

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH

MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by President Shannon Saunders at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Shannon (P) Elaine (P) Mike (P) Jan (P) Clifford (P) Chris (A)

VISITORS: Dave Myers, Suzique Couture, Tony George

AMEND/SET AGENDA: No approval motion made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *Dave Myers apologized to the Council and President for his inappropriate interruption of last month's Village meeting. Dave also updated the Council on the status of ongoing research to creating a new Township or Village Park. *Suzique Couture asked what is the procedure to get a Land Use Permit? Shannon indicated since we no longer have the County doing our LUPs, Mike Longo is now responsible for issuing them. We do not issue Building Permits. That is done through the State.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: *Jan Myers asked the Council if they would be willing to change the agenda to allow public comment at both the beginning and end of our meetings. Shannon indicated some municipalities do it only at the beginning, some do both. Also, Shannon said according to MML, public comment is not allowed regarding any items on the agenda. They can only address other issues or concerns of theirs not on the agenda. Mike suggested we allow short public comment at the end of the meeting with no discussion, and have it put on next month's agenda. Issue tabled - The Council will need to make a motion to change the agenda to allow public comment at the beginning and end of our meetings at next month's meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING:** No discussion or questions.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** Comment regarding the \$1,221.20 US Treasury bill. Also, Jan questioned the cost of attorney fees from last month and the changing of legal counsel without Council approval. Shannon indicated it had to be done due to our Planning Commission being in violation of our own ordinance and a conflict of interest with Miller Johnson who also represented Thryve. Shannon also indicated according to MML, it is the President's job to obtain legal counsel. She does not need Council approval. Shannon offered to meet with Jan and go over the MML

handbook covering how Villages operate. Shannon hopes to be able to offer MML training for all Council members outside of our regular meetings.

- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No questions.
- **Motion to approve the Minutes, bill payments, & Treasurer's report made by Mike, seconded by Jan. AIF. Motion passed.**

STREET ADMIN. REPORT: *Clifford informed the Council Tony is still doing a good job. *The drains are as good as they are going to get, for now. Power Vac has a camera system. Clifford wants to get an estimate for them to use the cameras to get a layout of all the drains and then an estimate to get them fixed. *Signs are doing good. Tony will be installing the rest of the signs soon. *There are about 14 trees along M-115 that are dead or dying: Clifford has a guy who is licensed and insured willing to remove them for free. He is not willing to address the trees in the park. For that, Elaine is getting a quote from the person who did the trees on Cleon Street. Tony will talk with the County Road Commission, letting them know our plan for the M-115 trees.

PLANNING COMMISSION & ZONING REPORT: *Shannon recently attended a training session put on by the County. She did not get much out of it. *Shannon printed out Planning Commission & ZBA handbooks from MML. This outlines rolls and responsibilities for members of each. *Clark Scarbrough will update the Council with meeting reports.

PRESIDENT REPORT: *We need to amend our junk ordinance violation fees. The State caps this at \$135. Our ordinance has fees over this limit. To be addressed at next month's meeting. *Letters (17) going out this week addressing blight and junk violations. *Dennis Myers may need a land use permit for his lot on M-115 at the end of Yates Road. Also, specific issues with his second-hand store were listed in his letter. *The old Copemish grocery store may need a land use permit as they have changed to a different type of business. *Kevin Knudson place: Shannon has had contact with Kevin, taking pictures of his place. DHS is also involved. There are multiple issues with the trailer, entry way and yard. Kevin keeps trying to use his supposed poor health to get sympathy. Shannon will contact DHS before our next Council meeting which will be a public hearing to allow all letter holders an opportunity to address their specific issues. *The old church is falling apart. In their letter, we are asking them to contact the Land Bank for possible assistance. *The car repair shop has multiple issues. Dale has addressed several items, but still needs improvement. Specific items listed in his letter. *Frank Gillis's letter addresses his moving in a trailer. Did he get all the necessary permits? *Update on grant for Historical Memorial park and children's park: Need for a splash pad. Need more space. Suggestion to close off the section of Elm Street between the park and the hall. Will need a public hearing. Concern over insurance implications. Grant application needs to be completed by October 1st.

OLD BUSINESS: *Security cameras for the park: Some confusion regarding which system was approved for purchase. Elaine will order the approved system (more expensive option).

*Copemish Heritage Days: AL beer tent – Insurance issue, still trying to work out the details.

Motion to allow the American Legion to do a beer tent on August 4, 2023, for Heritage Days, providing the insurance issues are resolved to our wishes. Motion made by Mike, seconded by Jan, AIF. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: *Chris Cote: Brought his daughter with him to show us why he cannot continue on the Village Council and would like to present to the Council his wishes to resign as a Village Trustee. *Tony will fix tilted signs in the Village. *August insurance renewal: Cost went up again, \$5,733 to \$6,438. Probably too late to get other quotes for this renewal, but we need to start getting quotes for next year, maybe consider MML. Motion to renew current insurance made by Mike, seconded by Shannon, AIF. Motion passed. *Ground wire at Village Hall not hooked up??? Clifford will look into. *Shannon will contact EGLE regarding the proposed wetlands park to try and convince them to do an on-site inspection without the landscape architect design. *Budget adjustments: Need a public hearing. Will do one ad to cover all issues. *Plow truck needs work. Also, what to do with the old truck. Tabled for next month. *Mike is requesting help on understanding his role as our new Zoning Administrator, issuing land use permits. Shannon said the upcoming training should help. *AL fish fry this Friday!

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Clifford, 2nd by Mike. AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Gibbs, Village of Copemish Clerk.