

**Village of Pinckney
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
Official Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 13, 2026**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **9:30 a.m.**

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Michael Szafranski

Jen Cooke

Julie Amy

Marie Butler

Mike Carney

Linda Seger

Greg Strine

Bridget Kane

Jeff Buerman

Martina Fenech arrived at **9:36 a.m.**

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by **Julie Amy** to approve the agenda.

Seconded by **Jen Cooke**.

Motion carried.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by **Marie Butler** to approve last month's meeting minutes.

Seconded by **Bridget Kane**.

Motion carried.

6. Public Forum

Opened at **9:33 a.m.**

Closed at **9:33 a.m.**

Reports

Chairman's Report

Chairman Michael Szafranski's report was embedded in the meeting agenda.

Village Report – Jeff Buerman

- The Village budget is currently tight and has returned to a deficit following recent police raises approved by Council.
- Approximately **10 million gallons of water loss** have been identified. An investigation into water meters will be conducted.
- Repairs and new building projects are ongoing.

- Pinckney Chrysler renovation plans were presented and are moving forward quickly.
- The Chamber of Commerce is seeking stronger collaboration.
- Regina Hamlett is exploring taking over PYCDI and incorporating the Farmers Market under their 501(c)(3).

DPW Report

- Light post skirt repairs are pending until snow melting is complete.
- Discussion regarding accountability and specific hiring for summer landscaping help with weekly check-ins to improve accountability and ensure downtown maintenance standards are met.

Old Business

Community Garden

Several potential locations were discussed:

- **Village Hall** – Met with strong DPW opposition because of accessibility. Additionally, Village Hall is not within the DDA district, creating funding limitations.
- Proposal to expand DDA district boundaries to include Village Hall, State Farm, and surrounding properties.
- **Behind the Dio (Gary Dillon property)** – In previous years was offered free to the Village; the offer wasn't accepted by that administration and now no longer stands.
- **Behind State Farm building** – Not currently within DDA district; parking concerns raised.
- **People's Church property (next to the library)** – Early discussions underway. Four families originally donated the property. Possible commemorative recognition discussed. The church may need sale proceeds.
- **DPW property and South of Train Depot** – Outside DDA district; therefore, not viable for DDA funding.

Street Lights on M-36

Awaiting DTE and improved weather conditions for further action.

New Business

Beautification Proposal – Marie Butler

Marie Butler presented the Treescape Beautification Plan. The presentation was received very positively.

Discussion included:

- Replacing traditional communication boards with a **digital information station** operated through the Village Office.
- Placement considerations related to traffic visibility and safety.

Motion by Mike Carney to move forward with the Treescape Beautification Plan.

Seconded by Greg Strine.

Roll call vote: **Unanimous approval.**

Old Bowling Alley Parcel Sale

Jeff Buerman proposed that the DDA oversee presentations from real estate agents regarding sale and development proposals.

Motion by Jen Cooke to approve public posting for accepting development presentations.

Seconded by Marie Butler.

Posting to appear in the Livingston County paper and on social media.

Vote: **Unanimous approval.**

Presentations are scheduled for the **March 13 DDA meeting**.

Fall Festival Proposal

Joe and Sherie (Heritage Vintage Markets / Heritage Pharmacy) proposed a Fall Festival for September 12–13.

Concept includes:

- Vendors
- Live music
- High school band
- Mechanical bull
- Hay rides, hay maze
- Cider, donuts, pumpkins (Schell Family Farm)
- Possible Headless Horseman and carriage rides
- Street closures and weekend event format

Committee formed:

Jim Jensen (Chair)

Marie Butler

Linda Seger

Jo Self

Martina Fenech

Julie Amy

Greg Strine

Motion by Greg Strine to accept the Fall Festival proposal.

Seconded by Martina Fenech.

Roll call vote: **Unanimous approval**.

DDA Redistricting

Proposal to expand DDA boundaries to include:

- Means Project (Old Pinckney Elementary)
- People's Church
- Village Hall
- State Farm
- Surrounding homes around the square

Requires ordinance changes and two public hearings.

Process expected to take several months; target completion by July.

Welcome Packages

Township distributes welcome packages to new residents. Discussion tabled pending consultation with Pinckney Business Owners.

Pinckney Fitness Grant Inquiry

Jeff Beemer inquired about awning reimbursement.

Linda and Jo will provide application details and follow up.

Pinckney Business Owners Meeting Report – Julie Amy

- Approximately 10 attendees.
- Topics: one-minute pitches, psychology of messaging, social media engagement.
- Strong collaboration and discussion on small business promotion.

Budget Discussion

- DDA currently holds approximately **\$215,000**.
- Budget vote in May; submission due by June.
- Quotes needed for beautification projects to establish clear line items.

DDA Membership Update

Bridget Kane's term concluded.

Motion by Marie Butler to recommend Jim Jensen and accept Bridget Kane's resignation.

Seconded by Julie Amy.

Vote: **Unanimous approval**.

Pure Michigan 20th Anniversary & USA 250th Anniversary

Potential mural project discussed for summer 2026.

ReCAST Program- Jo Self

Pinckney selected as one of six Michigan communities to receive:

- \$21,000 in training over 10 months.
- Participants: Jo Self, Jim Jensen, Krista Harlan, Laurie from the Village office.
- Focus on small manufacturing, artisans, and advanced technology growth.

Upcoming Events

- St. Patrick's Day Parade (permits pending).
- Business Expo Fundraiser (February 28) supporting the Pinckney Band Program.

Public Forum

Opened at **11:06 a.m.**

Closed at **11:06 a.m.**

Closing Remarks

Appreciation expressed for:

- Marie Butler's Treescape presentation.
- Bridget Kane's service.
- Julie Amy's positive Council presentation.
- Prayers offered for Chairman Szafranski's upcoming surgery.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by **Julie Amy** at **11:13 a.m.**

Seconded by **Mike Carney**.

Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Amy

Secretary, Pinckney DDA