

**VILLAGE OF COPEMISH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 12, 2024**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:11 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Shannon (P) Christine (P) Jan (P) Clifford (A) Mary (P) Open position (A)

**VISITORS:** Mike & Debra Longo, Dave Myers, Clark Scarbrough, Earl Witkop

**AMEND/SET AGENDA:** Shannon requested we do a shorter/condensed meeting due to Clifford being absent. No approval motion made.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** \***Dave Myers** (1) Proposed Township Park project update: Manistee County Revenue Sharing application has been submitted, asking for \$12,100. Verbal presentation is scheduled for April 8. Successful Grant awards published on June 3. Goal is still to get the Revenue Sharing money and have EGLE get us an answer by this summer. (2) Assessed Valuation statements recently went out. Record increases in both the Village and Township, two years in a row. Both over 30%, Village slightly more than Township. Township Board of Review meetings this week (Mon. & Weds.). This is the time to contest your property taxes. \***Earl Witkop**. Would like to request two Freedom of Information forms. Shannon indicated the request has to be in writing.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Feb. 13), & BUDGET MEETING (Feb. 28):** Debra asked if that includes the budget notes that Shannon made? Shannon said no.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** Jan asked who is paying the bills now? Shannon said the Clerk.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Missing. Next month will have two months. Mary asked if Shannon is still going to get someone to come in temporarily until we get a new Treasurer? Shannon indicated we will get there.
- Motion by Mary, 2nd by Jan to approve the consent agenda. AIF.

**STREET ADMIN. REPORT:** No report. Shannon indicated we still want move ahead with the drain system (Anaconda) to identify where our issues are.

**PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT:** Last meeting held on March 5. Minutes included in tonight's handout. \***New Camping Ordinance:** Rough draft included in tonight's

handout. Shannon reiterated the need for a camping ordinance. Need to have our attorney review, present to the Village Board for a vote. **\*Short term rentals:** Clark indicated we need to determine how many homes are in town, and get a percentage of rental homes before presenting a draft ordinance to the Council. Also working on other details (Inspections, fees). Shannon indicated the County should do the inspections. Clark indicated the State recently ruled that short term rentals are businesses and should only be allowed on property zoned as commercial. This may be up to us to decide. Shannon will do more research to see what our options are.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **\*Insurance quotes:** Shannon indicated we are working on it, lots of details. Hopefully two quotes can be presented at our next meeting. **\*Michigan Municipal League:** We let our membership lapse. A new business application is in process. We need to provide MML with lots of details about our Village. **\*Village cleanup day:** Scheduled for Sat., April 20. Keep the same set up as last year, same vendor (Shannon to set up), have Tony pick up for people requesting help getting their stuff to the dumpsters. **\*Quarterly newsletter:** Include cleanup day, need for more Council and Planning Commission members, Copemish Heritage Days, Historical Memorial Garden, put brush out for Tony. **\*New furnace:** Looks like we have to replace soon, pilot light issues. Need to get two quotes. **\*New Treasurer:** Shannon has contacted Weldon Township (Considering doing it for us). Shannon will contact other area municipalities. **\*New Clerk:** Chrissy is resigning at the end of March. Shannon asked the Council for ideas. Both Clerk & Treasurer do not have to reside in the Village. Council members are required to be Village residents. Short term, Shannon wants to use another area Clerk and Treasurer until we find someone permanent. Jan suggested putting an ad in the newspaper. Audit is this month. **\*Emergency plan:** 30 emergency blankets purchased by Shannon. Red Cross should provide more. We need to work on completing our plan, coordinate with the fire dept. and Township, then distribute to residents.

**FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Jones, Village of Copemish Clerk, with recorded support from Dave Myers.

