

**VILLAGE OF COPEMISH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Jan. 14, 2025**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** by President Mike Longo at 7:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Mike (P) Misty (P-Clerk) Jan (P) Earl (P) Mary (P) Open Trustee position (A) Open Treasurer position (A)

**VISITORS:** Ryan Schultz, Clark Scarbrough, Dave Myers, Susan Boone, Brian Boone, Donnie Kelley, Brian Gutowski, Ally Young.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** **\*Ryan Schultz** – M&R Products President. Ryan gave a brief history of the company, sales and employment numbers. Mary questioned the August 2020 expansion with concern over the location of the new AC unit and the noise it produces. Ryan stated surveys were done as required by Case Bank, financier, so as far as he knows, it was placed on M&R Product's property. The noise levels are within OSHA's requirements. Mary expressed concern over the visual aspects, not enough trees to block the view. She also feels the park property was not properly sold to M&R. Ryan stated they will work with the Village to address any concerns, and offered to do tours of the plant. **\*Dave Myers** - Proposed Township Park project update: Should hear back from the second grant proposal with the Grand Traverse Revenue Sharing Board any day. If this isn't granted, Jan and I will fund the \$12,100 feasibility study/ ECLA application permit for the Township. **\*Brian Gutowski** - Manistee County Sheriff. Brian addressed the recent emails expressing concern over the lack of reasonable response times and police presence in the Village. They are still short handed even with the addition of two deputies. He welcomes feedback as he wants to address any issues and provide the highest level of police services given his staffing. Regarding the Village hiring a Constable, he stated liability (Insurance) and scope of responsibility are the main concerns. Constables typically only enforce local ordinances, not State laws. Also, discussion over the handling of the recent serious car accident which Brian stated was handled by MSP. Brian feels if he can get to full staffing, he will be able to provide better service. Mike expressed concern over the parking of vehicles at the auto repair shop, 25 feet from stop signs, 33 feet of road ROW? Brian stated every place in Manistee County abides by the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code. However, road ROW issues can be hard to enforce. Also parking on sidewalks is generally not allowed, but Brian suggested that should be covered under Village ordinance.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Dec. 10):** No questions or comments.

- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** We have two Trustee signatures on everything.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Misty read off highlighted transactions & balances of all five funds.
- Motion by Mary, 2nd by Earl to approve the consent agenda. AIF.

**STREET ADMIN. REPORT (Open position):** Lacking a street administrator, Mike asked Tony to attend this meeting. However, he was not able to attend. Everything appears good, snow plowing. Mary asked if Tony could be our Street Admin. Mike said no. Misty stated MDOT requires us to have one for paperwork/funding contact. Motion by Mary seconded by Jan to appoint Misty as Street Admin., just to handle MDOT paperwork/funding. AIF.

**PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT (Clark): \*Proposed Short-Term Rental**

**Ordinance:** Motion to approve made by Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan. Roll call vote: Mary – yes, Jan – yes, Mike – yes, Earl – yes. Motion passes. **\*Proposed Village Shipping/Cargo/Storage Container**

**Ordinance:** Motion to approve made by Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Earl. Roll call vote: Mary – yes, Jan – yes, Mike – yes, Earl – yes. Motion passes. Ready for Council approval. **\*Proposed Camping**

**Ordinance:** Motion to approve made by Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Earl. Roll call vote: Mary – yes, Jan – yes, Mike – yes, Earl – yes. Motion passes.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mike thinks Tony is doing a good job plowing this winter. Mike has been trying hard (With limited success) to get in touch with people regarding blight issues.

**OLD BUSINESS: \*Safety and security in the Village:** Covered with Brian Gutowski. The Council would like Debra Longo and Dave Myers to continue to seek grant funding for a Village Constable, with job duties yet to be determined. **\*Former sales of Village property:** Our

attorney did another review (Over \$900 charge) and came to the same conclusion. He feels the sale was done legally. Misty has not received an explanation. Mike suggested we consider changing attorneys. Also, the attorney has not followed through with Frank Gillis. Mike will contact the attorney. **\*Blight Process:** John McCall was supposed to attend tonight's meeting to provide updates. Mike will contact John. Misty was unable to send out Mike's letter, addressed to all Village residents. The Council had discussion regarding the significance of blight in the Village, with different opinions being expressed. Mike asked to table this issue.

**\*Dam removal, beavers:** Tony still feels they are slowing down a lot.

**NEW BUSINESS: \*New Village letterhead:** Misty provide two options. Motion to accept the letterhead with the line made by Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary, AIF, motion passed. **\*Appointment of open**

**positions: Street Admin.:** Donnie Kelley would like to withdraw his previous letter of resignation. Motion to reinstate Donnie as Street Admin. made by Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Earl, AIF, motion passed. **Trustee:** Ally Young would like to fill the fourth opening. Motion to appoint Ally Young made by Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan, AIF, motion passed. **Treasurer:** Misty continues to do both Clerk and Treasurer, until a new Treasurer can be appointed. Linda Cudney will continue to help with tax collection on a contract basis. Misty will put an ad in the paper. **\*Hall septic/Drain field,**

**possible replacement:** Permit has been submitted. We should have the County come out to do a soil sample. **\*Food Pantry:** Grand opening Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. 50/50 raffle this Sat. Planning on distributing food the last Friday of each month.

**FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER and PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dave Myers was concerned about the radar signs not always working this winter. Misty and Tony are working with the company to try and figure out what's wrong.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by Misty O'Shea, Village of Copemish Clerk, with recorded support from Dave Myers.