

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 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 (P) Mary (P) Open Trustee position (A)
Open Treasurer position (A)

VISITORS: Brian McCarthy, Dave Myers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ***Dave Myers** (1) Proposed Township Park project update: At last month's MTA meeting, Renee Mallison, Executive Director of the Manistee Conservation District said they are looking for possible projects to assist in. Dave, discussed the proposed Cleon Township Park with her and arranged for an onsite visit with Tyler Dula and Joshua Shields for Sept. 4. They may also assist in obtaining funding for the \$12,100 EGLE permit. (2) American Legion Fish Fry is Sept. 6, 5-7pm. (3) Aug. primary election results: Township Supervisor – Joe Carpenter. All other Township positions were not contested. Nothing contested at the Village level as all positions are non-partisan. It appears Earl Witcup and Mike Longo are running for Village positions in the Nov. election. ***Brian McCarthy** – Interested local resident, here to observe, see what's going on.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (July 9):** Heritage Days went well. Memorial/Historical Garden was mostly completed by Shannon, train, some stepping stones with photos. Still working on the names, trying to get permission. Village is paying for the rocks and landscaping. Shannon is paying for the rest. Goal is to keep it growing. Alin Kuutila attended Heritage Days. Shannon believes she will do well. Mulch was purchased and installed. Looks good.
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** No discussion.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Still trying to find a replacement for Susie Morrow. Linda Cudney will continue short term. Shannon working with MML, and Linda working with MTA to understand our replacement options. If we can use Linda, we will have to increase her compensation, move budgeted money. Shannon read off the fund balances: GF – June \$85,667, July \$94,711. Major Street – June \$160,623, July \$165,154. Local Street – June \$51,303, July \$52,693. Street Savings – June \$1,853, July \$1,853. Debt Retirement – June \$17,837. July, \$15,440.

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

STREET ADMIN. REPORT (Clifford): ***Anaconda scope system:** Clifford showed pictures of the drains running north & south. North run; can't get the scope to go over the seams. They all are bad, pretty blocked, water barely runs. So far it appears they all need to be cleaned, but they are not damaged/crushed. Don't know for sure the complete status because the scope can't get through, being so full/blocked. Clifford will continue to assess the status of the North run and document the problem locations on all the runs. We probably won't be able to get repairs done before winter. Shannon will start looking for grants for the drains and road improvements

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT (Clark): Secretary (Debra Longo) would like to combine the Planning and Zoning paperwork (Agenda, Minutes). Shannon thought you can by passing a resolution. Also, we need to find out when committee members need to be reinstated, end of 2 years. ***Proposed Amended Short Term Rental Ordinance:** Feedback from our attorney just received by Shannon on her phone. With Misty's help, Shannon will try to get the attorney's feedback printed off her phone. Need to incorporate recommended changes during our August 27 meeting and present final draft for September Council review and approval. Also, our proposed inspector (from Precious Paws) needs to come and explain his services and fees and incorporate them into our ordinance. ***Proposed Village Shipping/Cargo/Storage Container Ordinance:** Will incorporate changes our attorney suggested. Will be included during the August 27 meeting, then present final draft for September Council review and approval. ***Church on Elm Street:** Clark reviewed our ordinance that addresses how to condemn a structure and highlighted sections to the Council. The Council has previously agreed to proceed. Shannon asked Clark to write a letter giving notice to the property owner for our attorney to review before sending. ***Frank Gillis update:** Clark presented copies of all the correspondence with Frank regarding his State Street property, to be given to the attorney. Frank has not responded to issues with the Fourth Street property, no land use permit with a proper drawing. Clark will send Frank a letter requesting a proper land use permit. If he does not comply, he will be fined. Third Street property has two new attached decks built without permits. Clark recommends we charge him double as it is after the fact. ***Fischer Propane update:** They have filled for a land use permit. Clark provided them with our ordinance requirements. They indicated they will be well beyond that.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Included under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS: ***Michigan Municipal League:** \$385 cost. Still planning to renew. When completed, we need to ensure it does not expire again. Shannon will continue to work on. ***New Hall Furnace:** Bucks from Kaleva gave a quote. Misty has another quote coming in this week Thursday from Moore Mechanical from Honor. She has asked for a couple different options to quote, mini split. Misty recommends an emergency vote to get things approved before the weather gets colder. Shannon agrees to doing the emergency vote once all the quotes come in. ***Audit of FYE 2/29/2024:** Extension until Sept. 30 has been filed. Auditors

expect to be completed by then. ***Dam removal, beavers:** The beavers won! They continue to rebuild the dam after each time Tony removes it. We need to figure out a better long-term solution. There continues to be conflict with the property owner (Walt?) downstream. He thinks people are trespassing. We need to establish the property boundaries of Lake Street and other nearby public property. Also, Shannon asked Clark to research the property owner's original land use permits and perk tests with the County. Shannon also recommends we not spend any more money on beaver dam removal and put up a sign indicating the danger of trespassing. Also need to establish what the Village is responsible for. Issue tabled until next month after more information is obtained.

NEW BUSINESS: ***Misty's Sept. surgery:** Need Council approval for her to work from home for approximately 4 weeks. Will table until next month. ***Previous sales of Village properties:** End of Lake Street, Archangels, M&R Products. Were these sold legally? Shannon thinks they were done illegal and recommends a full investigation by the Council starting with Clark and the Planning Commission. Shannon will have a public hearing next month. ***Safety and security in the Village:** There continues to be strange stuff happening. Law enforcement can't timely respond. The County wanted to charge for Heritage Days patrols. Still need to think about possible solutions and further discuss next month. ***Allen O'Shea:** He is interested in purchasing Village property for developing into housing. Shannon needs help to identify specific Village properties and will give information to him.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Not offered.

FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Not offered.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mary, 2nd by Jan, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

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