

**Village of Pewamo
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2022**

Present: Randy Zenk, Dan Heckman, Jacob Wiggers, Michael Yerge, Jane Martin, Dale Winsor, Carl Hafner, Sandy Wolniakowski, Mike Scollon, Rob Sterner **Absent:** Tanner Roe **Guest:** None

President Zenk began the meeting in the Community Center at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda: Trustee Yerge added Fire Station Office Ceiling to New Business

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve the Meeting Agenda with the addition. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Wiggers. Five votes in favor, none opposed, one absent. **MOTION APPROVED**

President Zenk's Comment to Council:

ARP Earmark Funds: President Zenk spoke with Rep. Julie Calley regarding the ARP Earmark Funds that Fleis and Vandebrink informed the Village of in January. Rep. Calley reported that the funding structure and deadlines given to us were incorrect. However, Rep. Calley did advise President Zenk of the importance of an Asset Management Plan. Clerk and Treasurer will research this.

Ionia Country Broadband Committee: President Zenk is serving on this committee, which is exploring ways to expand and improve broadband service throughout Ionia County.

Review of Council Regular Meeting Minutes, Account Activity, Payables, and Receivables:

Clerk removed and added items from the list of payables.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve the information presented with the corrections. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor. Five votes in favor, none opposed, one absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

DPW Report: Presented by Mike Scollon

- **Winter Maintenance:** Mike reported that DPW has been busy with snow removal, general maintenance and maintaining the ice rink.
 - **Salt Spreader:** Repaired and working very well. Some discussion was held regarding a salt spreader mounted to the pick-up truck. DPW believes current system is working well.
- **East Street Water Main Break:** DPW repaired a significant water main break on East Street Sunday, 1/30/22

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Carl Hafner

- Interest rates remain low with no sign of rising.

Committee Discussion: Building on the 5-year planning session, Council will try implementing brief committee discussions/updates at meetings, rotating the committees each month beginning April.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Budget News:** Treasurer Hafner led Council in a brief review of highlights of the proposed budget for fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, which he, Sandy and Mike Scollon prepared. A copy of the complete report will be provided to Council upon request. The amendment of the current fiscal year budget, as well as adoption the new budget will take place at the March meeting.
- **MERS Contribution Rate:** MERS has recommended that the Village consider increasing our contribution rate to the MERS Defined Benefit Plan in an effort to have the plan more fully funded.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve increasing the Village contribution to 14%. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. Five votes in favor, none opposed, one absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

- **Portland Ambulance Renewal-**Trustees Heckman & Yerge attended the meeting held regarding the proposed rate increase. They reported to Council that they support the Village continuing with Portland Ambulance Service.
- **Water Rates:** A proposed 3% rate increase will be voted on at the March meeting.
- **Transfer from Major to Local Street Fund:** Carl informed Council this year's budgeted transfer of \$15,000 from Major to Local Street as allowed by Act 51, should take place before the end of the fiscal year.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Wiggers to approve the transfer of \$15,000 from Major to Local Streets.

MOTION SUPPORTED by Trustee Winsor. Five votes in favor, none opposed, one absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

- **ICEA Membership Renewal**

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Yerge to approve the Village annual contribution of \$1,000 to Ionia County Economic Alliance. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Heckman. Five votes in favor, none opposed, one absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

- **Tennis/Pickle Ball Court Resurfacing-Michigan DNR Grant Opportunity:** Treasurer Hafner researched possible grant opportunities to fund resurfacing and restructuring the courts. Carl and Sandy are pursuing this. Council supports this effort.
- **All Area Meeting of Village Councils:** Clerk will reach out to neighboring communities to see if there is interest in holding this meeting in April.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Fire Station Office:** Trustee & Fire Chief Yerge invited Council to inspect the collapsed suspended ceiling prior to leaving the meeting.

Old Business:

- **Website & .gov domain:** President Zenk and Clerk reviewed the new website and submitted their changes. Pewamo will be applying for a .gov domain.
- **5 Year Plan Update:** Treasurer Hafner created and presented a document using the information generated by Council. He suggests that Council revisits and revises the 5 Year Plan annually.
- **Schedule B Grant:** Pewamo has been granted deferral of these funds, pending the results of our DWRP application.

Blight concerns: Letters sent to unsafe structure violations in January with an April deadline.

FINAL ROUND TABLE:

Mike Scollon: The T post reported by Trustee Roe has been repaired and the brush on West Jefferson Street has been removed. Mike also suggested inviting MERS to a Council meeting to answer questions regarding the funding of the Defined Benefit Plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. Five votes in favor, none opposed, one absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Sandy Wolniakowski and will be presented for approval at the March 14, 2022 meeting of Council.