

**Village of Pewamo
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2025**

Present: Randy Zenk, Dan Heckman, Dale Winsor, Jane Martin, Brett Thelen, Carl Hafner, Sandy Wolniakowski

Absent: Tanner Roe, Jacob Wiggers **Guest:** Damion Baker

President Zenk began the public hearing/meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING: In the absence of any guest, President Zenk called for a motion to proceed with Zoning changes. **A MOTION WAS MADE** by Trustee Heckman to approve the changes in zoning of three parcels to better reflect their current use and to approve the Zoning Map corrections of eight parcels, aligning them with the Ionia County Parcel Tax description. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor Four votes in favor, none opposed, two absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

President Zenk closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 and opened the Regular Council Meeting.

Review/Approval of Meeting Agenda:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Martin to approve meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Thelen. Four votes in favor, none opposed, two absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

President Zenk's Comments to Council:

- **Compost Abuse Allegation:** President Zenk informed Council that we have learned that previous allegations of an individual abusing the compost site were false. A letter will be sent to apologize for our misunderstanding.
- **ICEA Shareholders Meeting in Pewamo:** President Zenk thanked ICEA for holding their meeting in Pewamo and Clerk Wolniakowski for representing Pewamo at the meeting, as he was unable to attend.
- **Cement Pads at Compost Site:** Installation of cement pads at the compost site will be installed. A large portion of the expense will be covered in exchange for the removal of fill dirt.
- **ICEA Industry Opportunity:** President Zenk informed Council of an industrial opportunity that ICEA is hoping to fill within Ionia County.
- **Pewamo Car Show:** Linda Klein and committee will be attending the August meeting to discuss expectations for future car shows in Pewamo.

Public Comment: President Zenk introduced Damion Baker as our new DPW Laborer and invited Damion to share some information about himself.

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. Four votes in favor, none opposed, two absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

DPW Report: Cody Wood

- **DPW Building Renovations:** Cody informed Council of progress and project schedule.
- **Park Project:** EPIC is expected to return in late July/early August.
- **Sidewalk Replacement:** New sidewalks have been poured as instructed by Sidewalk Committee. DPW will complete clean up and back fill in the next two weeks.
- **New Truck:** Delivered to Truck & Trailer for outfitting, which is expected to take 6 – 8 weeks.
- **Compost Site:** Cody proposes the addition of concrete barriers. He will get pricing prior to proceeding.
- **Stop Signs:** President Zenk asked the schedule for installing the additional Stop signs. MissDigs need to be called in prior to proceeding.

Treasurer's Report: Carl Hafner

- **MIClass Interest Rates:** Treasurer Hafner reported that the rates remain stable.
- **Property Taxes:** Tax bills have been sent out and payments are starting to come in.
- **Property Tax Income:** The property tax rate has not been raised in decades and has in fact decreased due to the Headlee Amendment. Discussion followed. Tabled until the August meeting.

Recreation Report: EPIC is off site and plans to return late July/early August. Sesquicentennial Park Clock is not working again. Clerk has reported it and expects it to be fixed as soon as possible.

Committee Update: President Zenk invited the Hiring/Wage Committee to present their recommendations.

- Trustee Martin reported that the committee recommends promoting Cody Wood to DPW Supervisor. They also recommend hiring Damion Baker as DPW Laborer.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Thelen to approve the information presented. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Martin. Four votes in favor, none opposed, two absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Committee Update Continued:

- **Employee Handbook:** The need for review and clarification remains. Wage Committee will review proposed changes and report back to Council.
- **Kohl Falor:** President Zenk informed Council of the rate of pay that Kohl will receive when working part-time for the Village, taking into consideration his serving as Pewamo's Designated Water Operator. Council supports.

NEW BUSINESS: (Not previously addressed in this meeting.)

- **Social District:** The Village has been asked if we would consider going through the process of creating a Social District in the downtown area. Discussion followed. Council does not wish to pursue at this time. They do support businesses obtaining permission for Designated Outdoor Service Areas through Michigan Liquor Control.
- **Zoning Administrator:** Council will fill this role until further notice.
- **Security Cameras Park & Compost:** President Zenk wants serious consideration given to this. Clerk will reach out to Rick Thelen for his input.
- **MML Officer Election:** Council supports those seeking election.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Parking at Trailhead:** Cody will address the suggested changes to parking as soon as possible.
- **Well #1 Pump/Motor Replacement:** A grant in the amount of \$65,243 was received to complete this job.
 - Bob Masters of Peerless Midwest is overseeing the project.
 - Cody Wood recommends information be shared with residents prior to the project beginning, informing them that there may be some influx of water pressure during the week long project.

Final Round Table:

Randy Zenk: This is Brett Thelen's last meeting as Trustee. He and his family will be moving. President Zenk and Council thanked Brett for his service during his time as Trustee. President Zenk also noted Brett's extensive efforts to inventory the Village sidewalks for areas in need of replacement.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Trustee Heckman to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. **MOTION SUPPORTED** by Trustee Winsor. Four votes in favor, none opposed, two absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Sandy Wolniakowski and will be presented for approval at the August 11, 2025 meeting of Council.

