

**Village of Pewamo  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2023**

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

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

**Guest: Ron Schneider** updated Council on his correction of Zoning violations. He plans to continue eliminating violations as time and weather allow. He invited Council to share concerns as they see them. Council asked Ron to return in April.

**Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda:**

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

**President Zenk's Comments to Council:** President Zenk wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

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

**DPW Report: Napoleon Watts**

- **Lagoon Discharge:** Lagoon discharge began today and will run through Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **East Street Project:** The project is complete. CL Trucking plans to return in the spring to repair the lawns and repaint street lines. Napoleon reported that CL Trucking replaced the area of sidewalk, adding ADA accessibility. They also replace a meter pit that was accidentally removed during the project.
- **101 Creations Reserved Parking:** DPW installed the reserved parking sign. 101 Creations has requested Village letterhead for posting notices on vehicles that park in the reserved spot, but are not customers of 101 Creations. Council does not wish to provide our letterhead for this purpose as we do not have the ability to enforce parking violations. They suggest the business use their letterhead.
- **Spaulding Road Ditching:** Napoleon reported that Ionia County Road Commission ditched along Spaulding Road and drainage seems to be improved. He suggests we consider seeding it in the spring to avoid erosion.
- **GIS Mapping of Water Services:** Marking of water service curb boxes for GIS Mapping continues. There are a few services that did not have witness cards and have been difficult to locate, but DPW will continue to search for them. Fleis and Vandenbrink has been notified that they can return to Pewamo to do the GIS mapping, and the Village is on their schedule.
- **Utility Vehicle:** Napoleon received information from four vendors and presented the top two. Discussion followed. He will reach out to the two vendors for further information.
- **Compost Brush Pile & Concrete:** Napoleon and Fire Chief Yerge will meet prior to burning to determine the best plan of action. DPW will also follow up on removing the concrete.
- **Napoleon's Resignation:** While Council had been previously notified, Napoleon informed Council that he had been offered another position and will be leaving effective December 31, 2023. He thanked Council for the opportunities given to him during his employment. He assured Council that Rob Sterner is a vital asset to the Village and will be key to a smooth transition.

President Zenk thanked Napoleon for all he's done for the Village. President Zenk will lead the hiring committee in forming a plan to replace Napoleon.

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

- **Grant & Rebate Funds Received for Fire Station/Community Center Renovation:** A total of \$30,748.48 was received in grants and rebates to offset the cost of insulating and residing.
- **Village Investments:** Interest rates on Village funds continue to increase.

**Recreation Report: No New Business**

**Committee Updates: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Ionia County Sheriff Contract Renewal for 2024:** In compliance with the Liquor Control Act regarding proper use of funds received for Liquor Control, the Village will renew their contract for additional Sheriff Patrol within the Pewamo Village limits.

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Heckman to approve the contract with Ionia County Sheriff Department to provide 24 hours of Sheriff patrol within the Pewamo Village limits, consisting of 2 hours per month for a period of 12 months.

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

- **Speed Concerns Within Village:** Trustee Heckman shared concerns about speeding within the Village, especially on State and Jefferson Streets. Discussion on options to reduce speed violations was held, especially more involvement by Ionia County Sheriff Department. Treasurer Hafner will meet with the Sheriff Department for their assistance.
- **Michigan Municipal League Property and Liability Renewal:** Renewal cost have risen \$299.
- **Ionia Chamber of Commerce Membership:** Council does not wish to renew.
- **Michigan Rural Water Energy Assessment:** The Village received \$832.04 in refunds from Consumers Energy following the assessment for sales tax charged in error.
- **Policy Review:** The process of reviewing and renewing Village policies continues. Purchasing and Maintenance Repair & Operating Policies were reviewed prior to the meeting and renewed by Councilmembers' signatures. Additional policies to be reviewed prior to the next meeting.
- **CL Trucking Payment for Projects Completed:** President Zenk explained to Council the invoice received, as well as change orders accepted in the course of the project.

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Yerge to approve payment of the CL Trucking invoice in the amount of \$416,944.91, minus the retainage for ground restoration to take place in the spring. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Heckman. Five votes in favor, one absent, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

- **Community Center Reservation Policy and 2025 Price Increase:** Rentals of the Community Center have greatly increased and are especially desired around the holiday season. Clerk requested Council's input on the Reservation Policy to ensure a fair and orderly process. Discussion followed and revisions were made which are effective immediately. Moving forward reservations will only be accepted on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon and will not be accepted more than one year in advance of the rental. Reservations must be made in person and completed paperwork and security deposit will be required. The revised policy will be posted on the website.
  - **2025 Rate Increase:** Effective 1/1/25 Rental Fees will increase to \$200. The Security Deposit will remain at \$100.

**BLIGHT:** No new concerns

**FINAL ROUND TABLE:**

**Sandy Wolniakowski:** Thanked Napoleon for his service to the Village during the time he worked.

**Dale Winsor:** Dale inquired about the Village donating the use of the Community Center for St. Joseph's Century Dinner. Treasurer Hafner informed him that the Village was not legally able to make donations.

**Michael Yerge:** Updated Council on the linking of our emergency siren to Ionia County Central Dispatch. Lyons Twp. Does support this and is willing to contribute to the cost. Chief Yerge will continue the process to implement the change.

**Randy Zenk:** Thanked Napoleon for his service and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Hiring Committee to meet briefly following tonight's meeting.

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Heckman to adjourn the meeting at 8:40. **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 January 8, 2024 meeting of Council.