Comment: N/A

Visitors:

A: Barbara Boz-7837 Lake Street. Boz introduced herself and informed the Council that she purchased the old carriage house on Lake St. 2 years ago and has been doing renovations. Boz informed the Council that her neighbor to the south has parked a camper on the 15' access strip behind her house. Boz stated the neighbor has stayed in the camper much of the summer. Boz stated that she had overheard that the neighbor plans to put in a campground on his property. Boz said he is currently cutting down trees preparing for the campground. Boz wanted to make the Council aware of the problem. Boz submitted a petition from several neighbors to the Council. Petition included. The petition states they want the camper removed and do not want a campground allowed there. The property in question is zoned R-1B. President Greg Babcock stated that a campground is not allowed. The neighbor would need to go before the zoning board. Babcock also stated he has looked into the 15' access strip. Babcock is unsure of who owns that strip. Babcock stated that he needs the original Plat for Evergreen Park to determine the ownership. Discussion ensued. Babcock said that the Village can't tell the neighbor to remove the camper unless we can determine if the 15' access strip is Village property. Boz inquired about having campers in the Village. Babcock responded that residents can store a camper on their property but are not allowed to stay in it unless their property has a current/ active building permit while under construction. Further discussion ensued. Boz asked what will happen if it is determined the Village owns the access strip. Babcock stated that the neighbor will be asked to remove the camper. If the access strip is not owned by the Village, Trustee Larson said we can't do anything about it and are out of the conversation.

New Business:

A: Quote from Hyde Services Drop Spreader- Last year Losey had informed the Council that with the new sidewalks he was requesting to purchase a drop salt spreader to tow behind the tractor to salt the sidewalks. Losey received two quotes last year. One from Truck & Trailer and one from Hyde Services. Hyde's new quote came in the same as last year. Truck & Trailer did not requote the spreader. Hyde's quote was cheaper by a couple of hundred dollars. Losey asked the Council if they wanted to move forward with the purchase. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to authorize the purchase of a Western 250 drop spreader in the amount of \$3,995.50 +/- 10%. Seconded by President Greg Babcock. Trustee Mark Fairbairn suggested we should wait and that the businesses and residents should be maintaining their own sidewalks. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- No, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- No, President Greg Babcock- Yes. 2/2. Motion not carried.

B. Charles Rehman- Planning & Zoning Board- Rehman presented a letter to the Council expressing interest in joining the Planning & Zoning board to increase its members. A question arose if you had to be a resident to be able to be on board. President Babcock read from the Planning & Zoning book that the Council can appoint a nonresident to the Planning & Zoning board.

Motion by Trustee Mark Fairbairn to approve Charles Rehmann to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Babcock stated that there is one more seat available on board and the Zoning Administrator position is also open.

Old Business:

A. DNR Grant Update- - N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Fairbairn stated that he was told the new streetlights are turning off too early in the morning. Losey stated they are on sensors and may need to be adjusted. Fairbairn said the Christmas decorations look great. Losey stated several of the GFI's are tripping and need to be reset daily. Losey said he had to use an extension cord to be able to reach the plug. Losey said that he can't lower the lights as a couple have been hit already. Fairbairn also stated a resident on East Street said the street was not getting plowed. Ann- last name unknown, a resident on East Street in attendance, said that yes East Street is getting plowed.

Trustee Doug Larson- N/A

Trustee Scott Latva – Latva inquired if Losey knew the speed limit sign was down on Spring Street. Losey stated it was probably taken down when they did the street project. Losey said he would get it put back up.

President Greg Babcock-Babcock informed the Council that the Locks meeting for December was cancelled. The Sewer Authority meeting is scheduled for this Thursday to discuss the budget. Babcock said that the Sewer Authority is planning to raise the sewer fees 3-5% over the next 2 years; then 3% a year afterwards. Babcock also reported that an easement agreement came in from the Army Corps of Engineers to allow for an easement down Lake Street to run a sewer line to the lock. Babcock commented

that the Village attorney has not reviewed the agreement yet. Barbara Boz inquired as to what side of Lake Street they were planning to put the sewer line. Discussion ensued.

Babcock also informed the Council that there is an open seat on the Village Council board. Josh Larson is now off the board. Babcock stated the Council can appoint someone to the board for a 2-year term, and then the person will need to run for their seat. Babcock said that Wayne McPhall has expressed interest in the seat. Babcock said if anyone knows of anyone to have them email him in the next couple of days. The individual must be a resident of the Village.

Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy- See attached report.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson –Wilson stated the DDA is putting on the Alanson Holiday open house this coming Friday December 13th, 2024.

Wilson also stated the DDA has two people wanting to join the board. Melissa Krusel from Flowers by Melissa and Kathy Taylor from the Hillside Garden.

President Babcock stated that Bob Evans would need to be removed from the DDA board.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to remove Bob Evans from the DDA board. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to approve Melissa Krusel and Kathy Taylor to the DDA board. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner: Jason Losey met with the Inspector at the Swing Bridge inspection. Losey said everything is solid structurally and is fine mechanically. The electrical, pump systems and locking mechanism need some work. Losey said he is confident they can get the work done before the swing bridge opens next summer. Losey reported both stop gates are nonfunctioning. The east side gate is completely rusted out. The western gate was hit by an unknown car a few weeks ago and is now out of order. Losey said he is working on getting quotes to repair the gates.

Losey also stated that the Fire Department is hosting the free pancake breakfast for project Rudolf this Saturday December 14th, 2024 at the school. They ask that you donate a new toy but that is not required.

Monthly Bills: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Resident Gail Greenwell asked if someone had a zoning question- who do they contact. President Babcock responded that he is currently acting as the Zoning Administrator and answering questions. Babcock said that he has reached out to Tammy Doernenburg with the Emmet County Planning and Zoning Department. Babcock said that the Village can enter into a contract with the county and have them administer the local zoning for the Village. Babcock is waiting to hear back from the county with more information.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.