

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH

MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2023

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:01 P.M.

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

VISITORS: Dave Myers, Clark Scarbrough

AMEND/SET AGENDA: No approval motion made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *Dave Myers (1) gave an update on the proposed Township Park project. Nothing new. Still planning to seek funding (Seed money) through a possible grant with the Manistee County Revenue Sharing Board. Mark Griner is very confident we will be awarded grant money to cover the \$11,600 estimate for preliminary work. Application for this grant will be submitted in February. (2) At the Township BOR meeting tonight, Bill Muha, our local Tax Assessor, indicated there is an issue with the parcel owned by Dennis Myers located off M-115, where he is storing/selling used vehicles. He is paying Village taxes, but it is shown as being outside the Village on the official County maps. The Village boundary line needs to be moved south to the highway. Clark said he will contact the County to get it corrected. (3) Friends of SMARTrails update: New bridge over Bear Creek in Springdale Township will be installed this summer. Copemish to Thompsonville trail will be resurfaced with crushed limestone this summer. Heads-up: They will be asking for help from all the local municipalities to cover preliminary engineering requirements for upcoming projects. For the Village's next FY budget, please consider budgeting \$500.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING:** No discussion.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** Elaine indicated there is an issue with 2 Council members needed to review/initial/approve all bills/invoices. Jan has been the only Council member doing this for a while. Shannon asked for another Council member to do this during the meeting.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shannon read off all fund balances. No questions.
- Motion by Clifford, seconded by Jan to approve the consent agenda. AIF.

STREET ADMIN. REPORT: *Lights are on. Tony is still doing a good job. He did a couple of repairs, broken belt, new tire.

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PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT: *Dec. 5, 2023 Quarterly meeting: Only had four members show up. (*Frank Gillis trailer issue: Could not come up with a solution, no vote. Clark recommends we allow Frank to leave the trailer there,) but require him to bring the property up to all zoning/ordinance codes/requirements.) Shannon indicates he will still be issued the violation ticket and attorneys will deal with it. Also, Clifford indicated Frank had recently sent him inappropriate text messages. More discussion under Old Business later in this meeting. *Camping Issue/ordinance: Planning Commission recommends the Village should adopt a new ordinance that does not allow camping on any Village or public property except in a designated campground area (possible future Township campground). *Short term Rentals (Less than 1 month): Planning Commission obtained a copy of Onekama's ordinance and application and recommends we use theirs as a template. It requires registration, has to be inspected, there is a fee, and many other details that seem to make sense. *Land use permit: The discrepancy on setbacks between the permit (20') and the zoning ordinance (15') is being researched by Debra Longo. *Shipping/storage containers: If they are allowed, the Planning Commission recommends there must be a 10' distance from any primary building for possible fires. Our current ordinance already addresses this for outbuildings. Also recommended, they all be painted the same color. Shannon asked Clark to work out the details of all the ordinances the Planning Commission is working on and present them to the Council for review, get our attorney involved and eventually a final vote from the Council

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: *First year accomplishments: Storm drains. Created a new Planning and Zoning Commission. Some Christmas decorations. *Moving forward, possible projects for 2024: New playground equipment, revisit a splash pad (or alternatives – sprinklers), sports park (for older kids), soccer field, ice skating rink, sledding hill, park flush toilet, Village Hall improvements (furnace, septic system, garage floor, selling of the old truck). Other possible projects for 2024: Pave Cedar Street on both sides of M-115 going around the flea market/storage units back to M-115, Christmas lights with help from Consumers, emergency plan, Memorial Garden. *Village Christmas party: Dec. 21th, 7-8pm, songs, refreshments, Shannon to put on Facebook.

OLD BUSINESS: *Ordinance violation letters: Fines are going out soon as many violations have not been fixed (white church, Scott F. trailer, Kevin K. trailer). Land Bank, Freedom Builders and other agencies may offer possible solutions. Bad timing on the fines. Shannon feels we should not have done this so close to Christmas. (*Frank Gillis trailer: Shannon has contacted County and State officials. As previously stated, it appears he has not gotten all the proper permits. He did not attend last months or tonight's Council meeting, but did attend the Dec. 5 Planning Commission meeting. He will be issued a ticket and handed over to our attorney. Expectations are – he will comply with our ordinances, or remove the trailer.) *Street loan: It is now in the Local Street Fund. ✱

NEW BUSINESS: *Mike Longo: Mike expressed his desire to resign as a Village Trustee due to conflicts with people. He is frustrated over the handling of the Frank Gillis issue. Mike feels the

Village does not apply the rules equally, to everyone. Discussion regarding possible conflicts of interest with Village officials. Mike asked if he needs to submit his resignation in writing. Shannon said verbal is OK as this meeting is being recorded. Verbal resignation was accepted by Shannon. ***Establish Village email accounts:** Due to recent inappropriate contacts made to Village officials from the public, our attorney recommends we setup individual email contacts. Shannon and Elaine to work on. Village web site will need to be updated to include new contact information.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC OR COUNCIL COMMENTS: Clark Scarbrough indicated Frank Gillis admitted he did not obtain the required permits for work he is doing on 4th Street. Shannon indicated Clark should proceed as a new/separate issue, start from scratch. 

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Clifford, 2nd by Mary. Vote - AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Gibbs, Village of Copemish Clerk, with recorded support from Dave Myers.