

VILLAGE OF COPEMISH
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by President Mike Longo at 7:01 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:02 PM.

ROLL CALL: Mike (Y) Misty (Y) Jan (Y) Mary (Y) Earl (Y) Ally (Y)

VISITORS: Clark Scarbrough, Danielle Bilbia, Donnie Kelley, Patrick Milliron, John McCall, Dave Myers, Dale Humphrey, Sharon Witkop, Deb Longo, Tyson O'Shea.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *Deborah Longo – Project Light Up Copemish: \$10,000 grant applied for MCCF (answer May 1st), Community Breakfast June 14th at American Legion, Euchre Tournaments, Cornhole Tournament, Golf Outing. *Patrick Milliron – status of flushing toilets in park, *Dave Myers - Township Park project – updated pricing on cost/status. Committee is being formed by Amy Herrst, Jan Myers, Dave Myers, Donnie Kelley. Conservation District recommended to focus on Sacre pond for funding to flow. Township is proceeding this Spring with the endeavor. Bridge over Bear Creek setback due to Federal Funding and Tariff increases will double the price of the project currently estimated at \$650,000. Timber bridge is not allowed due to the area; metal bridge required due to flood plain. Tyson O'Shea requested to be on planning/zoning board again for the Village.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- MINUTES FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Feb 11, 2025): No discussion.
 - PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Mary questioned the Spring Newsletter Postage Bill. Mary Scarbrough, Donnie Kelley, John McCall didn't receive. Misty will print copies. Danielle Bilbia stated she processed them at the post office.
 - TREASURER'S REPORT: Misty read off all fund balances. No questions.
- Mary made Motion to Accept the Consent Agenda, 2nd by Jan, AIF.

STREET ADMIN. REPORT: *Donnie Kelley: Tony is doing good job. He recommended 20 yards gravel be purchased for the dirt roads State Street and the one to the dump. Donnie is scoping drains to begin doing work on getting them fixed.

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING REPORT: *Clark reviewed livestock ordinance. Most recent requires 2 acres to have livestock and 22,000 sq ft per animal allowing for 4. Planning/Zoning wants to amend the current ordinance to state for "chickens only" allowing 8 caged laying hens/no roosters. The committee will be reviewing a revision to bring to the council. They have chosen Ben Poppa to be the inspector for rentals. He is asking the Village collect the fees and pay the inspector. The state has a law in place for long-term rentals. The planning/

zoning wants to add addendum to include inspecting smoke detectors, fire extinguishers. Tickets were issued to Frank Gillis for State St. and to both church owners with court dates for April. John McCall opted to set court dates for formal hearings in the matter. Clark feels no one else should be bothered with tickets right now; a blight notice should be sent with clean up date to allow them to correct the situation and then pursue it if it doesn't happen within 30 days of Village Spring Clean Up. Misty asked if formal "warning letters" were being sent to remainder on blight list. Mike stated Kevin Knudsen should have received a ticket as well as a longstanding blight issue. Clark recommended Dale Humphrey for open planning seat; he was at last planning meeting. He feels Dale would make a good candidate and Tyson would make a good alternate. Mike made a motion to accept Dale on commission with Tyson as alternate as recommended by Clark Scarbrough. The board discussed the matter.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: 2

Nays: 3

Absent: 0

Mike opted to do individuals separately. Mike made a separate motion for Dale Humphrey to be appointed to the planning board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: 3

Nays: 2

Absent: 0

Mike made a separate motion for Tyson O'Shea to be an alternate.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Earl had concerns about the Copemish Service Center not conforming to our Master Plan we adopted; he presented documentation showing it doesn't conform and the committee has done nothing. Mary felt the focus was being put on one corner/Dale's shop. Earl presented a clear diagram from Master Plan showing blatant nonconformity on the corner. Dale agreed to clean it up and put a fence along the road. John asked who knew municipal law. Misty has shared General Village Law Act, Municipal Handbook, and training opportunities for all board members. Each member has a duty to educate themselves on proper procedures to follow. The MML is available to answer questions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mike reminded everyone Spring Clean Up is set for May 17, 2025 for Village Residents from 8 am to noon. He reiterated that he ran because he cares how the village looks and runs. He wants blight gone.

OLD BUSINESS: *Septic/Drain field bids is closed. Food Pantry – served 84 households in Feb., 82 in Jan, next distribution is Mar. 28th at 11 am.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of our current accounts/possible savings:

Trash Service – GFL is \$100.89/quarter and Northern Disposal is \$85/quarter. Pat Milliron stated he was looking for Village garbage service for residents when his term was expiring. He stated that garbage companies should compete for the business making it attractive for our resident to include it in taxes to help blight.

Propane – Blarney Castle is charging \$2.099/gal and we own the tank. Misty recommends the board consider the cost savings of calling around and checking with local companies. Discussion was made. Mike will make some calls.

Electric Service Upgrade/Wire Garage Heater/Wifi booster for Garage - \$6,398.70. Mary made a motion to move forward on the upgrades. Ally 2nd. AIF.

Accounting – Quickbooks renewal will be with Quickbooks Enterprise to save approximately \$424/year in fees.

Website – College Web Pro is \$14.95/month for maintenance of basic information. MS Creative proposed new platform we would own/update with training to have all our meeting minutes, meetings, ordinances, links to community resources for \$2,500 with \$400 annual maintenance fee. The contract will include them updating the information at a cost of \$75/hour to maintain the information. Pat Milliron asked about revamping College Web Pro with Ian Franz. Misty expressed she tried a new platform with existing provider and website can't handle the information and changes we need. Dave Myers stated Cleon Township uses MS Creative and are very happy. Mary made a motion to approve the new website. Earl 2nd. AIF.

Publishing – Ads go in Pioneer Press. Misty will check on price.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None

FINAL COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: *None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Earl made motion, Mary 2nd, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.