

**VILLAGE OF PELLSTON
COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 14, 2023**

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Location: Village Hall

Council Present: Jim Gillett (President), Steve Hall (Pro Tem President), Jean Ann Rose, Kayla Schlappi, Carolina Mallory & Mark Givens

Council Absent: Eric Ward

Officials/Staff Present: Randy Bricker (Fire Chief), Kevin Hessel (DPW Supervisor) & Rebecca O'Neil (Clerk)

Officials/Staff Absent: Brenda Blakemore (Treasurer)

Minutes:

Motion was made by Jean Ann Rose, seconded by Steve Hall to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023 meeting as amended

Yay 6 Nay 0, Motion carried.

Opening Comments/Agenda Items:

Agenda items reviewed by Mr. Gillett.

OHM Presentation:

Steve Warren and Susan Knepper of OHM presented a drinking water feasibility study update for the Village of Pellston. Discussion took place regarding the length of time it is taking for the possible options and implementations. Mr. Gillett stated that Egle will possibly be hosting a Town Hall and/or Zoom meeting this October regarding PFAS updates/progress.

Bills for Approval:

Motion was made by Jean Ann Rose, seconded by Kayla Schlappi to pay the bills in the amount of \$60,275.55.

Yay 6 Nay 0, Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Mr. Gillett reviewed a thank you correspondence and a \$100.00 donation from the Spencely's for use of the pavilion.

Mr. Gillett reviewed correspondence from Steve & Valerie Carter regarding their concerns about high taxes for senior citizens.

Mr. Gillett reviewed a thank you correspondence from The Burt Lake Tribe of Indians for allowing them to hold their Fry Bread Fundraiser in Memorial Park.

Committee Reports:

Fire Department:

Motion was made by Kayla Schlappi, seconded by Jean Ann Rose to approve the purchase of two search and rescue boats and to pay the partial payment of \$70,680.00.

Yay 6 Nay 0, Motion carried.

Mr. Bricker reiterated that a new furnace will be required to be purchased this fall as the other one no longer works. Mr. Hessel stated he is in the process of obtaining quotes.

Mr. Bricker stated that public certified first-aid classes will soon be taught at the Training Center (previously the Senior Center).

Mr. Bricker stated that the Fire Department has had over 200 to date runs in July.

OEO:

Mr. Bricker stated that some of the current ordinance issues include overgrown lawns, weeds, chickens, dogs and a towed car.

Museum/Historical Society:

Mr. Bricker stated that Brooke Croff will provide a summary next month regarding the number of visitors that have been to the museum this summer. Mr. Bricker stated that the museum will remain open through the end of September.

Water Distribution:

Mr. Bricker stated that the Fire Department receives a monthly stipend of \$500.00 per month from Emmet County to distribute water and that he would like the full amount to be paid to Cheryl Mallory. Mrs. O'Neil agreed to determine the monthly gross amount minus taxes and pay her accordingly.

Maintenance:

Mr. Hessel stated that the dump truck is currently at Hyde's for repairs.

Planning Commission:

Mr. Gillett stated that he wants the Planning Commission to work on the redevelopment of "Community Best Practices". Mr. Gillett stated that there are 70 pages of guidelines and a required application process but with that comes funding. Mr. Gillett stated that he would also like to see the Master Plan updated. Mr. Gillett stated that Eric Szymanski will be at the next PC meeting.

Recreation:

Mr. Hessel stated that he and Mr. Zulski are in the process of coordinating the cement work for the batting cages at Pioneer Park and they are hopeful to have that done yet this fall.

DDA:

Mr. Gillett stated that Larry Smith suggested the DDA purchase a billboard off I-75 to help encourage people traveling on the highway to stop and visit Pellston.

Beautification:

None

Website:

Mrs. Mallory stated that she needs more information from the DDA and will continue to update the website.

Old Business:

Mr. Gillett stated that AT&T is still reviewing the contract for the proposed cell tower and that the location will be near the Boy Scout building on Milton St.

Mrs. Mallory stated that she is waiting for insurance approval/business license before she begins cooking at the Training Center. Mrs. Mallory stated that thanks to Mr. Bricker the previous PFAS issues have been certified and approved.

New Business:

Retirement: Mr. Gillett stated that after 44 years of service (on October 1st) to The Village that Mr. Hessel has decided to retire on December 31, 2023. Mr. Gillett stated that he will begin to work reduced hours starting in September and use his sick time prior to the end of the year. Mr. Gillett stated that Art Massey will be the new department head and that a new maintenance employee will need to be hired.

New Plow Truck: Mr. Gillett stated that a new plow truck from Western Star will cost \$130,101.00 and approximately \$140,000.00 from Truck & Trailer Specialties in Boyne City to outfit the truck (in 2024 – long wait list) for a total of over \$270,000.00. Mr. Gillett noted that the old plow truck is beyond repair. Motion by Jean Ann Rose, seconded by Mark Givens for Mr. Gillett and Mr. Hessel to secure funding from the Rural Development Authority (RDA) and the bank for \$270,000.00 for the new plow truck.

Yay 6 Nay 0, Motion carried.

Signing Resolution: A resolution was made by Jean Ann Rose, seconded by Steve Hall approving Rebecca (Becky) O’Neil to endorse checks and orders for payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit, among other financial duties with Citizens National Bank.

Yay 6 Nay 0, Motion carried.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Kayla Schlappi, seconded by Jean Ann Rose to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm

Yay 6 Nay 0, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Rebecca O’Neil, Clerk