

VILLAGE OF PELLSTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of AUGUST 11, 2025

Location: Village Hall

Time: 7:00pm

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

Council Absent: Jackie Pierce

Officials/Staff Present: Art Massey (DPW Supervisor), Brend Blakemore (Treasurer) & Rebecca O'Neil (Clerk)

Official Absent: Randy Bricker (Fire Chief)

Minutes:

Motion was made by Kayla Schlappi, seconded by Mark Givens to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025 meeting as amended.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

New Business: Mr. Gillett provided several updates regarding the delivery of the new plow truck, TMobile/AT&T Cell tower status and DTE offering the Village 20 trees to plant due to the ice storm. Mr. Gillett stated that he has obtained a third bid for the Hall roof and would like to defer the work to 2026 due to the expenses of the plow truck and the Trailhead project. Mr. Gillett reviewed the Trailhead expenses and noted the two DNR grants, one grant from the Petoskey, Harbors Springs Community Foundation and ARPA funds from Emmet County that will mostly fund the project.

Mr. Gillett stated that Pellston Public Schools had been awarded a \$30,000 grant for a double-sided digital sign that will be installed on the corner of Main St & US 31 near the museum. Mr. Gillett stated that both the school and the Village will be able to promote info on the sign and that the Village will be paying the estimated electric bill of \$30 per month.

Bills for Approval: Motion was made by Eric Ward, seconded by Steve Hall to approve the bills for \$272,364.45.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Fire: Mr. Bricker provided a written report stating there have been 324 fire/first responder calls to date.

OEO: Mr. Bricker provided a written report that included five code enforcements and numerous verbal contacts.

Zoning/PC: Mr. Bricker provided a written report that included several zoning permits, three pending building permits and two transient permits.

Historical: Mr. Gillett stated that Bailey Sides (also built the Big Wheel in Pellston) has restored an 1890's horse drawn sleigh that will go in the museum. Mr. Gillett stated that a \$10,000 grant from the Wengar Foundation will pay for the expense.

Maintenance: Mr. Massey will be researching different diesel tank options specifically for the plow truck. Mr. Massey stated that the hand dryers at Pioneer Park have been installed. Mr. Massey stated that Pioneer Park has been the busiest it's ever been, including pavilion reservations and pickleball players.

Motion was made by Jane Rose, seconded by Eric Ward to authorize Jim Gillett to advertise and seek a buyer for the old plow truck at market value.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Recreation: None

DDA: See Public Comment

Beautification: None

Website: None

Correspondence: Mr. Gillett reviewed an email from Mike Kubenez regarding several blight issues and noted the issue on McRae St would need to be addressed by McKinley Township.

Public Comment: Several Council members noted that the Alanson DDA is very active in holding/promoting events such as movies in the park and various flea markets. Dr Will Gillette, DDA Chairman, led a lengthy discussion regarding the DDA and the role/objectives of the committee and noted with several large projects coming to fruition including the Trailhead, Memorial Park, Christmas Decorations and an updated TIIF plan, that the committee can now reevaluate priorities and focus better on promoting growth for the community. The Council was in favor of a more active approach and noted the lack of volunteers.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Mark Givens seconded by Eric Ward to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

Yay 6, Nay 0, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Rebecca O'Neil, Clerk