

**Village of Pewamo
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2024**

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

Guests: Cody Wood, Randy Woodbury, Steve Thurston, Cameron Schmitz, Madison Hengesbach, Charles Babcock

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

Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda: President Zenk requested that Public Comment be added to the agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve the meeting agenda with the addition. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

President Zenk's Comments to Council:

- **Block Party Thank You's:** Pewamo Block Party was a great success and President Zenk said the Village businesses were very happy. President Zenk thanked the new Block Party committee and Kohl Falor and Cody Wood for all of their efforts in set up and clean up.
- **Village Ballot:** President Zenk went to the Ionia County Clerk's office to ensure that the ballot for the upcoming election included those running for Village positions. He also had concerns regarding Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. on the ballot as a presidential candidate, considering his recent withdrawal from the race.

Public Comment:

- Randy Woodbury and Cody Wood were present to observe.
- Cameron Schmitz and Madison Hengesbach were present to discuss their re-zoning application.
- Charles Babcock recommended the Village honor the memory of Bill Thelen, who recently passed. Charles believed Bill made many contributions to the Village and community over the years. Council agreed that Bill was a vital member of the community, however, a decision was not made regarding a tribute.

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

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Martin to approve the information presented. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Wiggers. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

DPW Report: Kohl Falor

- **GIS Mapping of Village Utilities Updated**
- **Security Fencing of Water Tower & Wellhouse:** Kohl obtained two bids to install security fencing. Brief discussion followed.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Winsor to accept Spartan Fence bid of \$20,000 for the installation of security fencing at the water tower and wellhouse. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

- **DPW Building Improvements:** Kohl continues to research the cost to improve the energy efficiency of the DPW building with the intentions of applying for grant funds to do the work.
- **Wolverine ATS Switch:** A letter will be sent to Wolverine expressing our dissatisfaction in the delay of completing this job.
- **Chip Seal:** Kohl received word that the final coat is scheduled for this week.
- **Lead Service Line Inventory:** Kohl is communicating with APEX for the scheduling of this work.
- **Storm Drains:** Concerns were presented regarding storm drains on Lincoln and State Street.
- **Trees:** A request for additional trees behind the Main Street businesses has been made.

Treasurer's Report: Carl Hafner

- 66% of Village Taxes collected to date.
- **MIClass Transfers:** Transfers were made from Pooled Checking to MIClass for improved interest earnings.
- **Consumer's Tree Grant:** Trees will be ready mid-October for pick up.
- **Liquor Control Funds:** An inquiry was made regarding the use of funds received from the State of Michigan. Carl explained that the funds must be used for law enforcement.

SPARK Grant Update: RJM continues to review the park design prior to going out for re-bidding.

Committee Updates: Wage and Hiring Committee met twice to review the eleven applications received for the position of DPW Laborer. Four candidates were interviewed and the committee recommends hiring Cody Wood.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to approve the recommendation and hire Cody Wood as DPW Laborer. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Yerge. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

New Business:

- **DPW Supervisor Assume Zoning Administrator Role:** Kohl Falor is willing to assume the role of Zoning Administrator effective immediately. This position is paid \$750 annually.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Yerge to appoint Kohl Falor as acting Zoning Administrator effective immediately, with an increase in pay of \$750 annually. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

- **Planning Commission Recommendation:** Council considered the Planning Commission's recommendation regarding Cam Schmitz's rezoning application. Discussion followed. President Zenk stated that more information was needed and the item is tabled until next Council meeting.
- **Pewamo to Host P-W School Homecoming Parade:** Friday, September 13th Line Up at 4:30 Parade at 5:00

Old Business:

- **Security Cameras:** Kohl continues to investigate the most effective and feasible solution.
- **Ballfield Rental Fees/Security Deposit:** A \$100 Security Deposit will be added to the Rental Contract. The fee to rent the ballfields with the use of lighting will be increased to \$100.
- **Sesquicentennial Park Lighting:** The cost to replace the decorative lamp post is \$3,426. This does not include electrical work or installation. Council wishes to table this until next spring.

Blight Concerns:

- President Zenk invited Council to share concerns relating to blight in the Village.
- Kohl Falor informed Council of properties with ongoing concerns. Clerk will send letters to property owners.

Final Round Table Discussion:

- **Michael Yerge:** Shared some additional blight concerns. Mike also did a fire inspection of the DPW Building with Kohl and shared some of his findings with Council.
- **Jacob Wiggers:** Recent work with Consumers Energy to bury his electrical service resulted in crushing his sewer service. Jacob reminded those present that MissDig does not include the property owner's services from the main.
- **Brett Thelen:** Brett informed Council that he would like to create a master plan of street work completed. He will work with the clerk and treasurer to obtain the information he needs to do this. Council supports this.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. **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 October 14, 2024 meeting of Council.