

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH

MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by President Shannon Saunders at 7:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:08 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Shannon (P) Elaine (P) Mike (A) Jan (P) Clifford (P) Chris (A, resigned last month)

VISITORS: Dave Myers, Travis Saunders, Don & Samantha Hewitt, Dennis & Hilnora Myers

AMEND/SET AGENDA: No approval motion made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING:** No discussion or questions.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** No discussion or questions.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shannon read off all the fund balances. No questions.
- **Motion to approve the Minutes, bill payments, & Treasurer's report made by Clifford, seconded by Jan. AIF. Motion passed.**

STREET ADMIN. REPORT: *Clifford informed the Council that Tony is still doing a good job. *Inhoff Drive got paved. *MDOT is planning on removing some trees along M-115. Clifford will check with the County to see if they will do it for MDOT. *Tony is planning to install concrete at the top of Michigan Street to hopefully stop the ongoing erosion problem. *The drains are working as good as they can, for now. One has collapsed behind Earl's across to 1st Street. Clifford has a plan to bypass this, run down 2nd Street. Power Vac has a camera system we could use at an estimated cost of \$12,000. This will get us a layout of all the drains and then an they can give us an estimate to get them fixed. It appears they were originally installed incorrectly, starting with large pipe, then reducing the pipe. Tabled for next month's meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION & ZONING REPORT: *Clark should be scheduling his first meeting before next month's Council meeting.

PRESIDENT REPORT: *Copemish Days was a huge success. Friday night's fireworks display, street dance, American Legion beer tent and available food went well, putting Copemish back on the map! Tony did a nice job cleaning the park and said he was impressed on how clean the park was left. *Grant update: Splash pad, closing of a portion of Elm Street, flush toilets,

handicap swing, and memorial historical garden. Grant is going through the Manistee County Community Foundation and is due in October. *Mish-a-mish park grant through the State requires a Parks and Recreation Plan and has to be approved the year before the grant (Feb.). Writing the grant typically requires lots of documentation, 60-80 pages, including our master plan. We want to include the doggie park, gazebo, new children's play equipment, bathrooms and water. Shannon wants to also include the sport's park, but there probably isn't enough room.

OLD BUSINESS: *Security cameras for the park still need to be purchased and installed. Shannon will purchase from Best Buy in TC, assuming we can get something similar in price and features that we already approved. Tony will install.

NEW BUSINESS: *Blight, Junk & Dangerous Buildings Ordinance violation letters sent out last month:

- Don and Samantha Hewitt – Too many vehicles. Need to show they are registered, insured and running. Also need a letter saying you are not running a business (car lot or repair) in a residential area. Need to be compliant within 30 days or the Council will decide a course of action given their options listed in the Junk and Blight Ordinance.
- Dennis and Hilnora Myers – Building on corner of Maple & 1st Street; deuteriation (hole in the wall) and items in back of building, mowing, and items stored outside of your business encroaching the sidewalk. Also, property on M-115, vehicles/items for sale.
- Repair Shop, Dale Humphrey – Yellow container of unknown substance, remove equipment and parts from the exterior of the business, too many vehicles, hours of operation, inform customers how when and where they conduct business, noise, junk, tires, parked vehicles too close to the stop sign.
- 3rd Street near Beech – Junk, storage on the property visible from the street, junk vehicle, fence repair, mowing.
- 3rd Street & Michigan – Unfinished unsecured structure.
- Kevin Knudson, 2nd Street - Junk vehicle, mowing, front porch. DHS is involved. We may have to get the Land Bank involved. Borderline need of condemning.
- Scott Flasco, trailer at corner of 3rd & Maple – Rental property. No heat, hole in the living room, broken windows, entire trailer is in very poor condition except maybe the roof. Health & safety issue. May have to condemn. Consider involving Land Bank.
- Coffee house church – steeple is in danger of falling. Entire building in very poor shape. Missing wood. May have to condemn. Consider Land Bank.
- Frank Gillis, State Street – Replaced trailer with a different trailer. Need to see a copy of his permits.
- New owners on State Street – Yard not maintained, junk.

- Shannon Saunders & John McCall – One of two vehicles not insured. Junk in back yard.
- Justin across from the Hall – Doing better, still needs to mow & maintain the yard.
- Old Catholic church, corner of Maple & 2nd Street – Bricks are falling apart from the bell tower. Grounds have not been maintained, mowing needed.

All properties need to be compliant within 30 days after today. If not compliant after 30 days, the Council will decide on a case-by-case basis a course of action given their options listed in the Ordinance. Next Council meeting, Shannon will give a status report on all violations.

*Budget amendments. Need to adjust for additional \$1,600 clean-up day costs. Capital Outlay (GL#1265970 - \$3,355) is missing from the budget report. Unemployment Tax, Auto, property, & liability insurance, legal services, and Building Repairs & Maintenance are over budget, some placed in wrong account. Some Power Vac expenses show in the General Fund. Need to move to Street Fund. Capital Outlay in Major Street Fund is over due to Elmers's bill of \$10,000 for Imhoff Drive. Needs to be moved to Local Street Fund. Motion to move \$10,000 from Major Street Fund (GL#2450970) to Local Street Fund and take out a loan for the balance due to Elmers made by Clifford, seconded by Jan, AIF. Motion passed. Motion to move adequate funds from Capital Outlay (GL#1265970) to cover over budget expenses in Unemployment Tax, Trash pickup, and Repairs & Maintenance - Buildings made by Clifford, seconded by Jan, AIF. Motion passed.

*Closure of Elm Street. This would allow us to expand the park, possibly include a splash pad. Street is not used very much. Closure would improve safety. The Village may have previously passed a resolution to not allow any more streets to be closed. Shannon will look into this. Limited public input, but supportive. Would reduce Act 51 money by an assumed minimal amount. Motion to close Elm Street between Front and First Streets made by Clifford, seconded by Jan, AIF. Motion passed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Clifford, 2nd by Jan. AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Gibbs, Village of Copemish Clerk.