

**Village of Pewamo**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 13, 2023**

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

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

**Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Trustee Yerge added Central Dispatch Control of Tornado Siren to New Business, and Trustee Heckman added Compost Ash Pile to New Business.

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

**Guest: Ron Schneider** updated Council on correction of Zoning violations. He plans to correct all violations within a month.

- **Paula Lawrence, RJM Design**, was present to provide information on how we will proceed with the SPARK Grant awarded to the Village.
  - Riley Millard, our Grant Coordinator with MDNR, has stated that he supports us continuing with RJM as our Prime Professional for this project, based on the competitive process Council went through to hire them for the Park Master Plan and SPARK Grant application. Council supports moving forward with RJM Design.
  - Paula gave a brief description of the necessary steps and answered questions.

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Heckman to adopt Resolution 2023-02, accepting the terms of the agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for funding from the Michigan SPARK Grants Program to finance improvements to Blossom Time Park. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor. Five votes in favor, none opposed, one absent. **MOTION APPROVED**

**President Zenk's Comments to Council:**

President Zenk and Nap attended the Ionia County Rural Task Force meeting. President Zenk was nominated as Vice Chair of the Committee and has assumed that role. President Zenk added chip sealing of State Street to the illustrative project list, possibly for 2026. Brant Mercer of Fleis & Vandenbrink also attended and will be working with the Village on exploring how other Village streets may become eligible for these funds.

Treasurer Hafner asked if the Village will be included in Ionia County Road Commission's bid list for chip seal projects.

President Zenk reported we would be included for the next year.

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

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

**DPW Report: Nap Watts**

**East Street:** Line painting and restoration has been completed. One area of sidewalk on the east side will need to be re-worked as the contractors did not allow for the added ADA accessibility.

**Higham & North Streets:** All work is completed.

**Jefferson/Spaulding Intersection:** A catch basin and new culvert were installed, along with new paving. Ionia County Road Commission still needs to ditch the east side of Spaulding.

**Leaf Pick Up is done for the year and Parks have been winterized. Road salt received and spreader is ready to go.**

**Marking Water Services for GIS:** East side of Village is done, and DPW will begin marking west side.

**Kubota Utility Vehicle:** Nap will research options to replace this with something more suitable for snow removal.

**Compost Brush Pile:** DPW plans to burn after corn is harvested.

**Lagoon Discharge:** Hoping to have this completed by the end of the month. Using P & N Labs as preferred by Mike Scollon.

**MRWA Class:** Nap and Rob attended water system classes held in Muir.

**Treasurer's Report: Presented by Carl Hafner**

- MIClass interest rates continue to do well. Union Bank rates also increased from 3 to 5%.
- **PFAS Lawsuits:** The Village had the option to be included in PFAS lawsuits against DuPont and 3M. Testing of our system has not shown the presence of PFAS, but it is recommended that we "Opt Out" of the suit at this time, which would allow us to file our own lawsuit if anything changed in the future. Carl did the necessary research and presented the "Opt Out" forms to Council for their consideration.

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Yerge to proceed with the "Opt Out" for both DuPont and 3M. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Heckman. Five votes in favor, one absent, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

**Recreation Report: No New Business**

**Committee Updates: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MML Policy Review/Renewal:** Council does not wish to switch insurance providers at this time. Clerk and Treasurer will submit necessary paperwork moving forward.

**Apple Tree Removal:** The Village has received a request to remove the apple trees along the east boundary of the park. This will be tabled until the park survey is complete.

**Tree Top Removal:** Council supports allowing an individual to clean up the tree tops left in Pewamo Cemetery if done in accordance with Village insurance provider and the ground is not torn up.

**Community Center Tent Policy:** Village received an inquiry from a renter in regards to putting up a tent outside the Community Center to handle additional guests. Council does not support this.

**Central Dispatch Control Pewamo Tornado Siren:** Fire Chief/Trustee Yerge explained that Pewamo has the option to link our siren to Ionia County Central Dispatch. He also explained the cost and benefits. Council supports this. Yerge will proceed and report back.

**Compost Ash Pile:** Trustee Heckman reported that the compost area is greatly used and in need of work. He would like to see the ash pile reduced and relocated. It is believed that we can relocate to the Village property along the woods. This will be revisited following the burning of the pile.

- **Concrete:** There was also discussion regarding the hauling of the concrete in the compost area to Miller Redi Mix.

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

**BLIGHT:** Letters were sent to the two properties in November considered to be in violation. No other concerns mentioned.

**FINAL ROUND TABLE:** None

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Heckman to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. 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 December 11, 2023 meeting of Council.

