

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by President Shannon Saunders at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Shannon (P) Misty (P-Clerk) Jan (P) Clifford (P) Mary (P-late) Susie (P-Treasurer)
Open Trustee position (A)

VISITORS: Dave Myers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ***Dave Myers** (1) Proposed Township Park project update: Submitted the revenue sharing grant application with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Don't know when they will decide. (2) Township Hall update: Cost to complete has almost doubled to \$1.5 million, but no additional costs to taxpayers as we have contingency plans. Completion date is now scheduled for later this summer, maybe into the fall. (3) Senior Fresh Project event this Friday. There is an income requirement that may be adhered to this year. (4) Township cleanup day results: Filled 3 dumpsters and 2 metal recycling trailers, 64 loads, 39 tires, 12 Village participants.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (May 14):** Discussion on new furnace, Alin Kuutila, painted road signs – Misty indicated Gene Isaacson is willing to donate his time, we cover material costs. Shannon indicated fines went out. Need to contact Manistee about condemning the old church. Still need follow-up on Third Street trailer, have not seen any paperwork/permits from Frank Gillis. Should be condemned? Still need to get a handle on short term rentals. They need to be inspected. Also concern on State Street properties sharing septic, trailer, fire hazard. Shannon to follow-up with the Planning/Zoning Commission.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** No discussion. No printout. Shannon asked if we got two initials on the bills.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Susie expressed concern over spending a lot of time going back through records. It's a mess. It's nearly impossible to figure out where money has been put. She is very frustrated. Misty indicated the recent March audit has only a F-65 annual audit, not a financial audit. Susie stated the last full audit was in August of 2022. She handed out the "Communication of Material Weakness" report from that audit highlighting the lack of internal controls. It's going to take Susie

some time to learn Quick Books, work with Misty to figure things out. Misty suggested we go back to using the Treasurer's Report format from 20 years ago, easier to understand. Shannon read the fund balances.

- Motion by Clifford, 2nd by Mary to approve the consent agenda. AIF.

STREET ADMIN. REPORT (Clifford): *Tony: Continues to do a really good job. *Anaconda scope system: We now have it. Have not been able to get it setup and use it due to all the rain. Hopefully next week with Tony's help.

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT (Clark absent): No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: *Memorial/Historical Garden: Shannon is working on the stepping stones and wooden train. Project is progressing nicely. *MDOT Funding/grant: Unfortunately, our grant application did not work out as Brian (Fleis and Vandenbrink) combined the two options and excluded the drains, resulting in a cost of \$225,000, of which the Village would have to pay half. We still want to fix two drains and pave Cedar Street, but will have to find other grants. *Farmer's market, Mish-A-Mish Park: Seems to be going good, good turnout. Still too early for local produce. Food trucks are also there. *Trail update: Shannon asked Dave for an update from SMARTrails. Everything is progressing, but not as quickly as it should. Delays from the State for permits and approvals. The new bridge over Bear Creek is currently being built. Still hopeful to be installed this year. Side note: Concern expressed by Council members over the status of Mish-A-Mish trail and bridge. Maybe we should explore getting money to fix?

OLD BUSINESS: *New Hall furnace: Need to get a new quote. *Copemish Heritage Days: Jan and Terri Milarch are soliciting businesses for donations. Friday night activities include street dance, beer tent and fireworks, same as last year. CBS Solar donated \$2,000 toward the \$3,100 cost of fireworks. *QuickBooks: Desktop Pro is up and running. Still need QuickBooks Payroll. Motion to purchase QuickBooks Payroll for \$550 made by Clifford, 2nd by Mary, Shannon – Yes, Clifford – Yes, Mary – Yes, Jan – Yes. *Michigan Municipal League: Working on getting renewed. *Ford plow truck: Need bill of sale. Clifford to follow-up. *Insurance quotes: Worker's comp, business auto, property, and general liability. Still working on.

NEW BUSINESS: *Proposed Village Shipping/Cargo/Storage Container Ordinance: As presented from the Planning/Zoning Commission. Shannon read the draft ordinance to the Council. Shannon will follow-up with our attorney regarding grandfathering. Motion to accept draft proposed ordinance and send to attorney for final legal review made by Clifford, 2nd by Jan, AIF. *Proposed Amended Short Term Rental Ordinance: As presented from the Planning/Zoning Commission. Shannon explained why we need this. Motion to accept draft proposed ordinance and send to attorney for final legal review made by Clifford, 2nd by Jan, AIF. *Adopt the proposed Camping Ordinance: As presented after final attorney review. Motion to accept final proposed ordinance made by Clifford, 2nd by Mary, AIF. *Discuss accounting issues: Shannon discussed the need to possibly get a new CPA. Possibly a separate auditor also.

Shannon feels we need to ditch H&S ASAP. Shannon will continue to seek out other accountants/auditors. Misty has not been able to get other Villages to respond to her requests for advice on specific issues. Even when they do respond, is it correct?

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Clifford, 2nd by Mary, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

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