

**Minutes, Paw Paw Village Council  
Regular Meeting, November 24, 2008**

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| 1. The regular Village Council meeting of Monday, November 24, 2008, convened at 7:33 p.m. at 114 S. Gremps, Paw Paw, Michigan. President Plaszcak presiding.  | <b>Meeting Convened</b>                            |
| 2. Present: Plaszcak, Rohr, Wilhelmi, Larcinese, Pioch, Basinger and McIntosh. Excused Also present: Village Manager, Larry Nielsen and Village Clerk, Christopher Tapper.   | <b>Members Present</b>                             |
| 3. Tapper provided the official swearing into office Trustee Pioch and Rohr.   | <b>Swearing into Office</b>                        |
| 4. Motion by McIntosh, supported by Larcinese, to approve the November 10, 2008 minutes of the workshop session meeting. All members present voting yes, Rohr and Pioch abstaining, motion carried.  | <b>Approved Minutes</b>                            |
| 5. Motion by Wilhelmi, supported by McIntosh, to approve the corrected November 10, 2008 minutes of the regular meeting. All members present voting yes, Rohr and Pioch abstaining, motion carried.  |  |
| 6. Motion by Pioch, supported by Wilhelmi, to approve accounts payable for \$331,763.23 as presented. Wilhelmi questioning all claims with Kids Paradise description. Nielsen responded all claims paid without Village of Paw Paw contribution. All members present voting yes, motion carried. Next claims McIntosh and Rohr then Basinger and Larcinese.  | <b>Accounts Payable</b>                            |
| 7. Nielsen stated the Public Hearing for Ordinance number 417, Sale of Properties will be held December 10, 2008.  | <b>Public Hearing set for 12-10-08</b>             |
| 8. John Ruiter, former Director of the Village of Paw Paw Department of Public Services was in attendance with several other Village of Paw Paw retirees to discuss the consideration of the MERS Benefit E Program for retirees. Ruiter thanked Council for the consideration.  | <b>Comments from Audience<br/>John Ruiter</b>      |
| 9. Nielsen provided to the Council several spreadsheets detailing information Council had requested on the MERS retirement plan. Plaszcak thanked Nielsen and retirees for information and opened the floor for discussion.  | <b>Ongoing Business<br/>MERS Benefit E Program</b> |
| 10. McIntosh referred to the collective data Nielsen had provided and commented between the two options the Council could choose. McIntosh explained the differences between the Flex E vs. the Traditional E programs. McIntosh concluded stating the Village needed to make a difficult financial decision for the Village to stay financially sound. McIntosh stated the Village could not continue the Traditional E program because of the cost to the Village. | <b>McIntosh</b>                                    |
| 11. Nielsen explained the reason for the large contributions from the Village in the past couple of years. Nielsen stated the employees have always contributed to the program, but the Village deferred contributions in the past and now was in  | <b>Nielsen</b>                                     |

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an increased contribution phase. Nielsen explained the three different options from the Accumulated and Compounded spreadsheet. Nielsen continued the discussion with the second spreadsheet explaining the possible percentage increases vs. set dollar amounts. Nielsen stated it was his recommendation to the Council to consider the Flexible E Plan and designate a percent or a dollar amount and set the time period for one year, to allow Council the opportunity to review the MERS program for the next fiscal year. This would open the door to possibly changing the Village retirement program.

12. **Wilhelmi** asked if the retirees were able to be restructured into one division. Nielsen responded no. **Wilhelmi**
13. **Larcinese** agreed with the idea of possibly changing the Village retirement program to a 401K system, but for the discussion on the resolution wanted to continue with the best financial decision for the Village. Larcinese added, this discussion needed to be presented at union negotiations, because the Village has just agreed to three year terms with the Police and DPS employees. **Larcinese**
14. **McIntosh** stated by setting an amount of the Flex E program the Village could stop the financial bleeding the Village had incurred over the past several years. **McIntosh**
15. **Plaszczak** commented, one of the benefits of having good long standing employees was having a good retirement option to offer employees. Plaszczak stated the Village offers an above standard retirement program. Plaszczak suggested sometimes a 401K can be risky. Plaszczak stated he supported the MERS traditional program but was not sure on a percentage or a dollar amount. Plaszczak concluded, if the Village wants to continue hiring long standing employees the Village needed to offer a good retirement option for its employees. **Plaszczak**
16. Motion by **Wilhelmi**, supported by **Pioch**, to adopt the MERS resolution Flex E Benefit with a \$25.00 set increase amount per month. Roll call vote, **McIntosh** (yes), **Basinger** (no), **Plaszczak** (no), **Larcinese** (no), **Rohr** (no), **Pioch** (yes) and **Wilhelmi** (yes), the motion defeated. **MERS Flex E with set \$25.00 increase**
17. Motion by **Basinger**, supported by **Rohr**, to adopt the MERS resolution Flex E Benefit with a 2% set increase for the period of one year. Roll call vote, **Plaszczak** (yes), **Larcinese** (abstaining), **Rohr** (yes), **Pioch** (yes), **Wilhelmi** (no), **McIntosh** (no) and **Basinger** (yes), motion carried. **MERS Flex E with set 2% increase**
18. Motion by **McIntosh**, supported by **Pioch**, to resend the request from November 10, 2008 meeting and accept the request from the Greater Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce dated November 17, 2008 and allow the use of streets and facilities as requested and lift the burning ban as requested for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Christmas Parade on December 6, 2008. All members present voting yes, motion carried. **Resend request GPPCC Street Closures**

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| 19. No report. Basinger discussed the set meeting dates provide by Nielsen and asked if Committee members could check schedules and confirm dates.   | <b>Committee Reports<br/>F &amp; A</b> |
| 20. McIntosh reported the Department of Public Services met tonight before Council meeting. Items discussed included; contracted mowing services for the Village of Paw Paw. McIntosh reported bids had been received and the low bid was Great Lakes Mowing Service. McIntosh commented the committee also discussed the option of in-house mowing service. | <b>DPS</b>                             |
| 21. Motion by McIntosh, supported by Pioch to reject the mowing bids for 2009 and allow the services to be in-house with the DPS utility position pending the purchase of needed equipment. McIntosh noting this was the recommendation of Nielsen and John Small. All members present voting yes, motion carried.   | <b>Mowing Contract<br/>2009</b>        |
| 22. No report.   | <b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>          |
| 23. Nielsen reported the Downtown Development Authority met November 17, 2008. Items discussed included; Christmas decorations, two proposed DDA grants, Chamber-DDA marketing agreement and proposed new grant allowances for business.   | <b>DDA</b>                             |
| 24. Larcinese reported the Fire Department had a bid opening November 21, 2008 at 4:00 pm for the repairs needed to the department's tanker truck. Bids received included Moses Fire Equipment in the amount of \$176,000.00.  | <b>Fire Board</b>                      |
| 25. No report.   | <b>Historical<br/>Commission</b>       |
| 26. Rohr reported the Housing Commission met November 17, 2008. Items discussed included; budget information for new fiscal year, energy efficiency, HUD meeting and the annual Christmas dinner set for December 17, 2008 at 5:00 pm.   | <b>Housing Commission</b>              |
| 27. No report  | <b>RLF</b>                             |
| 28. No report  | <b>PPWHF</b>                           |
| 29. McIntosh commented on the possibility of approaching Warner's Winery to help repaired and or repaint the historical water tower standing over the winery. McIntosh suggested the tower was a historical part of the Village and was in need of new paint.  | <b>Council Comments<br/>McIntosh</b>   |
| 30. Rohr commented on the concern she had regarding children crossing Michigan Avenue in front of the Middle School. Rohr commented many kids walk to school and with day light saving, it was difficult to see children crossing in the morning. Nielsen to follow up with Police about crossing guard and ask school for suggestions.                      | <b>Rohr</b>                            |

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31. Larcinese commented on the proposed North Kalamazoo (M-40) lane changes. Larcinese stated the proposal included a change from four lanes to three lanes. Larcinese added comments and question are to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation regarding the proposal. Larcinese asked for the topic to be added to next agenda. **Larcinese**
32. Motion by Basinger, supported by Larcinese to approve and accept the Village Manager evaluation and grant based on performance the contract extension of one year employment, \$2000.00 bonus and a 3% base wage increase. Roll call vote; Plaszczak, Larcinese, Rohr, Pioch, Wilhelmi, McIntosh and Basinger voting yes, motion carried. **Village Manger  
Contract Extension**
33. Motion by Pioch, supported by Rohr, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voting yes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted:

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Village President  
Roman Plaszczak

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Village Clerk,  
Christopher Tapper