

**VILLAGE OF COPEMISH**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 11, 2025**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** by President Mike Longo at 7:04 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Mike (Y) Misty (Y) Jan (Y) Mary (Y) Earl (Y) Ally (Y)

**VISITORS:** Clark Scarbrough, Danielle Bilbia, Donnie Kelley, Tony George, John McCall, Dave Myers, Linda Scarbrough, Sharon Witkop, Samantha Hewitt.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** \*Dave Myers - Township Park project – feasibility study shot down, they will finance the study to proceed. Committee is being formed to oversee the process. Jan and Donnie expressed interest in being on the committee. \*Samantha Hewitt stated garbage prices have doubled from \$50 to \$100 quarterly in the past year for her in the Village with GFL. She would like to see a partner rate for residents.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Jan. 14, 2025): No discussion.
  - PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: No questions.
  - TREASURER'S REPORT: Misty read off all fund balances. No questions.
- Earl made Motion to Accept the Consent Agenda, 2nd by Jan, AIF.

**STREET ADMIN. REPORT:** \*Donnie says Tony is doing his job cleaning up the streets and recommends the following for the budget: raise to \$25/hour for maintenance, along with purchase of impact driver/cordless drill \$140. He feels Tony deserves the raise for the great work he is doing.

**PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT:** \*Clark didn't have anything to report. He did inquire as to the signatures required for the ordinances at the last meeting. Clark to draft notice to publish the newest ordinances in paper making them effective.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mike had the opportunity to speak with the owner of the old church. The owner may be willing to sell the property back to the Village if it does not sell by the Spring, but the owner expressed he has put money into cleaning it out (approximately \$10k). Mike is interested in the possibility for restoring it to a community center, possibly securing a grant for such.

**OLD BUSINESS:** \*Septic/Drain field replacement ad for bids is in the paper. Several local contractors have inquired on bidding. Entire system is root bound. Roto Rooter will need to snake and then Cap's will need to pump it. Mike proposed Roto Rooter snake it, Mary Seconded, AIF. Cap's will then need to pump it. Food Pantry – served 84 households, next distribution is Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. It's last Friday of every month and additionally quarterly on Saturday. \*Blight - John reported he spoke to the owner of the church. The property is currently up for sale.

**NEW BUSINESS:** \*Consumers Energy Audit Conducted to show cost savings and programs available. Consumers Energy recommends we immediately switch from T12 to T8 lights and use LED bulbs in the shop. Savings would be noticeable the next month's billing. \*Crystal Mountain Art Park Joint Grant Opportunity – They clean up around their Art Park and offer to give the Village trees to plant and trees to give to residents. Misty asked the board to grant a letter of support in partnership. Mary expressed concern for the type of trees. We can choose from a lengthy list of native trees if we choose to partner for the grant. \*Discussion regarding attorney: Mary has a copy of the deed for M & R Products sale and is doing more research as she has documentation from the Manistee County Clerk stating it never went to a ballot vote. We still haven't received response from our current attorney. Mike stated the attorney hasn't returned a call nor did anyone from the attorney's office. Mike spoke with a prospective new municipal attorney, Brad Wierda from Smith & Johnson, whom offered a partner rate of \$250/hour and associate rate of \$200/hour to represent the Village. Mary made motion to replace attorney, Jan seconded, AIF. \*Mike appointed Jan Myers to be President Pro Tempore. Mary (y) Jan (y) Earl (y) Mike (y) Ally (y). Mike would like permission to tap maple trees within the Village for making maple syrup this spring. No objection from the Council as Mike has been doing this for many years, permission granted. \*Misty requested the board allocate funds for Quick books general ledger assistance and training from H & S for maximum \$1,980 for quarterly visits. \*Mary asked for compensation for John McCall's position similar to how Thompsonville pays their Zoning Administrator. Mike is going to work on a yearly number for compensation. \*Open Board Seats/Treasurer – Ad in paper still for Treasurer. Mike made a motion to appoint Danielle Bilbia to be a member of the Zoning/Planning Board. Mary (y) Ally (Y) Earl (y) Mike (y) Jan (y). Board wants to keep ad in paper. \*FOIA Policy/Office Fees were proposed tailored to the Village. Fees are in accordance with the State of Michigan FOIA. Mary made motion to adopt the FOIA Policy/Office Fees as presented, Jan seconded, AIF. Budget hearing must be in February, tentatively February 18<sup>th</sup> providing we can get it in the paper, and board members will be paid for the meeting. Meeting date/time will be confirmed by the clerk.

**FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:** \*None

**FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:** \*Mike asked Ms. Hewitt to thank her daughter for being so good during the meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Jan made motion, Ally 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.