

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 21, 2024**

VILLAGE OF LYONS  
212 Water St, P.O. 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, Max Darling-P, Jon Houserman-P, Erin Randall-P,  
Bernard Russell-P, Rich Spaans-AB

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

Staff Attending: Lyndon Randall-P, Laura Schoenmehl-P, Jennifer Sims-P

**Approval of Agenda:** President Pro Tem Spearling made a motion to approve the Agenda, supported by Trustee Russell.  
**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Jon Moxey of Fleis&VandenBrink Engineering/Doug Hyland, President, Village of Muir: Jon Moxey stated the Village of Muir and the Village of Lyons contribute to the wastewater treatment plant constructed in 1972, without any major upgrades in 52 years. The Village of Muir has applied to EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes & Energy) for their Clean Water State Revolving Fund program that provide loans in combination with some grant funding to pay for wastewater system improvements. The program offered this year is a 20% fiscal forgiveness grant wherein the Village of Muir takes out a loan and EGLE reimburses 20% of the loan as grant funding at the start. The Village of Muir secured a 1% loan over 30 years for 3.4 million, which includes a shared funding opportunity for the Village of Lyons. Jon Moxey described two parts to the upgrade project: 1) After water is treated in the lagoons, it gets discharged to the river through a currently failed 1,000 ft. effluent pipe (no longer enclosed) that needs replacing. 2) Berms are the banks of the lagoon that are deteriorating and need to be reconstructed/stabilized and brought into compliance. Berms can be costly because of current standards to incorporate clay layers for water resistance.

The cost for the Lagoon upgrade is approximately 1.2 million to be shared between the Villages of Lyons and Muir, with Village of Lyons funding approximately 55% and Village of Muir funding 45%, based on wastewater flow data. Bond agreement from EGLE established Village of Lyons loan share at about \$663,000 at 1% interest over 30 years, approximately \$26,000/year. Doug Hyland reiterated the value of the 1% loan and gave notice that Muir is proceeding with the Lagoon upgrade. Trustee Houserman noted it would be a significant increase of approximately \$7.00/resident over 30 years. Bond Attorneys will work with villages to structure loan details. Jon Moxey said project design will take until mid-2025 and construction commence late 2025 or early 2026. Project payments expected to begin in 2026.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Farrington reported that Tabor Street Project is open and looks well. There will be follow up with residents regarding questions or concerns about the project.

**Public Comment:** Resident provided comments and suggestions regarding the Village office and DPW operations.

**Approval of Previous Month's Regular Meeting Minutes September 16, 2024:** President Pro Tem Spearling made a motion to approve September minutes with one minor edit, supported by Trustee Houserman. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Approval of October 4, 2024 Special Finance Meeting Minutes:** Trustee Russell made a motion to approved Special Minutes for October 4, supported by President Pro Tem Spearling.

**Approval of Current Month's Accounts Payable (\$92,646.58)**

Trustee Houserman noted USDA Rural Development long term payment and additional water meters acquired that increased monthly expenses, and made a motion to approve, supported by Trustee Randall. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

## **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Trustee Houserman made a motion to approve Revenue & Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet for September 2024, seconded by Trustee Randall. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

**DPW Report:** Superintendent Randall said they are still installing new meters, flushing hydrants, brush removal. Water well 1 to be pulled for maintenance. Still waiting for exterior wash on the tower. Superintendent Randall in agreement that the damaged lagoon pipe needs attention.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Streets/Water/Sewer**

- Chairman Darling reported bids for repair of DPW garage roof received from one, with one forthcoming.

### **Finance & Grants Committee**

- Chairman Randall had nothing new to report.

### **Ordinance Committee**

- Trustee Randall said she accompanied President Pro Tem Spearling in court today (October 21, 2024) on the blight case for Higbee Street. The resident failed to appear, so the judge entered a default judgment, with attorney fees granted in full. Resident has 30 days to clean up the property. If resident fails to comply by the next hearing, November 25, 2024, the Village can place a lien on their property in taxes and clean it up. The resident will be responsible for the cleanup cost as well.

### **Personnel Committee**

- President Pro Tem Spearling said the Village's website has been updated and maintained by Vanessa Mitchner, and we are very happy with what has been done. Much of what we wanted her to achieve with a cap of \$500, she has accomplished for \$350.00. Trustee Houserman mentioned we would like more information added regarding FOIA, as well as DDA regulatory upgrades and other design elements. President Pro Tem Spearling made a motion to continue using Vanessa Mitchner as a part time employee to maintain the website ongoing as needed at the base rate for Treasurer, supported by Trustee Darling. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

### **Parks & Recreation Committee**

- Chairman Russell reported that the Kayak Launch deck is being used by about 4 or 5 people per weekend. He mentioned the berm was well placed by DPW staff, diverting water and slowing down current. President Farrington stated we will need to be in touch with the Kayak installers by Spring 2025 to see what measures can be taken to make it functional.

### **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**

- Chairperson Mason reported that a DDA meeting was held last month, with DDA agreeing to pay for Christmas decorations from Hometown Decorations. They will place 8 decorations in the downtown area. Next DDA meeting scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup>. President Farrington said that if they have a meeting sooner for discussion of plans, the notice will be posted at the Office and possibly online.
- Trustee Houserman made a motion to pay \$568.00 for decorations from the DDA funds, supported by President Pro Tem Spearling. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

### **Events Committee**

- Chairperson Mason said we will be participating in Trunk or Treat on the trail October 31, from 6 – 7pm.
- Donation request letters for *Christmas on the River* are being prepared to send out. The Christmas Tree lighting will be early this year on November 24<sup>th</sup>, and *Christmas on the River* will be held at the Muir Community Center on December 12<sup>th</sup>, with a full parade.

**Council Comments**

- Trustee Darling thanked the office staff and Jon Moxey with Fleis&VandenBrink Engineering for a great job on the Tabor Street Project.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Trustee Darling said Wednesday they will be removing a large tree utilizing a crane at Water & Elizabeth Streets.
- President Pro Tem Spearling mentioned the thoughtful personal “Thank you” note to the Village of Lyons from the Eagle Scout teenagers that assisted the Village with upgrades. Our thanks to them as well for a job well done!

**Correspondence:**

- None.

**New Business:**

- Trustee Houserman presented the Annual Liability & Property Pool Renewal Proposal from MML in the amount of \$14,159, with a return dividend of \$1,182, and made a motion to renew the proposal, supported by President Pro Tem Spearling. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Trustee Russell, supported by Trustee Darling to adjourn meeting at 6:40 pm.  
**Motion carried by voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schoenmehl, Village Clerk