

**VILLAGE OF PELLSTON**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of FEBRUARY 8, 2026**

**Location:** Village Hall

**Time:** 7:00pm

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

**Council Absent:** Mark Givens

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

**Budget Hearing:** Mr. Gillett called the 2026-2027 budget hearing to order and with no public comments the hearing closed at 7:10pm.

Regular meeting called to order at 7:10pm

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by Kayla Schlappi, seconded by Eric Ward to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026, meeting as submitted.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Resolution was made by Eric Ward, seconded by Steve Hall to proceed with the legal and financial steps necessary to issue Drinking Water State Revolving Fund revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$36,000,000 to pay for a new municipal water system project, authorizing the Clerk to publish a statutory notice of intent to issue bonds in the Petoskey News Review, authorizing interim spending in compliance with IRS reimbursement rules and engagement of professional services from Miller Canfield as bond council.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jackie Pierce, seconded by Eric Ward to approve the engagement of Bendzinski & Co (Registered Municipal Advisor) to assist with the State revolving fund bond/loan & water rate study processes.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jackie Pierce, seconded by Kayla Schlappi to approve the expenditure of approximately \$19,000 with Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth (accounting firm) for account reconciling services.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jackie Pierce, seconded by Steve Hall to approve the proposed 2025-2026 amended operating budgets.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steve Hall, seconded by Kayla Schlappi to approve the proposed 2026-2027 operating budgets. Mr. Gillett noted that this included a 5% wage increase for Art Massey & Roy Parkey as well as increases for the Clerk & President.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Shayne Fanara (Village Attorney) reviewed the issue with Pam Rybinski's outstanding invoice and her lack of willingness to return the grant info/applications to Mr. Bricker. Mrs. Fanara noted it is not economically advisable to pursue the matter in court and that her recommendation is to consider the issue over and done.

Mr. Gillett thanked Mrs. Schlappi, Mrs. Rose, Mr. Massey & the snowmobile club for their efforts for the community sledding party that was held on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Bills for Approval:** Motion was made by Jane Ann Rose, seconded Jackie Pierce to approve the bills of \$36,248.41.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire:** Mr. Bricker stated that he has accepted the resignation of Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Rybinski. Mr. Bricker noted that there have been 80 fire/EMS runs through February 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bricker stated that the first responders will be buying new coats/gear for \$6,000 and that the Baiardi Foundation will be contributing \$3,000.

**OEO:** Mr. Bricker stated that cars parked on the roads overnight continue to be a problem.

**Zoning/PC:** Mr. Gillett stated that Doug Craven's (PC Chair) eldest son had passed away unexpectedly and that the Council sends its deepest sympathies to Mr. Craven and his entire family. Mr. Bricker stated that the PC reviewed the commercial property for sale on US 31 and noted that the owner would like to convert it back to residential.

**Historical:** Mr. Bricker stated that Mary Ocko has booked an Elvis impersonator for Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**DDA:** Dr Gillette stated that the next DDA meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm and noted that business owners, those living in the DDA district or anyone wishing to volunteer are encouraged to attend.

**Maintenance:** None

**Recreation:** None

**Beautification:** None

**Website:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Jackie Pierce seconded by Eric Ward to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
*Rebecca O'Neil, Clerk*