

APPROVED JUNE 17, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2024

VILLAGE OF LYONS

212 Water St

PO Box 175

Lyons, MI 48851

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Farrington at 6:00pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Joe Farrington-P, Jennifer Spearling-P, Jon Houserman-P, Max Darling-P, Erin Randall-P, Bernard Russell-P,
Rich Spaans-P (Arrived late)

Formation of the roll was taken, and a quorum declared:

Staff Attending: Laura Schoenmehl, Jennifer Sims

Approval of Agenda: Trustee Spearling made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Trustee Houserman.
Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.

GUEST SPEAKER: Trevor Nobis, representing Boy Scouts/Scouting of America, presented the projects planned by the Scouts, including color contest for design of upgrade to play equipment on the Island. The Scouts will paint and name the animal play equipment based on the winners of the contest in an effort to encourage connection and deter destructive acts on the Island. Color contest sheets should be turned into the Lyons Library no later than July 13th.

Trustee Spaans arrived late at 6:15pm. Hunter Olney is Boy Scout in charge of refurbishing the Comfort Station, scraping, powerwash, sanding and painting. Both projects pending approval from Scouting of America on 6/20/24 and scheduled to be completed prior to Island Fest. (See attached handout for supply lists and cost of projects). Both projects not to exceed \$1,400, provided by DDA. Board with donors listed scheduled to be posted at the Comfort Station upon completion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Farrington reported on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA): He said there was not a quorum at the DDA meeting, but those present discussed the Scout's projects and agreed it is a fantastic idea and they would therefore be willing and honored to fund the Eagle Scout projects, not to exceed \$1,400.00.

The DDA will have a meeting in July at scheduled time, however calls will need to be made to acquire new members to ensure a quorum or the DDA will be dissolved accordingly. He hopes for new members to support the DDA as a community oriented organization that focuses on downtown improvement projects. He reported the Summer Newsletter has gone out. The Events Committee plans for Island Fest are receiving favorable responses. A motion was made by Trustee Spearling to approve \$1,400.00 in DDA funds for the Eagle Scout project, seconded by Trustee Randall.

Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Previous Month's Regular Meeting Minutes May 20, 2024: Trustee Randall had correction under Finance and Grants Committee: she met with Ryan Wilson of Ionia County, not Ada County, and made a motion to approve the previous month's minutes, seconded by Trustee Houserman. **Motion carried by voice vote, with correction.**

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes June 4, 2024: Trustee Spearling made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Russell. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Approval of Current Month's Accounts Payable (\$47,475.05)

Trustee Houserman made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Randall. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Trustee Houserman said the Revenue & Expenditure Report shows current update with corrections in order, and made a motion to approve Revenue & Expenditure Report and Comparative Balance Sheet for May, seconded by Trustee Randall. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

DPW Report

Trustee Darling reported lawns mowed, water shut-offs done, water samples taken to the State with results in the Newsletter. New DPW worker onboard. Tree trimming done at intersections and elsewhere, old signs replaced, repair of new chains on the Island again. Gate with locks being installed for increased deterrent of vandalism/illegal acts at expense of taxpayers. Mentioned 4-wheel recreation vehicles should only be allowed in parking area. Two portable restrooms flipped over. Trustee Darling made a motion to approve installation of galvanized post gates in the amount of \$1,987.50 to deter vandalism, seconded by Trustee Spearling. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Streets/Water/Sewer

- A village resident (with some adjoining property) had previously requested that the Village vacate/abandon its riverfront property at the south end of Higbee Street to the Grand River.
- A public hearing had been scheduled regarding the matter at the 3/18/24 Village Council meeting, but the resident did not attend that meeting and the matter was “tabled” to allow adequate time to obtain more information.
- The resident also did not attend the 4/15/24 Village Council meeting, at which the topic was still considered tabled pending further review.
- The Streets, Water/Sewer & Fire Committee subsequently reviewed various relevant information and discussed the matter with the Village’s Attorney, who had not been aware of, nor had been consulted regarding the request.
- Based upon “legal process” concerns expressed by the Village Attorney during attorney/client phone consultation, as well as other concerns the Committee members had, it was determined that the resident’s request would not be in the best interest of the Village for the health, safety and well-being of the majority of its residents. Therefore, no further action was considered applicable regarding the vacation request, with the matter considered “closed” and announced as such at the 5/20/24 Village Council meeting.
- Since the Village resident was again not in attendance at the 5/20/24 meeting, the Village Clerk notified the Village resident of the outcome of the 5/20/24 meeting and that the matter was considered closed.
- The Village resident then, on two occasions via email (5/22/24 and 5/23/24), asked for an elaboration of both the Committee concerns and the Village Attorney’s (attorney/client) consultations.
- In both cases, the Village resident was advised that the vacation of Village public property was clearly a “public” matter and, per legal counsel, should most appropriately be addressed in an open public meeting. The Village resident was advised of the next upcoming scheduled regular Village Council meeting on 6/17/24, which he could attend if he wished to discuss the matter further at that time.
- A “South Higbee Street Vacation Request” topic was included on the 6/17/24 Village Council Meeting Agenda for any further discussion of the matter with the Village resident and/or any desired further Council action.
- The Village office received a phone call from the Village resident earlier today indicating that he would be unable to attend this 6/17/24 meeting.
- Given the circumstances, and on the advice of the Village’s legal counsel, a motion is offered by Trustee Houserman to formally deny any further consideration of the Village resident’s request to vacate the property on South Higbee Street, seconded by Trustee Darling. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- John Moxey, Engineer on the Tabor Street project notified the Village that a preconstruction meeting is being planned for the end of June or beginning of July, with project start still planned for end of July.
- John Moxey said funding will be considered for a 6 to 8 feet wide raised anti-speed platform on Tabor Street and 3 to 4 more on other streets, as well as speed signs that flash vehicle speed to deter speeding.
- President Farrington shared a video clip taken recently at the 4-way stop in front of the Library that captured a speeding vehicle that failed to stop at the posted sign, and violently rear-ended a vehicle that was legally stopped at the intersection. He said 95% of vehicles that approach the intersection don’t come to a complete stop. He mentioned the danger of children crossing at the crosswalk to and from the Library.

Finance & Grants Committee

- Trustee Houserman said the Committee met with the person assisting with the water/sewer rate study from the Michigan Rural Water Association on May 21, 2024. They went over the information compiled and will meet again on Wednesday morning to check more numbers., June 23 at 9:00am for another meeting. They will propose new rates for water at the upcoming July meeting.
- Audit going forth and errors made by previous staff are being addressed.

Ordinance Committee

- President Farrington requested that Trustee Spaans take over the Ordinance Chairman vacancy. He noted the other Ordinance Committee members, Chairperson Randall and Chairman Darling, that will work with him to identify Ordinance violations. He was advised to make himself familiar with Ordinances and violation procedures and again it was stressed that the Village is concerned only with Ordinance compliance, not revenue from fines. Letters were recently sent out and residents are complying for the most part.

Personnel Committee

- Trustee Spearling said all is going well with office and DPW staff, with nothing more to report at this time.

Parks & Recreation Committee

- Trustee Spaans was also asked to become a member to fill the Parks and Recreation Committee vacancy.
- Chairman Russell said that with the Kayak Launch, the Village needs to move rocks to form a berm that will slow down the rate of flow. Three ton of rocks ordered and backhoe will be used to place rocks. The pressure wash of launch is planned with steam at DPW garage.
- Two grill plates, one damaged and one missing, will be manufactured for replacement on the Island.

Events Committee

- Chairperson Sherrie Mason said Island Fest planning is going well, with more meetings planned and \$2,000 raised so far in donations, and still soliciting more.
- Thursday will be Car Show and cake auction under pavilion, with proceeds going to benefit Patty Priest for medical bills.
- Friday they will crown Prince and Princess and have Muddy River Band playing at the pavilion. Plans to use two grills for smores for the children.
- Saturday the parade will start at the Chrysler plant. There will be food trucks on the Island, popcorn, cornhole, horseshoes, petting zoo, bouncehouse, kid dance, carnival rides, pet rock painting, and Street Dance off the island.
- Working with Lyndon to get portable restrooms in place.
- Concern about poison ivy found behind the Comfort Station that needs to be addressed.
- The Union Hall is assisting Events Committee and Chairperson Mason asked if Village can loan Union Hall one large tent for their event. Motion to allow tent usage by Union Hall made by Trustee Darling, seconded by Trustee Spearling. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Council Comments

- Trustee Darling reported on increased patrol requested in response to many more speeding incidents, including donuts at intersections, speeding motorcycle chase, and other incidents.

Correspondence – None.

New Business – None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Randall to adjourn meeting at 7:04pm.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schoenmehl, Village Clerk