

**VILLAGE OF PELLSTON**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of October 13, 2025**

**Location:** Village Hall

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Council Present:** Jim Gillett (President), Steve Hall (Pro Tem President), Mark Givens, Jackie Pierce, Eric Ward & Jane Ann Rose

**Council Absent:** Kayla Schlappi

**Officials/Staff Present:** Randy Bricker (Fire Chief), Art Massey (DPW Supervisor), Brenda Blakemore (Treasurer) & Rebecca O'Neil (Clerk)

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by Jackie Pierce, seconded by Jane Ann Rose to approve the minutes of September 8, 2025, meeting as amended.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

**New Business:** Mr. Gillett stated that the family of Mary Hessell was in attendance and that they would like to donate a 17-piece nativity set to the Village of Pellston as a way to honor her service to the community.

Mr. Gillett thanked all the tree planting volunteers and noted that the event was so successful that Releaf/DTE plan to plant an additional 20 trees in April 2026.

Mr. Gillett stated that \$44 million in grant funding has been awarded through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) to the Village to build a debt -free municipal water system located outside the PFAS contamination area. Mr. Gillett stated that a mailing will be sent to every taxpayer that will provide information on PFAS and the potential water system that will require 51% of active well users to confirm their interest in order to proceed with the project. Mr. Gillett noted that this level of funding is extraordinary and will likely not be repeated and so time is of the essence. Mr. Gillett stated that the mailing is to also notify residents of the community outreach meetings to be held on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the High School from 6:30pm-8:30pm, Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Village Hall from 10:00am-12:00pm and 6:00-8:00pm and Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall from 6:00-8:00pm.

Mr. Gillett stated that the Trailhead project has experienced long delays due to well permit issues (PFAS & proximity to gas station storage tanks). Mr. Gillett stated that the Health Department and EGLE will not issue a new well permit but will allow tapping into the Fire Department or Village Hall pending additional PFAS testing. Mr. Gillett stated that the building permit was finally issued on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Eric Ward, seconded by Steve Hall to approve the planning services contract with Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) for \$700.00

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jane Ann Rose, seconded by Mark Givens to engage in reconciling/general ledger corrections services with Dennis, Gartland & Neirgarth.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Mr. Gillett reviewed the current personnel policy regarding health insurance contributions (75% paid by Village/25% paid by employees) and medical stipends if employees don't take the Village insurance. The Council agreed to review the policy further in one year.

Mr. Gillette stated that the three DDA member resignations from Memory Massey, Larry Smith & Diane Kowalski-Smith were included for review and noted that other members have lost interest as well. Dr Gillette (DDA President) stated that the DDA is a legal entity that was created by the Council and can't be dissolved and that

members are also appointed by the council (president & at least one additional Council member is required to serve on the committee). Dr Gillette stated that the form PA 57 that was to be implemented in 2019 was never filed with the State and noted that Tax Incremental Funding Plan (TIF) was also expired. Dr. Gillette stated due to both of these issues the DDA is not in compliance and that all DDA funds should revert back to the Village and that the County has been notified as well. Dr. Gillette noted that once the TIF plan is approved the DDA can start accumulating funds again and hoped the Village would then revert some funds back to the DDA. . Dr. Gillette stated that the committee will go dormant until the DDA and TIF plans are approved by the Council and that then a quorum within the committee will be required. Dr. Gillette stated that there will be a public hearing on November 10<sup>th</sup> prior to the council meeting to approve the new DDA plan.

**Bills for Approval:** Motion was made by Jane Ann Rose, seconded by Eric Ward to approve the bills for \$44,679.21  
Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Mrs. O'Neil reviewed the correspondence updates from FEMA regarding category A/debris removal and the project cost of \$146,444.08 and category B/emergency services and the project cost of \$15,515.20. Mrs. O'Neil stated this 75%/25% reimbursement grant and although funds have been approved by FEMA they still need to be approved and paid for by the State of Michigan. Mrs. O'Neil noted that there are the two pending contracts for work to be performed yet that are included in the FEMA project total for site debris removal (all storm debris placed at site) for Deering Tree Service for \$47,500.00 and the tree removal along the roads from Johansen's Tree Service for \$45,000.

Mrs. O'Neil reviewed correspondence from the Secretary of State that it will conduct mobile services at the Village Hall on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-3:30pm and noted these services are open to the public.

Mrs. O'Neil reviewed correspondence from Mary Kujawa regarding the condition of Mill Street.

**Public Comment:** Julie Poppy expressed concerns regarding the planned walking trails by the Little Traverse Conservancy on Mill Street that back up to her property on Maple Street. The Council was not in favor of the Conservancy property purchase because it took away a large portion of land that was available for future residential home sites.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire:** Mr. Bricker stated that there have been over 400 fire/EMS runs to date. Mr. Bricker stated that the Fire Department Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Damn Site.

**OEO:** Mr. Bricker stated that he has been working on getting unused vehicles and campers to move off the streets as well as garbage issues/concerns.

**Zoning/PC:** Mr. Bricker stated that an additional duplex is planned for Mill Street (across from Pioneer Park) and that the site plan was approved by the Planning Commission.

**Historical:** Mr. Bricker stated that the Museum is now closed for the season and that staff member Mary Ocko did an excellent job.

**Maintenance:** Motion was made by Jackie Pierce, seconded by Mark Givens to approve the contract and tree work services by Johansen's Tree service for \$45,000 (to be paid by major & local street funds).

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

**Recreation:** None

**DDA:** See new business

Beautification: The Council was in favor spending similar funds with Cherry Hill Nursery for 28 hanging baskets for the spring of 2026

Website: Mrs. O'Neil stated that all info has been brought up to date including PFAS community meeting dates, DDA meeting minutes, PC meeting minutes and Council meeting minutes.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Eric Ward seconded by Mark Givens to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Rebecca O'Neil, Clerk*