

**Village of Pewamo  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2025**

**Present:** Randy Zenk, Dan Heckman, Dale Winsor, Jane Martin, Brett Thelen, Jacob Wiggers, Tanner Roe, Kohl Falor, Sandy Wolniakowski, Carl Hafner. **Absent:** None **Guests:** Brant Mercer & Cody Wood

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

**Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Heckman to approve the meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

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

- There will be a meeting at Portland Ambulance on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. President Zenk plans to attend and invites any who are interested to also attend.

**Public Comment: NONE**

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

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

**Brant Mercer, Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering: Funding Options for Water System Improvements**

- Updated Council on the status of EGLE Drinking Water State Revolving Funding and its impact on Village projects. While Pewamo may have had some access to funding in the past, current scoring procedures make it all but impossible.
- Six other options were presented, with varying degrees of predicted success and impact.
- Council will research these options and begin forming a plan to replace remaining aged/undersized water main.

**DPW Report: Kohl Falor**

- **4WBI.Net Equipment Cabinet Site:** Nick Heckman met with Kohl at the DPW Garage and chose a site behind the building that will meet their needs and not interfere with Village operations.
- **Water Main Break on 1/15/25 on Yates Street near Washington:** It was a clean break that the Village repaired with the assistance of Ionia vacuum truck. Kohl saw no major concerns with the condition of the water main.
- **Lagoon Pump Inlets:** JK of Michigan has repaired three extensive plugs in the service line in the last year. Kohl has concerns that there may be foul play. Discussion followed as how to find the source of the debris found in the system. DPW will research.
- **DPW Building Gas Service Upgrade:** This will be done with minimal cost to the Village.
- **Park Demolition:** Kohl and Cody are beginning the process of removing trees and playground equipment.
- **Street Snow/Ice:** Council reported resident concerns of snow/ice on streets. Discussion followed.
- **East Street Driveway Concern:** A resident on East Street is concerned about standing water. Kohl will follow up.

**Treasurer's Report: Carl Hafner**

- CD Renewed at Union Bank for 180 days at 4.5%.
- MI Class interest shows some decline.
- **BUDGET REVIEW:** Carl led Council in a review of the proposed budget for the 2025/26 Fiscal Year. Committees with projects will need to get their budget figure to Carl or Sandy prior to the March meeting.
- **Ionia County Sheriff January Services:** Carl shared the reports received for Council review.

**Recreation Report:** Pre-construction meeting held on 2/7/25. A preliminary construction schedule was given to Council.

**Committee Updates:**

- **Personnel Committee:** Proposed a 2.5% wage increase for DPW employees. Clerk and Treasurer declined raises.
- **Water/Sewer Committee:** Proposed 4.9% rate increase as recommended in UFS Rate Study for both water and sewer.
- **Storm Drain Cleaning:** Cleaning should be scheduled in the future and a four-to-five-year rotation schedule adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Amend Zoning Ordinance 153.085 to Include Environmental Checklist in Site Plan Review and Approval:** Carl explained that recent updates to the Village Source Water Protection Plan recommend including EGLE Environmental Checklist in Site Plan Review for new businesses and farms. A link will be included on the website.

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Winsor to amend Zoning Ordinance 153.085 to include EGLE Environmental Checklists in the Site Plan Reviews for new businesses and farms. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Heckman. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

- **PARK RENTAL RATES FOR 2026: Tabled**
- **Compensation Discussion for Fiber in Village:** President Zenk explained that the Village receives some compensation for allowing cable/internet service to provide service to Village residents. This had not been discussed with 4WBI.Net. Trustee Thelen will check into it.

- **Zoning Map Updates:** Treasurer Hafner continues to work with Carlisle/Wortman to address corrections on the Zoning Map, as well as parcels recommended for re-zoning. When he receives the corrected map, he recommends the Planning Committee meet to review. If they support areas of re-zoning, Council will proceed with the necessary steps.
  - **Master Plan Review:** Carl also recommends the Planning Committee review the current Master Plan. In the absence of any major discrepancies, we will note that it was reviewed and the overall concepts and visions for the future of the Village of Pewamo remain in alignment with this Master Plan.
  - Carl recommends including a link to our Master Plan, along with review language on the Village website.

**OLD BUSINESS: All items tabled until spring.**

**Final Round Table:**

- **Tanner Roe:** APWA is holding its North American Snow Conference in Grand Rapids this year. Tanner believes this is a good thing for Kohl and Cody to consider attending and will forward the information. Tanner also contacted MDOT with questions on the installation of speed tables to reduce speed and any possible funding impacts that could result. He is waiting to hear back.

**A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Heckman to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Roe. Six votes in favor, none opposed. **MOTION APPROVED.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Sandy Wolniakowski and will be presented for approval at the March 10, 2025 meeting of Council.