Village of Fife Lake

Council Meeting Minutes

July 21,2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

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

 Absent: none

 Others: LaMar- DPW, and Eby- Treasurer/ recording Secretary.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Agenda:** Changes to the agenda are the special meeting was on the 8th not the 2nd of the month. Motion made by Deike to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Magee. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

**Conflict of Interest:** none

**Minutes:**

6/16/25 Motion made by Magee to approve the June 16,2025 as presented, seconded by Deike. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

7/8/25 Deike raised questions on the minutes. Under street millage Deike said that she never said 1 mill in her motion. According to the tape Deike made a motion to approve pursuing the language for a 1 mill road millage, seconded by Barbeaux. Under agenda item DDA, Deike felt that after the motion to have a public hearing wording was confusing. In the original minutes. Barbeaux amended her motion to have a public hearing as a joint public hearing. But then said she wanted the original attorney who delt with the DDA before in the case to handle this. There was no seconded and the motion died. Discussion continues with Deike talking about the attorney cost between our attorney and the attorney who handled the DDA issue 10 years ago. Other points of discussion were what would freezing the DDA account look like, regarding the facade’s grants. Mannor said he would like to send letters to the façade grant participants saying to resolve the budget issue is a priority. Motion was then made by Barbeaux to contact the attorney who was in the original case to see what the cost would be. Motion seconded by Mannor. **Motion carried** with all yeas. Motion made Deike to approve the July 8,2025 minutes as amended on the street millage of one mill saying that she did not say 1 mill and the DDA component. Motion seconded by Tornow.

**Bills transfers and amendments:** Deike made a motion to approve the bills, transfers and amendments. Motion seconded by Magee. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

**Treasurers Report:** nothing to report.

**Consent Agenda Items:** Barbeaux made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented, seconded by Deike. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

**DPW Report:** Report in packet. LaMar said the recent rain washed out some roads. He said there was some vandalism at Lake Side Part where 5 sprinkler heads were kicked over and knocked off.

**Zoning Report:** report in the packet.

**Police/Public Safety:** Report **in** Packet

**Guest:** none

**Public Comment:** Noreen Broering wrote a letter about her concerns with possibly dissolving the Downtown Development Authority. They have been an effective partner in improving our Downtown area for many years. A copy of her letter was handed out to all the council members

Mark Magee The DDA and Council are supposed to help advance our community for all that live here. Let’s get an honest vote of what the community wants before you strip the funds.

Debra Chamberlain- said she likes the DDA and has been impressed with everything they have done and are doing now.

Cal Benke- The DDA is a group of like-minded people who got together to get projects together that the village would always oversee. He questioned motives.

Mary Ellen Dilley: She supports the council at taking a hard look at the functioning of the DDA. The DDA board has tried to interfere with the minutes, control comments and bid policy just to name a few.

Alice Aldridge said she is on the DDA. You froze our accounts. How are bills going to be paid.

Kris Benke- Treasurer of the DDA just found out the account is frozen. Is it your past problems that the problems. What is the problem.

The Lohrs said there is no street sign off Bates and Martha. She would like a street sign noting where Martha Street is. She is having trouble having people finding them.

**New Business**

**Set DDA public Hearing date:** Deike made a motion to discontinue proceedings with dissolution of the DDA or setting a public hearing. Motion seconded by Tornow. Barbeaux asked if you can override the previous motion. Deike said you change a motion and can make a motion at any time with a full board and a new vote. Mannor does not know if this is appropriate. He said he has been made aware of issues that were brought up, and he was met with hostility. He said at times the DDA has functioned well. He said he has read the past minutes, so he knows the history and feels the same issues are still going on. These concerns are concerning enough to have a public hearing. Tornow said he felt that the DDA has done a magnificent job. Deike said she felt things are moving too fast. She feels that we need a joint hearing to lay out expectations. Perpich said that this topic he really struggled with. He has also experienced frustrations with the DDA. The village has failed to reel in the DDA. He supports moving slower. He was very mad about the playground equipment being removed by the DDA. Msgee said she keeps hearing that there is one person who is the perceived problem and felt that you cannot disband the DDA because of one person. We need to problem solve. Mannor said he doesn.t know if you can have a motion that override a previous motion. **Roll Call:** Deike-Y Mannor-N. Tornow-Y Barbeaux-N, Magee-Y, Perpich-Y, and Deeren-N. **Motion carried.**

Magee made a motion to plan a joint meeting with full boards for the DDA and Village with a mediator. Motion seconded by Perpich. **Roll call:** Barbeaux-N, Mannor-Y, Magee-Y Deike-Y, Tornow-Y, Perpich-Y, and Deeren-Y. **Motion carried.**

Discussion continued about the bills. Perpich made a motion to have Deike oversee DDA finances. Motion seconded by Magee. Perpich said Deike need to apply scrutiny to expenses. Follow the bid process correctly. Deike will talk to Benke if she has questions. Deeren will release the funds via E-mail to the Credit Union. They can pay at the next meeting. Deike will not clear any expenditures until the next meeting. **Motion Carried** with all yeas.

**Copier/ tech needs:** Deeren discussed the copier. An updated cost will be coming.

**UHY Training Approval:** After brief discussion Motion was made by Magee to approve the UHY training for the Treasurer and Clerk costing between $1500.00 and $2000.00. Motion seconded by Deike. **Roll Call:** Mannor-Y, Tornow-Y, Deike-Y, Magee-Y, Perpich-Y, Barbeaux-Y, and Deeren-Y. **Motion carried.**

**Fun Fact Friday:** Deike presented some fun facts about the village. She gave the example of temporary carports. This did not go over well. They thought that fun fact should be about the village regarding trivia and not ordinance based. Motion made by Deeren that Deike can do a fun Fact Friday that is not ordinance bases. Motion seconded by Perpich. **Motion carried.** Deike said she would bring fun facts to council for approval.

**Old Business**

**Road Millage:** The verbiage was presented to everyone. There was discussion on the Headley Rollback. There was discussion on what the millage rate should be. Perpich made a motion to approve 1.2 mills, seconded by Tornow. **Motion carried** with all yeas.

**JPC Budget approval:** Barbeaux made a motion to approve the Joint Planning Commission Budget, seconded by Deeren. **Roll call:**  Barbeaux-Y, Mannor-Y, Magee-Y, Tornow-Y, Deike-Y, and Deeren-Y. **Motion carried.**

**4th of July:** Feedback was given. They said they felt that attendance was down. Magee said the road needed to be blocked off for the 5 k and 10 k run. There was discussion of moving the parade to the morning.

**Earned sick time Pay:** Mannor will help with this. The policy committee will be meeting in August.

**Road/ Asphalt Repair:** ongoing. Grand Traverse County is helping with road patching on village streets.

**Communication:** none

**Public Comment:** Mark Magee said he was glad that everyone has a consensus of trying to work things out. He felt this needs to calm down.

Kris Benke said that the TIF plan cannot be changed, and it go to 2028. The money that comes in for the DDA will go back to the entities where it came from if we disband. The DDA did not pay for flowerpots. The friends of the DDA donated $500.00 for the flowerpots. The DDA is paying to water the trees at a cost of $2000.00. The bulletin board went int where the old bulletin board was. The four benches that were placed on private property the DDA has spoken to those people, and we have a contract to give to them. She said they never had a bad audit. She said special meetings do not get paid. She said that no one on the board gets paid to be there. She said she gets paid as $800.00 a year for doing the books.

Cindy Mannor said the DDA has held money for fireworks for the Chamber. It was paid after putting the Chamber through loophole after loophole. They are nothing but crept.

Mary Ellen Dilley said when Deike said that someone should list a project that someone had not approved that may be true, but Dilley sat at those meetings Those projects were begrudging voting on because they were so far along that they could not be stopped. She said that when she is at the Farmers Market, she has heard comments of how beautiful the village looks. She complimented LaMar for all the fine job he is doing in the village.

Dave McGough said that 16 years ago we went through the same thing everything was passed. This is uncalled for. Freezing the account is uncalled for.

Stan Patrick He is really bothered when negativity is heard about the DDA. He said let’s work this out. He takes these comments personal. He discussed the incident when. He said Mannor felt that the DDA was not following rules and regulations. We need to work together.

April LaMar said why are we not enforcing zoning regarding the lot next to her with tall grass.

**Board Comments:** Deike, said regarding the DDA that we proceed to try to look to the future we need to set expectations and move forward and set goals for where we need to head. Mannor said in response to comments that were directed to him earlier in the meeting. He said he is commented to the community. He has donated to projects in this community. Don’t let anyone dare say that I am not committed to this community. He feels it is important that we all work together this includes the DDA. He says he sees some concerning things. He said do not be disrespectful to others on this board. He is willing to give due diligence’s and hoping to come to something that is reasonable. What is not reasonable is letting things be done incorrectly.

Motion made by Tornow and seconded Magee by to adjourn at 8:40pm

Respectfully Submitted

Marcia Eby