

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH
MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by President Mike Longo at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:02 PM.

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

VISITORS: Clark Scarbrough, Patrick Milliron, Dave Myers, Dale Humphrey, Sharon Witkop, Linda Scarbrough, Walter Rock, Deb Longo, Phyllis Cholette, John McCall, Donnie Kelley, and Joe Brunett.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: * John McCall talked to everyone on the list Mike Longo gave him for blight. *Dave Myers update on park project. Everything is on schedule to begin. The survey of the property has been done. Donnie Kelley and Jan Myers are on the committee. He announced the written Spring 2025 Grant Awards for the Manistee County Community Foundation. Misty concurred that Village of Copemish received \$10,000 grant for lighting project from the Limitless Fund. Dave said significant press releases will be made for the complete streets agreement connecting Kaleva to Thompsonville trails and they're replacing the culvert for the bridge over the Dutchman between Thompsonville and Copemish with the extra funds available. Fish fry at American Legion Friday. St. Raphael's Feeding America is Friday. * Linda Scarbrough asked for assistance with a couch for Spring cleanup.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

STREET ADMIN. REPORT: *Donnie Kelley is working with Mary Scarbrough for an MDOT grant to resurface 3 streets. He is talking to AJ Excavating about the drains. Bids close May 27, 2025. Mary stated we need to look over the resolution to be adopted for the road project. Deadline is June 13, 2025. A section by Earl's house has been added to the project. Donnie wants 2 signs "Caution: watch for Flashing Lights" for Tony's safety working on M115. Mary made a motion to buy the signs from the Road Commission. Mike Longo 2nd. AIF. Donnie will order and get bill copy to Misty.

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT: *Clark reported work has been done on both churches that we went to court on. He reported it will take some time for compliance but work

is started. Clark wishes Mike Longo to contact Ben Poppa to begin; Mike Waid is still waiting on his inspection.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Mike talked about Spring Cleanup and asked for volunteers to help make things go smoothly. He will have his truck and trailer available and encourages everyone to come out and help. Dumpsters are being dropped on Friday and picked up on Monday.

OLD BUSINESS: * Frank Gillis Violation. Mike made a motion for closed meeting to allow the attorney to speak to the council on the matter. Jan Myers wanted elaboration on the need for the closed meeting. Mike asked attorney Brunett to address the council on the need for a closed meeting. He advised an ordinance violation was issued against one of our property owners and is being heavily contested by the attorney. Mike and the attorneys have made a preliminary agreement to resolve the issue pending council approval out of court. The settlement strategy aspect needs to be discussed to avoid further litigation on down the road.

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Longo: Y

Mary Scarbrough: N

Ally Young: Y

Earl Witkop: Y

Jan Myers Y

Yeas: 4

Nays: 1

Absent: 0

Motion Passed.

7:41 PM Closed Session Ended

Public welcomed back to the meeting. Mike Longo announced the attorney’s proposed settlement in the Gillis Ordinance Violation for the trailer on State Street and a vote needs to be taken. The settlement offers to pay \$500 fine which is more than we would probably get if we pursued the matter in regular court, he will put a 6’ deck on the length of the home with railings. Roll Call Vote to Approve the Settlement by Mike Longo.

Mike Longo: Y

Mary Scarbrough: N

Ally Young: N

Earl Witkop: Y

Jan Myers Y

Yeas: 3

Nays: 2
Absent: 0

John McCall stated it will affect all the ordinances from here forward. Mike disagreed and feels we need to move on.

NEW BUSINESS:

“Light Up Copemish” – Misty announced the Village received \$10,000 Grant from MCCF Limitless Fund, \$1,000 from M & R Products and a few other donations. She requested signatures on the Newkirk Electric and Display Sales invoices to proceed with the project. Funding continues, very proud of all the work Deb Longo did on the project so far. Community Day French Toast Breakfast June 14th at the American Legion 9-11:30 am to benefit the Light Up Copemish Project. Euchre Tournament starting at 3pm also at Legion on the 14th as well as a Family Game Night/Food truck rally in the Copemish Park from 3-8pm with Prizes!

The roof project update. Adjuster estimate is in outlining the project and details/requirements for obtaining depreciated amounts from neglect/age etc. J & M Services did the original repair which was \$300. The estimate mirrored the quote from the local company. We need to issue a check for \$7,000 for the repair to begin and the project should be done in about 3 weeks from start to finish. Hopefully in June!

Building Keys – we will have a master list of keys to the building.

Category B Road Grant – Mary stated MDOT will pay 50%, so the project would be \$60,000. Possibly get a USDA loan for the project. She stated the drains will have to wait until next year. She asked for the adoption of the resolution for MDOT. Brian is the engineer writing the grant and his fees would be within the project if we get the grant. Ally made a motion to approve the Road Grant Resolution. Jan 2nd. AIF. The road project is slated to be done by 2026.

Pat Milliron stated we should budget gravel for the side of the roads to build them up during the project.

Phyllis Cholette addressed the council with her desire to be the treasurer. She stated she worked with Elaine and would like to help if we want her. She stated the Village didn’t have BSA when she worked here previously, she made a spreadsheet as the checks came in, organized the invoices, and prepared deposits for Elaine. She was elected in Marilla and worked with Elaine for about a year and a half. Mary feels we should purchase BSA. Phyllis didn’t think it was necessary. She made her own spreadsheet and was comfortable with the Excel tracking. Mike made a motion to make Phyllis the treasurer based on her experience. Mary 2nd. AIF.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None

FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: *None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Earl made motion, Jan 2nd, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.