

## VILLAGE OF COPEMISH

### MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2023

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** by President Shannon Saunders at 7:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:02 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** Shannon (P) Elaine (P) Mike (P) Jan (P) Clifford (P) Open position ( )

**VISITORS:** Dave Myers, Samantha Hewitt, Dennis & Hilnora Myers, Brooke Popp, Mary Ann ?

**AMEND/SET AGENDA:** No approval motion made.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** \*Dave Myers indicated the County is in process of publishing an updated ORV Road Allowance Manual. Currently, the Village of Copemish is showing "NO ORV usage" on all public roads. The Village needs to establish or revise our ORV ordinance and communicate to the County ORV usage in the Village by Oct. 1st. Shannon suggested this be added to tonight's agenda under new business due to the time deadline. \*Samantha Hewitt submitted a letter to the Council in response to last month's ordinance violations notice. Due to personal issues, she has not had a chance to contact her car insurance company regarding storage coverage. The Jeep and Thunderbird are listed. She knows the yard still needs attention and is trying to sell some vehicles. The Council understands, is willing to allow more time, and appreciates the update. \*Dennis Myers stated why he is using the storage units. New units are not cheap. It is no problem sealing the bottoms. Setbacks should not be a problem as he owns the surrounding properties. He did not realize he was in violation with the sidewalk, misunderstanding. He now knows five feet of clearance is required. Junk vehicles on the highway are in process of being removed. New siding is being installed on the building.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING:** Security cameras are up and running. Still need to check with the County regarding removal of trees along M-115. Other trees scheduled to be removed next week.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** The Pioneer Group - \$44.55, 3 public announcements. Best Buy - \$392.19, cameras for the park. Staples - \$81.99, ink. Power Vac - \$1,095, drains still not fixed. Need to spend additional \$12,000.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shannon read off all the fund balances. No questions.
- **Motion to approve the Minutes, bill payments, & Treasurer's report made by Clifford, seconded by Mike. Vote - AIF.**



**STREET ADMIN. REPORT:** \*Clifford informed the Council that Tony is still doing a good job. \*Need a new tractor before this winter. \*Still need more street signs: 2 more 25 mph, 1 more village limit, 1 more crime watch. \*Tony has a plan to pour 3 yards of concrete to create a ditch to improve erosion issues along Michigan Street. Cost unknown. Resolution to purchase the concrete: Motion made by Mike, no second, vote - AIF. \*Pay increase for Tony. Motion to give Tony a \$1/hr. raise made by Clifford, Jan second, vote - AIF. \*Clifford asked if we have a tool allowance for Tony. Shannon said - No, but can ask the Council to purchase certain equipment and tools.

**PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT:** Clark Scarbrough - Updates from the Sept. 6 meeting. \*Approved the Parks and Recreation. Want to revisit, address the sport's park and other subjects when needed. \*Short-term rentals. Should not be homesteaded. Should be insured and need to be inspected. We used to have a contracted inspector (Mark Niesen) doing inspections every 3 years. Dave Myers has information on this and will give to Clark. Also need to establish how many we will allow. Mike explained how his short-term rental property works. His renters get screened (VRBO). He has not had any problem renters.

\*Ordinance violations: Second hand store - clutter on the sidewalk. Needs to have 5 feet of clearance. Outbuildings, for commercial property, can't cover more than 80% of the property and only allowed one outbuilding. Need to do more research on how storage units fit into our ordinance. Also, possible setback issues, 20 feet on the back. Can apply for a variance through the Zoning Board of Appeals. Discussion from the Council regarding storage units: Is this something we want to allow? They are popping up in communities, being used not only for storage, but businesses, housing, even bomb shelters. The Planning Commission recommends storage units not be allowed in the Village. Council member comments: Shannon is in favor. Mary (Not yet a Council member) is against. Mike is in favor except for the colors. Jan is basically in favor, but concerned about relationship (brother-in-law). Clifford is in favor. Issued tabled. Will be addressed at the next Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. May need to differentiate between Residential and Commercial.

\* Ordinance violation: Mobile home recently moved in on State Street - Have to have a 20' wall on every side. Was there a land use permit issued? Probably not as we had discontinued using the County, and the Village did not have anyone. Need to send a letter with a copy of the ordinance to the property owner.

**PRESIDENT REPORT:** \*Several items covered under Old and New Business. \*Motion to purchase pipes for the V plow from Art's Auto in TC for \$270 made by Clifford, seconded by Mary, vote - AIF. \*Grant update: Splash pad - In order to get the State grant, we need an updated Parks and Recreation Plan. Motion to amend our plan as a working document made by Clifford, seconded by Mary, vote - AIF. \*Dead trees in the park: Smitty's did not give a quote after doing an on-site inspection. Need to hire Straight Up Tree Service. \*Loan for Imhoff is at the bank.



**OLD BUSINESS:** \*Selling old equipment to help pay for a new tractor. Bob Milke(?) has offered to pay \$3,400 for the 1974 tractor and \$8,000 for the Ford plow truck. Only bid we received. Motion by Clifford to accept Bob's bid, seconded by Mike, vote – AIF. This should pay for a new tractor. Tony needs to get 2 bids, then come back to the Council. Elaine indicated there is a new Tractor business near Manistee that is offering reduced prices to get new business. \*Update on meeting with EGLE on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>: Dave Schuberg did an on-site inspection. He dug some soil samples. He was surprised to see indications of dryer soil in some of the wet land area. Back before the 1<sup>st</sup> creek dam, the area was all hardwoods, not wet lands. Manistee County should have records of previous soil samples. It would be nice if we could find pictures from before the dam. We tried to get Dave S. to give us an opinion as to the chances EGLE would approval our project, he would not commit and said other State and possibly Federal agencies would have to get involved. We feel the DNR should be on our side (Shannon will also reach out to the DNR, find out when the dam was installed). A limit of 500 linear feet raised board walk is allowed and encouraged. Also, we probably need to stay under 5 acres for the pond. We ask Dave Schuberg for an email, outlining our discussion. This has yet to happen even after a follow-up request. Going forward, Dave Myers is planning to submit the \$500 EGLE permit application without hiring a landscape architect. \*Mary Scarbrough expressed concerns regarding people using the Mish-a-mish nature trail getting lost and wandering onto their property. She feels the new proposed Township Park will cause more problems. Mish-a-mish Park issues will be put on next month's agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:** \*New Treasurer: Could not find an interested Village resident. Shannon nominated Brooke Popp to fill the open position of Village Treasurer and Mary Ann ???? as Deputy Treasurer. Council vote for Brooke Popp: Clifford – Yes, Mike – Yes, Jan – Yes, Shannon – Yes. Brooke was sworn in. \*New Council Trustee: Shannon nominated Mary Scarbrough to fill the open position, temporarily, until the next election. Council vote for Mary Scarbrough: Clifford – Yes, Mike – Yes, Jan – No, Shannon - did not vote. Mary was sworn in. \*Trunk or Treat: Want to include all Village and Township residents. Hold on Oct. 31 in the Village Park. Shannon has offered to help provide items and ask the school to announce it. Mark Griner has offered to send out notices and provide a fire truck. Dave and Jan Myers have also offered to help and provide funds. \*Christmas decorations and celebration: Shannon wants to make some, have a workshop using volunteers. More details for next meeting. Also going to submit a grant. \*Brainstorm on a location for the sport's park: Clark suggested the property behind the hire salon. \*ORV ordinance (2013-1): Currently allows for the use, but with many stipulations. The County just needs to be made aware of our ordinance, updated if need be to conform to State law, so they can update their county wide map. ORVs are allowed in the Village. Dave Myers will forward all emails to Clark and Shannon as they can address with the County. \*Mike Longo submitted his letter of resignation as Village land use permit administrator.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** \*American Legion fish fry this Friday, 5 – 7pm. Also, food truck at 11am this Friday.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Clifford, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan. AIF. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm. Foot note:  
Mike had to leave the meeting at 8:20pm due to personal health reasons.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Gibbs, Village of Copemish Clerk.