

Village of Pewamo
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2023

Present: Randy Zenk, Dan Heckman, Dale Winsor, Jane Martin, Jacob Wiggers, Brett Thelen, Rob Sterner, Nap Watts, Sandy Wolniakowski, Carl Hafner **Absent:** Michael Yerge **Guest:** Ron Schneider

President Zenk began the meeting 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest: Ron Schneider was present to discuss a letter he received regarding a Zoning violation. Ron informed Council that he is working on correcting the issues and asked for more time. Council agreed and asked Ron to return to the November meeting to update Council. Fines will not be issued until Council deems them necessary.

Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda: Clerk added MML Board of Directors Election to New Business.

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

President Zenk's Comments to Council:

SPARK Grant Awarded to Pewamo! President Zenk made the formal announcement to Council that we received word today that **Pewamo was awarded a \$999,400.00 SPARK Grant, with no matching funds required.** Pewamo was among 31 grants awarded from 450 submitted. President Zenk thanked RJM Design for the work they did in creating a Park Master Plan and submitting the grant application. He also thanked all who wrote letters of support of our application.

Consumers' Energy Planning for Hydro Future Meeting: President Zenk attended the meeting held by Consumers addressing the questions regarding Weber Dam and the future of Hydro Power. President Zenk reported that it was a very informative meeting with good attendance. Additional information is available on the Consumer's Energy website.

Review of Regular Meeting Minutes, Account Activity, Payables, and Receivables: Clerk added the invoice from Cicero for the Fire/Rescue/Community Center exterior improvements. Brief discussion of the information presented followed.

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

DPW Report: Nap Watts

Project Update: Installation of the new water main on East Street is complete with water testing expected to take place on Wednesday. Work on Higham Street has begun.

GIS Mapping of Water System: Nap and Rob have been locating and marking water services on the east side of the Village. F & V is expected to come in near the end of the week to begin the GIS work.

Kubota Utility Vehicle: This was taken in for repair of a head gasket several months ago and is expected to be done this week.

Backhoe Repair: The backhoe had some grinding sounds that warranted concern. Nap & Rob greased it and the grinding has stopped, but Kurt Scheurer is expected to come take a look this week to see if repairs are necessary.

Robert Rose, Ionia County Drain Commissioner: Nap spoke with Robert about correction of the drainage concerns previously discussed and also about concerns at the corner of Jefferson & Spaulding. Robert plans to meet with Nap.

North Street: The sewer clean out has not been located/raised yet due to problems with backhoe. DPW repaired the lawn that had been disturbed during the extension of Village utilities.

Leaf Pick Up: Leaf pick up began today and will continue Mondays and Thursdays, ending on November 13th. A new pipe has been ordered for the leaf vac and should be in soon.

Maintenance Record Keeping: Nap created a chart for DPW to record equipment maintenance.

Park Maintenance: A urinal in the park has been repaired.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Carl Hafner

- Collection of taxes is complete and settled with Ionia County Treasurer. Ionia County will issue payment to the Village for delinquent taxes.
- MIClass interest rates continue to do well. Union Bank rates are also increasing.

Recreation Report: Looking forward to working together to improve the park using SPARK Grant funds!

Committee Update: Sidewalk Committee will prioritize sidewalk concerns prior to the next budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

P-W Elementary School Recipient of the 2023 National Blue Ribbon School Award and US News and World Report Best Elementary School in the State of Michigan for 2022.

Council and Staff signed a letter of recognition for these prestigious awards which will be sent to P-W Elementary School.

Bike Repair Station Thank You

Council and Staff signed a letter of thanks to Kim Dennany, who donated a Bike Repair Station to the Village of Pewamo Trailhead in memory of her late husband.

101 Creations Parking Spot Request: 101 Creations is requesting a handicap parking spot for their business. However, if it's not possible, they would like to at least have a spot reserved for patrons of their business. Nap will do some research to see how we can address their request.

Employee Performance Review: A draft of an Employee Performance Review Form was created by President Zenk and emailed to Council. Brief discussion followed.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve the Employee Performance Review as presented. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Martin. Five votes in favor, one absent, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

Water Pressure: Discussion was held regarding DPW procedures to address residential water pressure concerns.

Policy Review: Carl Hafner is leading Council in the process of reviewing and renewing Village policies. Code of Ethics and Fraud Policies were reviewed prior to the meeting and renewed by Councilmembers' signatures. Carl handed out two additional policies to be reviewed prior to the November meeting.

Certificate of Survey of Property West of DPW Garage: The Village received the certificate of survey for our information. Carl Hafner has reviewed it and will keep it for Village records.

Ionia County Chamber of Commerce Publication Advertising: Council does not wish to advertise in this publication.

Lyons Twp. District Library Appointment: Pam Stump has volunteered to serve as a representative for the Village of Pewamo on the Library Board. She will join Becky Yerge. Council supports this and is grateful for their service.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Wiggers to approve the appointment of Pam Stump to the Lyons Twp. District Library Board to represent the Village of Pewamo. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor. Five votes in favor, one absent, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

MML Liability and Property Pool Board of Directors Ballot:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Winsor to support the three candidates running for reelection. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Heckman. Five votes in favor, one absent, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

BLIGHT: Letters were sent to the two properties considered to be in violation. It seems that progress is being made to correct the violations. A letter will be sent to another property that is considered to be in violation.

FINAL ROUND TABLE:

Dan Heckman: Dan shared concerns about the long term parking of a recreational vehicle parked on a Village street.

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

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Sandy Wolniakowski and will be presented for approval at the November 13, 2023 meeting of Council.

