

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Oct. 8, 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-Clerk) Jan (P) Clifford (A) Mary (P) Open Trustee position (A)
Open Treasurer position (A)

VISITORS: Dave Myers, Mike and Debra Longo.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ***Dave Myers - (1).** Feeding America food truck event, Sept. 20. Did not get specific turnout numbers. Good, but probably a little less than the previous event. Not sure why. All extra food was distributed, so it won't reduce food quantities for the next event in December. **(2).** Halloween/Trunk-or-treat event, Oct. 31. We need to coordinate with the American Legion and Cleon Township (Fire Dept.). Shannon said there is a Fall Festival planned for Oct. 26, 4-7pm, sponsored by her and the Village. Plans are to have a DJ, hay rides, games, movie, refreshments (Hot dogs). Shannon would like the Fire Dept. to also attend. Shannon will advertise at Mesick and Betsie Valley schools, also on Facebook. Mark Griner has offered to send out post cards, same as he did last year, advertising both events. **(3).** Proposed Township Park project update: Tyler Dula and Joshua Shields, from the Manistee Conservation District did provide Dave with a lot of written information from their on-site visit on Sept. 4. This information should be extremely helpful in writing the next grant proposal with the Grand Traverse Revenue Sharing Board. Have not heard back from Renee Mallison regarding specific funding sources. If we cannot obtain funding by the end of this year, Dave will personally fund the EGLE permit application (\$500) and feasibility study (\$11,600).

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Sept. 10):** No questions or comments.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** Shannon mentioned she would like to see the 2022 audit cost as she believes it was cheaper by \$6 to \$8,000, and done correctly, but with a delay. This audit was challenging due to personnel changes and poor advice from our previous accountant. Should be complete by this week. Also need to watch Tony's fleet card and appropriate correctly.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shannon read off the fund balances: GF – \$140,170.51. Major Street – \$164,443.76. Local Street – \$44,517.94.

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

STREET ADMIN. REPORT (Clifford - absent): Clifford recently turned in his letter of resignation to Shannon as a Council Trustee and Street Administrator. He sighted personal and health issues. Shannon recognized Clifford's efforts as our Street Administrator and Trustee. Also, Misty has been getting calls regarding tree hazards. Some could be the responsibility of Consumer's Power. Some on public property, in the park.

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT (Clark): ***Violation notices update:** Clark mentioned we ran into a hiccup with the violations, issuing tickets. John McCall went to the court house, got it straightened out. We are back on track, doing it the proper way. He is re-issuing the tickets. Shannon indicated John did not get much help from Manistee. He ended up getting help from Benzie. Benzie gave John a detailed procedure for how to issue violation notices/tickets. ***Proposed Amended Short-Term Rental Ordinance:** Still working on. Clark still can't get the person lined up to do inspections to come to our Council meeting to explain his services and fees. Clark will contact him again to see if he really wants to do it. According to our attorney, we can't present to the Council until we include the inspection information. ***Proposed Village Shipping/Cargo/Storage Container Ordinance:** Still working on. ***Frank Gillis update:** Attorney working on. He will communicate directly with Frank. ***Sale of Mish-a-Mish and old firehall/community center update:** Attorney also working on.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Oct. 26 Fall Festival: Covered under public comments.

OLD BUSINESS: *Dam removal, beavers: Shannon indicated that even though we decided last month to give up, Tony and Clifford recently removed a newly rebuilt dam. Tony visits the culvert almost every day to try and stay on top of it. Again, Shannon expressed concern as to spending time and money when Lake Drive is a seasonal road. Other ideas/suggestions include getting someone to trap the beavers (At least 1/year), dynamite, Ducks Unlimited, DNR, remove the culvert and allow one of the private owners to build a bridge. Tony stopped in during the meeting and educated everyone. ***Fire extinguishers:** Tony also reminded the Council the fire extinguishers need to be inspected. ***Hall septic/Drain field, possible replacement:** Have not heard back from Bob Carpenter. Tree roots appear to be the main issue. Possibly need to relocate. Probably won't be done this year. Include funding in next year's budget. ***Audit of FYE 2/29/2024:** It is almost done. Should be complete by this week. Misty provided handouts. We will talk more next month is still working on it. Overall, it looks good. He listed some recommendations. ***New Hall Furnace:** Supposed to be done by next Wednesday. ***Dead limbs removal:** Misty to contact Thompson's to get it scheduled. May have to add a couple more limbs. Consumer's Energy needs to address trees/limbs that fall under their responsibility. Shannon to contact Consumers. ***Safety and security in the Village:** Shannon plans to survey the Village residents to get ideas. During this meeting, a Village constable, a Neighborhood Watch Group, and other ideas were mentioned. Shannon shared some results from the MOPS survey she recently completed, and a link to see the full survey results. This also covered

police/law enforcement perceptions. ***Former sales of Village property:** Shannon sent approximately 123 pages of information to our attorney. Have not heard back from him yet to provide us with options. ***Blight Process:** Covered under Street Admin. Report. ***Email update:** Misty finished. Everyone will have Village email accounts next month. ***Village website:** Need to include meeting minutes, events, updates, any information that is normally included in our newsletters, and encourage residents to communicate electronically.

NEW BUSINESS: ***Village Clerk pay:** Misty is currently paid 12 hours/week, 50 hours/month. She is spending way more time. Motion to increase her pay by 10 hours/month, from 50 to 60 hours made by Mary, 2nd by Jan, AIF. ***New office phone and computer:** Misty would like approval to buy a new phone and computer. Misty recommends a desktop computer with a connected notebook/tablet. She will do more research and bring to next month's meeting.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Not offered.

FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Misty - New office phone and computer. See above.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mary, 2nd by Jan, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

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