Village of Fife Lake

Council Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2025

616 Bates Street, Fife Lake Mi, 49633

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

**Roll call:** Present Perpich, Deike, Magee, Deeren, Mannor, and Barbeaux,

Absent: Tornow(excused)

Others: Werner- Village Clerk, and Eby- Recording secretary/ Treasurer

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Agenda:** Changes to the agenda are under New Business letter “D” will be minutes. The DDA will be pulled out of Consent Agenda Items to be discussed separately. Motion made by Deike to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mannor. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

**Conflict of Interest:** none.

**UHY – Ryan Howell:** Ryan discussed the financial report findings. He did a brief recap of the financial statement page by page pointing out highlights to council. Ryan discussed making budget amendments as the budget gets low in a category. Page 23 of the audit is where the overages were. He said the Act 51 financing was off a few months. Page 30 not all the transfers are being done consistently. Werner said transfers have been done up to July. Ryan discussed the letters that were with the audit. Ryan went over the compliance section on page 2 of the letter since we were over budget a significant amount which is a material compliance finding and it is reported to the state, and we will need to come up with a Corrective Action Plan. UHY will submit the report to the state and come up with a Corrective Action Plan to follow.

**Minutes:**  Motion made by Perpich to approve the minutes of June 16.2025 (Truth and Taxation Hearing) as presented. Motion seconded by Deeren. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

Motion made by Deike to approve the minutes of July 21,2025 as presented. Motion seconded by Deeren. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

**Bills, transfers and Amendments:** There was discussion on Attorney Bieganowski’s bill for $700.00 as not being approved to spend as he is not our current attorney. Perpich would like to put this bill on hold. Motion made by Perpich to approve all the bills except David Bieganowski bill. Motion seconded by Magee. Roll Call: Barbeaux-Y, Deike-Y. Perpich-Y, Mannor-Y, Magee-Y, and Deeren-Y. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurers Report:** Tax collection continues.

**Consent Agenda Items:** The DDA was pulled out of the Consent Agenda Items. Magee made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda Items with the removal of letter “I.” (DDA). Motion seconded by Perpich. **Motion Carried** with all yeas.

**DDA:** The DDA bills are for Play Environments for $3154.83 for parts and repairs to the existing playground equipment, A printing Company for $108.40 for letter head and envelopes, Cedar Creek Storage Barns for $ 4125.00 for the welcome sign roof and installation on State Street. Mike Crigger for $1000.00 for watering the flowers and trees in the DDA district, Historical Society for $500.00 towards the sign on the building. Motion made by Perpich to approve the expenses as presented. Motion seconded by Magee. **Roll Call:** Magee-Y, Mannor-Y, Perpich-Y, Deike-Y, Barbeaux-Y, and Deeren-Y. **Motion Carried.**

**DPW:** Report in packet. Deike said there are more weeds in the sidewalks. Suggestions were made. It was suggested to torch the weeds. Perpich said there are some missing bricks in the sidewalk in front of the Loons Nest.

**Zoning:** Report on table for all to read.

**Police/ Public Safety:** In packet

**Guest:** Joe Underwood- Grand Traverse County Road Commission. He gave an update on road construction. He said they ordered 9 new pickup trucks. He said to think about salt and sand. They will be happy to help if needed.

**Public Comment:** Cal Benke- He discussed the accounting. He would like a budget report with the bills to see at the meetings.

Mary Ellen Dilley- She discussed the criticism the about recording secretary with regards to the minutes on the DDA. She discussed the playground equipment regarding conflict of interest with the same person being on the DDA board and Council. She questioned whether he benefited from this transaction? She said she will keep on speaking.

Mark Magee- He wanted to thank Tawni who said “We could do better” at the last meeting. He said let’s move on. Let’s fix the communication problem.

Marilyn Hayes- She asked what did happened to the swing and slide. She would like to know if the DDA could help pay the electricity for the lights.

**New Business**

**Matt Crigger:** He is requesting more money for the watering of the trees and flowers. He sent in a proposal that was in the packets. He said he purchased some parts and a wand on his dime to help with the watering. Forwerck (DDA chair) said this was a shared expense with the village. Dieke suggested the pulling his expense out of the Parks budget. Motion made by Perpich to pay Matt Crigger $1000.00 for compensation that was in the packet. Seconded by Magee. Marilyn Hayes (audience) said the DDA must approve the expense. The village cannot pay him. If they did not hire him. The village will need to put it out to bid. Deike said that the flower committee will get the donation. We will need to get a bill. There was discussion on who pays the bill and if the village pays where does it go to. There was discussion on the bid process. Perpich rescinded his motion along with Magee. Deike made a motion that we make a donation to approve a $1050.00 for community watering maintenance. Motion seconded by Perpich. **Roll Call:** Magee-Y, Mannor-Y, Perpich-Y, Deike-Y, Barbeaux-Y, and Deeren-Y. **Motion carried.** Deike would like it taken out of the equipment fund.

**Playground Grant Equipment:** The DDA did not receive the grant from the Grand Traverse Band. There was discussion on the playground equipment that was removed without the village approval. Mannor would like to know where it’s located. Aldridge (DDA) said the grant money has been used to replace defective parts and repair the existing equipment. Mannor said now we do not have a swing set and slide with no schedule of new equipment replacing the old equipment. Forwerck DDA) said Kingsley has some old swing and slides. It is not clear in what condition it is in. Mannor would like to have a timeline of when it will be replaced. It could be two years. Mannor said he felt that the DDA should find a contractor on their dime to see if the equipment is in a good shape. Deike and Forwerck (DDA) said there are several grant opportunities coming up to apply for grants. Perpich asked where is the equipment that is the property of the Village. He was told that Tornow has it. He said he feels like that equipment was stolen and if it is not back here in 30- 60 days we should pursue it legally. Forwerck was asking for some room to get this fixed.

**Set DDA Public Meeting Date:** Deeren said she would like to talk to Christina from Downtown Development Association first. Mannor asked why do we need a joint meeting? Deike explained what she expected from a joint meeting, what each unit responsibilities are. Barbeaux said she would like to hire David Bieganoski as our attorney. Barbeaux made a motion to hire David Bieganoski as our attorney. Motion seconded by Mannor. Motion rescinded. It was discussed that he is not our attorney. Deike said it was not on the agenda. The discussion continued on hiring an attorney and sending out bids at next month meeting. Barbeaux changed her motion to temporally hire Bieganoski until we get bids out. Motion rescinded. Motion made by Barbeaux to shop for a lawyer who specialized in Municipal Law. Motion seconded Mannor. **Motion carried** with all yeas. This will be done by bid process.

Motion made by Perpich to send a letter to Mike Tornow to return the playground equipment to 616 Bates Street within 60 days. Motion seconded by Barbeaux. **Motion carried** with all yeas. This is to be done at Mike Tornow’s expense.

Mannor made a motion for the DDA to pursue determining the ability and availability of the that equipment (playground) in Kingsley being safe to install here and bring that over to Fife Lake for a spring installation. Motion seconded by Deike. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

**Minutes:** Eby discussed her concern with the DDA minutes. Every month there are two sets of minutes and Eby would like to know how to handle this. Barbeaux said that are other discrepancies in the minutes such as motions being changed from the recording by the DDA chair. Motion made by Deike to send all DDA draft minutes are to be sent to all DDA members and all council members with in 8 days., seconded by Magee. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

Deike made a motion to send village minutes to all village members with in 8 days. Motion seconded by Barbeaux.  **Motion carried** with all yeas

**Old Business**

**Copier /tech needs:** Mannor said these prices are high. There was discussion on the computers. Mannor will help Warner with this. Mannor discussed getting a tech service I Deike said according to the budget there was $4000.00.in the office line item. It was said that the computers were budgeted for at least $12000.00 when the budget was put together. Motion made by Deike that we support Jayme in solving our tech needs as long as she maintains within budget. Motion seconded by Barbeaux. **Roll Call:** Perpich-Y, Deike-Y, Magee-Y, Mannor-Y, Barbeaux-Y, and Deeren-Y. **Motion carried.**

**Earned sick time Act Policy:** A meeting has been set up on September 9th at 6:30pm

**Roads/ Asphalt Repair:** ongoing. No new information.

**Communication:** none

**Public Comment:** Mary Ellen Dilley- She said having Christina as a mediator will make the meeting slanted to the side of the DDA. She continued saying Alice’s minutes will be in name only just a synopsis that the DDA chair will do.

Tina Broering- said we would be better off hiring someone to go and pick it up the playground equipment from Tornow.

**Board Comment:** A finance committee will be September 30th at 6;30pm. Perpich said he is not nervous about the mediators; we are all smart board.

Mannor does not want to come off as being negative, but feels a joint meeting is not necessary. All we need is oversite. They approved the joint meeting before we did.

Barbeaux said she (Forwerck) she knows what she is doing, and she knows what she shouldn’t be doing. Mannor said the biggest problem is leadership. Mannor wants to do what is best for the long term of this village. He said the hostility coming from leadership (DDA) but asking us to be nice. Magee said it is not just the fault of the DDA. We can all do better.

Deeren: said to Dieke that she was no longer her Pro-Tem.

Deike gave an update on the Music Festival. She said they are working on vendors. She has a handful of vendors.

Motion made by Mannor and seconded Barbeaux by to adjourn at 9:37pm

Respectfully Submitted

Marcia Eby.