

**Village of Pewamo**  
**Informational Update**  
**April 2020**

Due to Governor Whitmer's Stay safe, Stay home order, the regular April Village Council meeting was cancelled.

The following update is an attempt to keep our residents "in the know" on what is happening in the Village and what measures have been taken to keep our community, local businesses, Village Staff and First Responder community safe during this COVID-19 pandemic.

At the present time we are under the Governor's orders to keep "social distancing" a priority in our daily lives. Reports on COVID-19 have been reported in our neighboring communities and possibly here in Pewamo so it's something that we need to be aware of and take the "social distancing" to heart.

About our Village Staff and our local businesses:

- The Ionia County Emergency Management team has created an email distribution list that we are part of to disseminate the goings on around the county so we are "in the know".
- We have been sharing information from the Small Business Association of Michigan(SBAM) and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity on programs that are available to our small businesses in an attempt to help them financially & educationally on what is out there to help them cope with this "non-essential" shutdown order.
- Our DPW team has been working 5 days a week and weekends on an "as needed" critical tasks basis which means they may not be available at times during the week. They are addressing items that keep our infrastructure running safely for our community. Mike and Rob are alternating days of the week so only 1 team member is working each day unless there is an emergent need for both to work. Due to this, please limit contact with them to an emergency need only... For non-emergency needs Mike and Rob can be called on the phone and will answer your needs when time permits. If you do have an emergency, please include calling Randy Zenk (616-893-8013) and the Village office (989-593-2553) for assistance.

About our Pewamo Fire Department and First Responders:

- The Community Center has been closed to our community for the use of it to be a "decontamination" site for our First Responder gear as they return from medical and fire runs. This will be in place until it has been deemed unnecessary due to either the contamination threat Subsiding OR other means of state provided protective gear being made available to our First responder team. The health and safety of our First Responders and their families is the reason for this need... we want to ensure we take any measures necessary to keep the risk of contaminating our families to a minimum.

Status on Village activities and Council meeting information:

- We have not yet pursued Virtual technology to hold Village Council Meetings but if it looks like we are still in this same situation next month, we will be pursuing a Virtual ZOOM meeting in May.
- For the Month of April there are no taxing issues that need to be voted on or discussed. We are grateful that the Budget was approved last month and that we are in a rather slow time with respect to actionable activities.

- Grants we have discussed have been applied for and the “regular” accounts receivable and payables are still occurring.
- Charles Babcock, Supervisor of Lyons Township has communicated that the township is going to pay \$28,000 for the chip-sealing of Pewamo Road west of the Village boundary out to M-21. This will be coordinated with the roadwork we have planned in town.
- The Village Cable Channel will be fixed within the next week. We are waiting on a replacement VGA to Composite Converter to be delivered to fix the issue with the channel. It is targeted to be delivered on April 15<sup>th</sup> but mail service has been slow the past week so the channel will be back up and working as soon as the part comes in.
- The DPW team has been BUSY!! Here are some highlights of all the work that has been happening during the Stay safe, Stay home order.

The Village infrastructure has had a few challenges over the last 3 weeks:

- During spring flushing of the water system hydrants our telemetry system (water system control program) malfunctioned. This called for manually operating the water pumps around the clock from Wednesday through Saturday to assure a safe and reliable supply. On that Saturday, Mike and a tech from Windameuller installed and programmed a backup hard drive to temporary control the system till a new PC could be installed the following Wednesday. From Wednesday through Saturday, Mike was making trips to town every 4 hours around the clock checking our system to ensure we had a safe and reliable water supply to our residents. (Thanks Mike!)
- Peerless Midwest installed our new pump and motor for the # 2 well. The pump and motor had been scheduled for replacement and was giving us trouble. Mike pulled the second bacti sample and is currently waiting on the results before putting the new pump on line.
- Lagoons are discharged to the Stoney Creek bi annually. This happens during seasonal high water. Because of C-19 Ionia waste water lab is unable to run our samples until May. This will not pose a problem for us as we have enough storage to carry us through April, but it will be close.
- The cleaning of Lincoln St ditch is now complete and what a difference it's already made. The road dries out noticeably faster after a rain. The west driveway entrance of the old house trailer property will be removed as it has been abandoned for quite some time. The drive was never permitted, and has a crushed substandard tile through the ditch area.
- The brush pile at the compost area will not be burned as per Chief Yerge and Governor Whitmer until the stay safe stay home is lifted. Mike and Rob will do their best to keep it organized.
- **The "Tissue Issue" is real.** Our waste water pumps are as vulnerable to foreign materials as the next. Mike has removed odd items through the years such as 2x4s , plastic piping, money, full carat diamond ring , yep full carat and unmentionables. It's costly and not a fun job to do. Please remind people our system is capable of “TP” only.
- Recently another resident installed an outbuilding without a zoning permit. Permits are needed for all structure weather they have a foundation or not. Please remind people if you see something happening.
- Rob and Mike executed street sweeping for the Easter weekend.
- Materials are being gathered to install drainage tile at the fire dept and West Jefferson St and should be ready to execute after the c-19 straightens out.
- The underground fiber optics job from m-21 to Lincoln st. has been completed.

This is a lot of information but hope that it gives our Residents a picture of how things are going during this trying time. We have a great team and have been flexible in making things continue to run during this time of concern. Be aware of your surroundings and understand that this is a stressful time for all of us and over the next few weeks be on the lookout for anything odd. People are going to be on edge knowing we have a few more weeks of this...

Please check on your neighbors via phone and try to keep a positive outlook knowing that this too shall pass.

Wishing our local businesses and family's patience, peace and blessings!...

The Pewamo Village Council, DPW and Staff.