Village of Custer

Minutes

August 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President David Sanders. Not Present, Cassidy Kessel.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Minutes** -A motion to accept the July 7,2025 minutes was made by Carlton Sanders, support by Lon Reader. Motion carried.

**Visitors and Guests**

Sheriff Kim Cole Report – All is good in the Village

Lou Vanderstel –Lou came to the council to discuss the purchase the beauty bank property. Lou wants to turn it into a restaurant. Loves the location. He has three concepts, Hot dogs, Ice Cream and Coffee/Expresso’s. Lou’s noted that they would need a drive through and concerned about backup on the side streets. Lou spoke to Ryan Howe, Ryan pointed out the County guidelines for the drive thru. I would need to accommodate six vehicles and the property currently does not have that capacity for the drive thru. Council members noted, that regardless of the county recommendations, it is the Village of Custer that would determine that number and the council feels that there would not be any issues with parking or backup traffic to the locations. Lon Reader made a motion to support the new business proposal, support by Lyle Reene. Motion carried. Ryan Howe abstained from the vote stating that he owns a coffee shop in Scottville, MI which would be a similar business as proposed.

Ron Bacon – No report

**Current Bills** - Clerk Sanders presented the currant bills needed to be paid. She noted an addition to the bill’s addendum, adding Johnsons Lawncare for mowing the municipal building. Motion to pay bills as presented was made by Ryan Howe, support by Lon Reader.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Sewer -** None

**Streets-**Caleb presented a proposal from Reith Riley. The Road Commission sent proposal but it was not what was requested. Proposals on File for both locations that need to be repaired. Clerk Sanders discussed the auditor’s comments regarding moving money from Major Street to Local Street in each calendar year. We can move 50% of Act 51 money, projected to be able to move 24k this calendar year. Still wanting a quote from Road Commission. We would not be able to do this until the 26-27 fiscal year due to moving money this year to cover the Local Street deficit.

Caleb requested any input regarding grants to assist the Village in paying for road repairs. Ron Bacon recommended contacting Jodi at the Road Commission to see what might be available.

**Grounds & Equipment**- Ryan Howe presented the Lawncare bids. We are wanting to hire Johnsons Lawncare to take over the lawncare for the municipal building. A motion to hire Johnsons Lawncare was made by Ryan Howe, support by Caleb Whitaker, motion carried

**Budget & Finance** - None

**Treasurer Report** - None

**Ordinance Committee** - None

**Junk Authority** – Dave Sanders reported that he and Chris from the Junk Authority are still putting heat on Malstrom’s. Chris reported they are trying to get a judge. Carlton Sanders noted a residence that needed cleaned up and we have asked the Authority to get Byler to clean up his residence. Ryan requested if the junk authority called regarding animals living in the Malstrom house and no humans living there. David Sanders will call Animal Control. Wallager residence needs a letter to clean up yard and take care of mowing.

**Old Business** –

* **Village Audit** – Clerk Sanders reported the Audit was complete with three adjustments. Cassidy will transfer the monies per the Audit Compliance request. Audit on file. A motion to move monies per the audit recommendations was made by Lyle Reene, support by Ryan Howe. Motion carried.

**New Business** –

* **Clerk Status Change** – Clerk, Cathy Sanders resigned from Edward Jones. This change will now allow her to be on the bank accounts for the Village of Custer. A motion to add Cathy Sanders to the bank accounts was made by Ryan Howe, support Lyle Reene. Motion carried.

**Slow Down for Sammie** – David Sanders reiterated the discussion with the government officials that came to Custer to meet with Paul Shoup and other Village officials and committee members.

**School Board Report** – Carlton Sanders asked why the new digital sign is so small. The sign fit moorings that were already present so that is why the sign is the size it is. The sign on the west side on main street will be the same. The school board has approved a two-year contract with the teachers. The decision was made to retain teachers that are currently working for the school. Dave Sanders asked about the new bus charging stations. School board meetings will now be starting at 6:30pm this year. Year books should be coming out in the next month and a half.

Caleb Whitaker wanted a recap on the money from SLRFR money. Clerk Sanders and Ryan Howe offered information on what was purchased.

David Sanders did a recap regarding to Rural Fire Authority request for the new parking lot. He updated for Ron Bacon, county commissioner.

Motion to adjourned the meeting was made by Ryan Howe, support by Lon Reader. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Village of Custer, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Cathy Sanders