

Village of Pewamo
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024

Present: Randy Zenk, Dan Heckman, Dale Winsor, Jane Martin, Michael Yerge, Jacob Wiggers, Brett Thelen, Kohl Falor, Rob Sterner, Sandy Wolniakowski, Carl Hafner **Guest:** None

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

Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda: Items added to New Business: Recycling Grant Opportunity, Pewamo Cemetery Inquiry & Ionia County Sheriff Report

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

President Zenk's Comments to Council:

- **Ionia County Economic Alliance Annual Meeting:** President Zenk invited any who were interested to join he and Sandy who are attending on March 28th at noon at the Ionia County Intermediate School District.
- **Fire Response Water Usage:** Discussion was held regarding notification of Village DPW at the time of any fires that would require water drawn from our system. Chief Yerge reported that responding to the fire is his first priority and its difficult to remember to notify Village DPW. He will contact Central Dispatch to see if Kohl can be added as an automatic contact for structure fires.

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 Thelen. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

DPW Report: Kohl Falor

- **Windemuller Electric:** Kohl has been working closely with them to ensure water systems are operating properly. It was discovered that the battery back up devices on three of our systems were bad. He's working to resolve this.
 - **SCADA Alarm System Updates:** Discussion was held regarding the cost to combine and upgrade our SCADA systems along with a new computer to operate the systems. Council approves, but recommends getting a bid from RS Technical before moving forward.
- **Wolverine:** Ordering a new transfer switch for the wellhouse generator.
- **Village Dump Truck:** Kohl reported on the price of a new truck and accessories, with availability expected to be two to three years out. Total cost is expected to be approximately \$200,000. Discussion followed.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve placing the order for a new dump truck with the necessary accessories. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

Treasurer's Report: Carl Hafner

- **Village Funds:** Treasurer Hafner reported that interest rates have declined slightly, but Village funds continue to do well. No CD's up for renewal at this time.
- **2024/25 Budget Review & Adoption:** Treasurer Hafner informed Council that all funds were currently in the black.
 - Local Street chip and fog is budgeted for \$30,000. Carl recommends Street Committee determine which streets should be done. Clerk will reach out to Ionia County to make sure we can be included on their chip and fog list to receive the best price.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Wiggers to adopt the budget as presented for the 2024/25 Fiscal Year. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Thelen. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

- **2023/24 Budget Amendments:** Treasurer Hafner briefly reviewed the necessary amendments to the current years budget. Many of the funds appear to be operating at a deficit due to the numerous projects done in the Village over the past year, however, funds had been set aside to cover the projects.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Winsor to approve the amendments as presented to the 2023/24 FYE budget. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Heckman. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

Monthly Transfers to Set Aside Funds: Treasurer Hafner informed Council that loans to street funds from Sewer have been paid in full. He recommends continuing to set aside funds on a monthly basis to meet future expenses:

- General to Equipment Fund-\$1000
- Sewer to Lagoon Cleaning Fund-\$1000
- Sewer to Sewer RRI-\$1000

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve the monthly transfers as presented. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

Committee Updates: President Zenk reported that the Personnel Committee met to reevaluate the insurance benefits for newly hired employees. Their recommendation is to pay 80% of the employee health insurance and 20% of dependents. Vision and Dental benefits will be available, but 100% of the cost must be paid by the employee.

NEW BUSINESS: (Not previously covered in the meeting)

- **Portland Ambulance:** President Zenk attended the meeting and shared the information he obtained. The Village ambulance contract will increase to \$30 per capita. The City of Portland is also proposing a three-year ambulance service contract, with pricing increasing to \$31 for the second year and \$32 for the third year. The availability of the three-year contract will be determined by a majority vote of participating local governments.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve a three-year contract with the City of Portland for ambulance service. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Thelen. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

- **Emergency Management Funds – August 2023 Storm:** President Zenk will be attending a meeting in Grand Rapids to seek storm cost recovery funds on March 18th at 10:00 a.m.
- **Water/Sewer Rate Increase for 2024/25 Fiscal Year:** The Water & Sewer Committee proposes a 4.9% increase in water rates as recommended by Utility Financial Solutions during their water rate study in 2022. They also propose raising the Sewer Ready to Serve rate from \$16.90 to \$17.50 and the Sewer Usage rate from \$.57 cents to \$.60 per thousand. Sewer rates have not been increased since 2022.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve the proposed rate increases. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Thelen. Five votes in favor, Trustee Yerge opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

- **EGLÉ Recycling Infrastructure Grant Opportunity:** President Zenk reported on a match grant opportunity to increase statewide recycling. Trustee Heckman reported that the Village of Muir is pursuing this. He will check to see if there's an opportunity to partner with them.
- **Pewamo Cemetery:** The Village received an email from a Pewamo Westphalia High School student who is interested in learning more about our cemetery and possibly organizing volunteers to work in some capacity to improve it. Council appreciates the interest and is willing to let them view our cemetery data in the Village office, but would like to be informed before any work begins. Council does not support any attempts to restore headstones without some professional involvement/direction.
- **Ionia County Sheriff Report:** Treasurer Hafner shared information regarding police activities in Pewamo.
- **November Village Elections:** Clerk will include information in the Spring Newsletter regarding November Village President/Trustee elections.
- **PFAS Litigation:** President Zenk shared a letter received regarding PFAS litigation. The Village previously opted out of participating in litigation at this time.

ZONING: Driveway Application

- Clerk presented a driveway application to Council for their approval. Kohl reported that he visited the site and has no concerns. Council approves.

BLIGHT: No new concerns

FINAL ROUND TABLE:

Carl Hafner: Is the Village prepared for the required inventory of water service lines? Dan Heckman will provide contact information for the contractor Muir is using.

Randy Zenk: Inquired if the Village is interested in purchasing additional radar speed signs. Council declines.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to adjourn the meeting at 8:50. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED**

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Sandy Wolniakowski and will be presented for approval at the April 8, 2024 meeting of Council.