

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by President Shannon Saunders at 7:08 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Shannon (P) Misty (P) Jan (P) Clifford (P) Mary (P) Open Trustee position (A)

VISITORS: Dave Myers, Clark Scarbrough (Planning Com. Chair), Susie Morrow (Treasurer), Katie Mehl (County Land Bank), Tim Knoper (Dirt Birds), Alin Kuutla.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ***Dave Myers** (1) Proposed Township Park project update: Pursuing a revenue sharing grant with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Cycle 1 deadline is May 31. Don't know when they will decide. (2) Feeding America Food Truck will be here this Friday, May 17, 11am. Last event for Lisa, the United Way Food Truck Director. She is moving on. Don't know her replacement yet. (3) Wally Humphrey celebration scheduled for this Sunday, May 19, 1-3pm at the American Legion. ***Alin Kuutla**, a resident of Kaleva, is running for County Commissioner in our district. She will try to attend our meetings, get to know us and understand our needs. ***Susie Morrow**, our new Treasurer, has been a life long resident of Benzie County. She is well qualified. ***Tim Knoper**, President of the Benzie/Manistee Dirt Birds. They are working on creating and mapping ORV routes in Benzie, Manistee and Wexford Counties. Close to 100 members. Meetings held 3rd Sat. every month, March through Oct., 9am. Focus is on education and safety. Ride/social event after every meeting, 14 to 30 machines. Tim asked for a letter of support for the Dirt Birds. Also working with the DNR to get their approval. Tim indicated the County Road Commission is considering giving up control of ORV usage on all county roads and leaving it up to each Township, Village and City to decide which roads can or can not allow ORV usage. ***Katie Mehl**, Manistee County Planning Director. Here tonight to ensure we know the Land Bank Authority (LBA) exists, what it is and how it can be a resource to our Village. Katie provided handouts and a detailed report about the Land Bank Authority, some recent examples of successful projects, and emphasis on addressing blighted property (grant opportunities) and building partnerships with other organizations such as Habitat For Humanity, developers and 501c3 non-profits. The main goal is to bring properties back to a viable use and back on the tax rolls. Katie also provided information on how the Brownfield Act is used in conjunction with the LBA. Typically, the property has to have environmental contamination to get Brownfield incentives. Katie is asking the Village to provide her with a list of possible eligible properties. Shannon indicated we have previously given the LBA a couple of possible properties.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (April 9):** No discussion.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** No printout. Shannon asked to make sure there are two initials on each invoice.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No report this month.
- Motion by Clifford, 2nd by Mary to approve the consent agenda. AIF.

STREET ADMIN. REPORT (Clifford): ***Dale Humphrey:** Would like the title to the old plow truck he recently purchased from us. ***Tony:** Continues to do a really good job. ***MDOT Funding:** Clifford has scheduled a meeting (2pm tomorrow) with Brian, from MDOT, regarding funding for fixing drains and roads. MDOT will match up to \$250,000; projects in 2025. Deadline to submit funding request is early next month. We want to fix two drains and pave Cedar Street. Shannon has requested quotes from Elmer's and Ron Brown. We would like to support local businesses, but Elmer's tends to be much cheaper. ***Anaconda scope system:** Cost is \$8,385 delivered. Motion (Resolution) to purchase made by Mary, seconded by Jan. Shannon – Yes, Jan – Yes, Clifford – Yes, Mary – Yes. ***Village Hall road sign:** Clifford would like a bigger sign, maybe like Springdale's. Shannon indicated we probably have higher priorities (furnace) that we have budgeted for, leaving no extra money for this year. ***Welcome to Copemish road signs:** Clifford recommends they be repainted. He will contact Gene Isaacson. Otherwise, maybe Tony could do it

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT (Clark): ***Frank Gillis:** Clark delivered a few Land Use Permit applications for his property on Fourth Street. Clark has not heard back from Frank or John as to if Frank has turned any back in. Clark indicated he had a nice conversation with Frank thanking him for fixing up properties, providing housing, but needs to follow the rules. Frank agreed. ***Short term rentals:** Clark indicated he contacted a gentleman from Nessen City who would be willing to do inspections, but wanted to be exclusive. He was supposed to send more information, but have not heard back yet. Clark still wants to contact the owner of Precious Paws, as he also does inspections. ***Next meeting:** May 28, 7pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ***Flowers:** Shannon handed out belated Mother's Day flowers to all the mothers in attendance. ***Park improvements:** Shannon has expressed a desire to purchase water sports items for the park. However, the frost-free pump outlet is leaking and needs to be replaced, \$200. Motion to purchase new outlet made by Clifford, 2nd by Mary, Shannon – Yes, Clifford – Yes, Mary – Yes, Jan - Yes. ***New Camping Ordinance:** Our attorney has reviewed and recommends changes to section 6, remove imprisonment language. Then we should be able to approve next month. ***Short-term rentals:** Still some confusion as to the zoning of short-term rentals, due to recent local and State courts ruling stating they are commercial businesses

operating in residential areas. Our attorney agrees with us that they are not desirable in residential areas and will support whatever we decide. After much discussion by the Council, it was agreed to grandfather existing businesses, but not allow new ones in residential areas, allow only in commercial areas. Grandfather status would be lost upon sale or transfer of ownership of the property. Rough draft will be updated and sent to our attorney for review.

***Manistee County millage update for the Village:** Shannon did not request anything new; she is good with it. If everyone approves it, Susie will take care of. ***Park Bathroom:** Tony had to close temporarily due to vandalism. He added a sign. Tank will be pumped soon. Will add hand sanitizer and air freshener. ***Copemish Days:** Shannon cannot make the 6pm committee meetings. ***Elections:** We will do paperwork/petitions after this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: ***Village cleanup day:** Went well. All dumpsters were filled. Township cleanup day is June 1st. ***Fuel man card:** Has been paid. ***Village website:** Misty is working on college web pro. It has got to go. Also, Misty is collecting resident's e-mail, when possible, to improve communications/newsletters. Misty is also working on getting the Council members g-mail accounts. ***Michigan Municipal League:** New membership application almost done. Then we can do the insurance quotes.

NEW BUSINESS: ***New furnace:** In process of getting a quote without air conditioning, putting it in the back room, heat the whole building better. Clark will follow up. ***Missing card:** Listed with the bank. Misty took care of. ***Quick Books:** Has expired. According to our accountant, we need to renew our desktop version. Motion to purchase 3 years of desktop version of Quick Books for \$849 made by Clifford, 2nd by Mary, Shannon – Yes, Clifford – Yes, Mary – Yes, Jan – Yes. We will wait on purchasing the payroll version. Also, Shannon and Misty are concerned about advice from our accountant regarding “Just do it and I will fix it later.” Both would like to see us do things correctly the first time. ***Accounting Audit:** We passed in March, but issues appear to remain (Payroll, IRS fines). How can this be? Misty continues to ask questions of our accountant. We are being charged extra fees from our accountant. We have good checks and balances internally when issuing checks. Shannon indicated maybe we need to shop around, do interviews for another accountant. Shannon will try to schedule new accountant interviews for next month's meeting.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Clifford, 2nd by Mary, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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

