

# Record of Proceedings

Village of Poland, Ohio

Poland Village Council

REGULAR SESSION

The Council of the Village of Poland Ohio met in  
REGULAR SESSION at the Poland Village Town  
Hall, 308 South Main Street, Poland, Ohio 44514-  
2082 on Tuesday, July 16, 2024

308 South Main Street  
Poland, Ohio 44514-2082  
(330) 757-2112  
www.polandvillage.org

The Council of the Village of Poland Ohio met in REGULAR SESSION at the Poland Village Town Hall, 308 South Main Street, Poland, Ohio 44514-2082 on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge Of Allegiance

1. Roll Call was taken with the following members:

- A. Mr. Christopher Graff, Member of Council
- B. Mr. Samuel Moffie, Member of Council
- C. Mr. Michael Zembower Member of Council,
- D. Mr. Michael Thompson, Member of Council
- E. Mr. James Walkama, Member of Council
- F. Mrs. Abbie Bosak, Member of Council

Also present were: Jay Macejko, Solicitor  
Robert Canter, Fiscal Officer  
Timothy Sicafuse, Mayor

2. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Zembower to accept the minutes from the previous meetings special and regular, June 18, 2024.

*Vote: Bosak, Thompson, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*

*Motion carries: 6-0*

3. Guest Presentations- N/A

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

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#### 4. Report From Mayor- Tim Sicafuse-

Mayor Sicafuse emailed the council about the paving project. There is a new engineer, Jeff Carr. He met with Jeff Carr to prioritize which streets need paved. Our obligation for the paving would be \$277699.40 unless we add a smaller street to the order. We can spend up to \$310,000.00 for the paving. The order is due August 29, 2024. The paving would be in the fall of 2025.

Mr. Zembower suggests that the cost of paving will only increase so it would be fiscally smart to complete what paving we could this year.

There was a meeting with Terrie Fercana from the Environmental Design Group about looking into Safe Routes to School Grant which would include crosswalks and lighting. The schools would be responsible for the majority of the cost. There would be zero contribution from us other than the cost of writing the grant.

Mayor Sicafuse, Attorney Macejko and Maureen O'Neil met with Mark Mrofchak, Amy from the library and the library attorney on July 2, 2024. They were informed that there are geothermal issues at the library and they are embarking on getting a seismologist to do some drilling to see what is going on under the library before any other issues are addressed.

Mayor Sicafuse, Mr. Porterfield, Mrs. Bosak and Mr. Graff did go to Mr. Adams home to look into a solution for the water problem. They have come up with 2 solutions that Mr. Adams can think over and decide which he would prefer. The first is to grind that street down to be a gravel road lower than his yard which would cost between \$5,000.00-\$6,000.00. The other would be to get topsoil and to build up the yard. It would be about \$38.00 a yard for the soil. They could only deliver it as they are not allowed to do work on private property.

Mrs. Bosak said that the council needs to talk to Mr. Adams and the neighbors in the area to discuss both options.

A motion was made by **Mr. Graff** and seconded by **Mrs. Bosak** to accept the Mayor's Report.

*Vote: Bosak, Thompson, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*

*Motion carries 6-0*

#### 5. Fiscal Officer Report- Robert Canter-

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Mr. Canter passes around bank reqs. to the council members that were emailed.

There needs to be wording changed in police raise ordinance regarding effective dates. He has received permission from Mayor Sicafuse to pay Susan the Village secretary one week vacation pay because she will not be able to take her vacation due to lack of staffing.

A motion was made by **Mr. Graff** and seconded by **Mr. Thompson** to accept the Fiscal Officer's Report.

*Vote: Thompson, Bosak, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*

*Motion carries 6-0*

### 6. Report from the Solicitor- Jay Macejko

Working on routine public records requests. There was a liquor permit transfer having to do with the Shell Station. There were no issues. Trying to clean up Levy Legislation.

Attorney Macejko reiterates what the Mayor reported about the Library issues being sidelined until the geothermal issue is dealt with successfully.

A motion was made by **Mr. Thompson** and seconded by **Mr. Walkama** to accept the Solicitor's report.

*Vote: Thompson, Bosak, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*

*Motion carries 6-0*

### 7. Report from the Police Chief-

Please be aware of phone and email scams trying to get people to give money or buy gift cards. Call the police if this occurs. Regarding the incident that happened at Celebrate Poland, the issue was handled quickly and the suspect was removed. He commends his officers for their prompt and professional handling of the incident.

A motion was made by **Mr. Thompson** and seconded by **Mr. Graff** to accept the Police Chief's report.

*Vote: Thompson, Bosak, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*

*Motion carries 6-0*

### 8. Report from the Zoning Commissioner- N/A

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### 9. Report from the Street Commissioner- George Porterfield-

They are cutting grass and working on the front porch. Mr. Porterfield states that they will be getting rid on non working old chainsaws, old lawn mower deck and 2 non-working air conditioners.

He would like to request a Harbor Freight credit card for the street department which would give a 10% discount. Mr. Canter would keep the card which would have a \$300.00 limit. The proposed card holder would be The Village of Poland.

A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Moffie to accept the Street Commissioner's report.

*Vote: Thompson, Bosak, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas  
Motion carries 6-0*

### 10. Report from Engineer-liaison - Chris Graff- N/A

### 11. OTHER COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

A. Legislation Policy Committee- N/A

B. Building, Lands, Utilities, Parks & Recreation Committee- N/A

C. Planning Commission- N/A

D. Board of Zoning Appeals- N/A

E. Architectural Review Board- Met and approved some changes to the property that sits behind the Shell Station.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff to accept the ARB report.

*Vote: Thompson, Bosak, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas  
Motion carries 6-0*

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F. Forest Board- Next meeting July 23, 2024.

G. Hine Memorial Board- N/A

I. Western Reserve Joint Fire District, Board of Trustees- Accepting bids for the Fire Station addition. It is going to be a facility for the full time employees. It will be in keeping with the architectural character of the community at large.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bosak and seconded by Mr. Graff to accept the Fire Board report.

*Vote: Thompson, Walkama, Bosak, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion carries 6-0*

J. Special Committees- N/A

A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Moffie to finish council business before Public Comment.

*Vote: Thompson, Walkama, Bosak, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion carries 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moffie for an expenditure of \$3494.00 for first quarter 2024 from the COG, Council Of Governments for Police Dispatch Services.

*Vote: Thompson, Walkama, Bosak, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion carries 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Walkama to approve the expenditure of \$3000.00 for the Iworq zoning software that Maureen uses for code enforcement.

*Vote: Thompson, Walkama, Bosak, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion carries 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff to WAIVE THE THREE READINGS of A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE AUDITOR OF MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO, CERTIFY THE

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**TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE VILLAGE OF POLAND, FOR A 3.2 MILL RENEWAL LEVY FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

*Roll Call Vote: Graff, Bosak, Moffie, Thompson, Walkama, Zembower- yeas*  
*Motion passes 6-0*

**THREE READINGS HAVING BEEN WAIVED** a motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff for the passage of **A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE AUDITOR OF MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO, CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE VILLAGE OF POLAND, FOR A 3.2 MILL RENEWAL LEVY FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

*Roll Call Vote: Graff, Bosak, Moffie, Thompson, Walkama, Zembower- yeas*  
*Motion passes 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff to **WAIVE THE THREE READINGS of A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION TO TO THE ELECTORS THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A 3.2 MILL LEVY FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

*Roll Call Vote: Graff, Bosak, Moffie, Thompson, Walkama, Zembower- yeas*  
*Motion passes 6-0*

**THREE READINGS HAVING BEEN WAIVED** A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Walkama for passage of **A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION TO TO THE ELECTORS THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A 3.2 MILL LEVY FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

*Roll Call Vote: Graff, Bosak, Moffie, Thompson, Walkama, Zembower- yeas*  
*Motion passes 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff to declare the list of equipment from the street department be declared surplus and authorize its disposal by whatever means necessary.

*Vote: Graff, Bosak, Moffie, Thompson, Walkama, Zembower- yeas*  
*Motion passes 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moffie that council accept the Engineer's opinion of probable cost for the 2025 paving that was discussed by the Mayor with the contingency that Alverne or Canavan Drive may be added if funding so permits.

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*Vote: Graff, Bosak, Moffie, Thompson, Walkama, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion passes 6-0*

**12. SECOND AND THIRD READINGS:**

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff to move a second reading of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1266.04 FIRST ENACTED BY ORDINANCE 949-94 ON JANUARY 3, 1994 AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 1047-97 ON AUGUST 14, 1997 AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 1943-2023 ON OCTOBER 17, 2023 WITH SAID ORDINANCE ADDRESSING MEETINGS; RECORDS FOR THE POLAND VILLAGE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD TO ADDRESS THE REGULARITY OF MEETING.

*Vote: Moffie, Walkama, Graff, Bosak, Thompson, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion carries 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff to move a second reading of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1220.02 FIRST ENACTED BY ORDINANCE 1072-98 ON MAY 5, 1998 WITH SAID ORDINANCE ADDRESSING MEETINGS; QUORUMS; ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON; RECORDS CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR THE POLAND VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION TO ADDRESS THE REGULARITY OF MEETINGS.

*Vote: Bosak, Thompson, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion carries: 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Graff to move a second reading of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1062.01 FIRST ENACTED BY ORDINANCE 1519-17 ON JUNE 6, 2017 WITH SAID ORDINANCE ADDRESSING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE POLAND MUNICIPAL FOREST TO ESTABLISH THE REGULARITY OF MEETINGS.

*Vote : Bosak, Thompson, Walkama, Graff, Moffie, Zembower-yeas*  
*Motion carries: 6-0*

A motion was made by Mr. Walkama and seconded by Mr. Moffie to move a third reading of A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GENERAL DISFAVOR AGAINST ALCOHOL-RELATED EVENTS COINCIDING WITH CELEBRATE POLAND.

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Discussion:

Mr. Thompson feels like this resolution is unenforceable grandstanding.

Mr. Zembower believes that these issues should be discussed between the organizations involved. He believes that a conversation could have been held to work out this issue had all parties been willing to come together to do the right thing. Unfortunately one of the groups asked the council to intervene. He feels that other community groups should be able to give their opinion regarding this resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mrs. Bosak to table this motion until after public comment.

Vote: Graff, Zembower, Bosak, Walkama, Thompson-yeas  
Moffie-nay  
Motion carries 5-1

### 13. Discussion Items:

Ken Adams, 354 Johnston Place-

Mr. Adams will have to think about what is the best decision to make from the options that he was given. He is not pleased with either because one he is responsible for the work if topsoil is delivered and the other option will irritate his neighbors. He does appreciate that at least an effort has been made to alleviate the problem. He mentions an easement and wonders why public employees cannot work on it.

Mr. Thompson said both options are affordable and Mrs. Bosak asks if he needs any other information to help him make the decision. He wants a meeting with all the neighbors to discuss these options.

Atty. Macejko reiterates that it is private property even if there is a utility easement on his yard.

Mr. Thompson and Atty. Macejko informs that the council has no control over where utility boxes are located. Mr. Zembower wants to know who the public would reach out to if they have an issue with the utility work that is done and not completed in a way that the landowner approves.

### 14. Presentation of the Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mrs. Bosak to pay the bills.  
Vote: Graff, Walkama, Bosak, Zembower, Moffie, Thompson- yeas.



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*Motion carries: 6-0*

A motion was made by **Mr. Thompson** and seconded by **Mr. Graff** to return to the orders of the day.  
Vote: Graff, Walkama, Bosak, Zembower, Moffie, Thompson- yeas.

*Motion carries: 6-0*

### 15. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nancy Muscat Christopher Drive-

Mrs. Muscat feels that the resolution regarding the alcohol at events is not necessary and would negatively affect other nonprofit groups. She said that it is an overreaction to complaints from one organization. She respectfully urges the mayor and council to not pass this resolution. We should all be given the opportunity to compromise and come to an agreement.

Shelly Duchek-

She is working in a nonprofit field and has never seen such a conflict blow up so fast with two organizations who should have sat down and had a discussion professionally. All that it takes is to be reasonable and discuss issues without the government intervening.

Mr. Zembower speaks on behalf of himself. He does not believe that we should be writing resolutions to circumvent our own laws which allow for F permits to be pulled for nonprofit events. He states that these nonprofits raise millions of dollars for charities all over this town with F permits. It is not a council matter but a matter where the organizations should come together to decide and compromise on this issue. The resolution would create division and animosity. He pleads with the Mayor and council to reconsider their vote on this resolution. Celebrate Poland was not willing to work one on one on this issue.

Mrs. Bosak wonders what this resolution actually does. Atty. Macejko said that this resolution is not enforceable. It is a mere opinion. She states that Celebrate Poland would not discuss the issue with her unless in public either. Mrs. Bosak mentions that she was told the playground was roped off for fireworks which was untrue.

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Mr. Graff states that certain groups have thrown gasoline on the issue and Mrs. Bosak said that we are wasting time discussing this issue due to inability of enforcement.

Mr. Moffie states that it is only one weekend for a family event. This issue is about protecting Celebrate Poland.

Mr. Thompson states that council needs to know their limits and are not the answer to every issue. This is not a good idea to pass this resolution.

Police Chief Lambert said that he feels that if alcohol was introduced to these events he thinks it could exacerbate any issues that may occur.

Rob Dunham 214 Edna Street-

He has an issue with events that are family oriented and have no need for alcohol. That being said if it is an adult even he thinks alcohol should be allowed. It should not be the Village's responsibility. It is a frivolous resolution because it does not benefit anyone.

A motion was made by Mr. Walkama and seconded by Mr. Moffie to move a third reading of **A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GENERAL DISFAVOR AGAINST ALCOHOL-RELATED EVENTS COINCIDING WITH CELEBRATE POLAND.**

Roll Call Vote: Graff, Walkama, Moffie-yeas  
Zembower, Bosak, Thompson-nay  
Sicafuse-nay

Motion failed: 3-4

Mayor Sicafuse would hope all the groups respect each other. He opposes it because it cannot be enforced.

Elinor Zedaker 70 Poland Manor-

Can the street department pick up branches and brush that has come down with high wind? She requests that utility trucks are marked when working in neighborhoods. She is not happy with the unsightly utility boxes.

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Ken Adams 345 Johnston Place-

Mr. Adams is disappointed in the fact that he has been fighting for 20 years for a decent road. This is a symptom of the storm sewers not being big enough. The road should have been lower than the properties. He feels that the council does not understand the situation. He feels there should have been grinding over the road instead of being continually built up. He feels like the council has not really been listening to the issue. He is not happy about either option.

Mr. Thompson wonders how this road got put down. The thing he knows is that it was done on request by Mr. Adams as a favor.

Bob Mastriana-

What is the status of the traffic signal on 224 and Water Street? He wants to know why the library before and after pictures were taken down.

Mr. Thompson said it is not on the agenda for this meeting because the council is not obligated to talk about or look at the library every month.

Mr. Mastriana states that the library issue is not structural but geotechnical issues. The building was built on solid bedrock. The upper section at street level he is assuming where the issue is happening. He believes that this is a smokescreen to divert attention from the list that he has given for issues they need to address. He implores that the council set up a committee to represent the Village when the library is doing anything to the building.

Joe Zdrillich-

Needs to have a conversation with Police Chief Lambert. Atty. Macejko said all records are in Struthers Municipal Court.

Kathy Miller 15 Water street-

She is not happy with the delay by the library to fix the issue. Mrs. Miller wants to ensure we do not give them any money to help fix the issues at the library. She is worried about the utility boxes and not happy with the damage to the trees. She said some Mayors have required flat boxes.

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Is the grant application ready for the Historic Restoration Projects? Mr. Thompson said it is in the works. He expects it to be figured out for grants for next calendar year.

The clock tower needs to be fixed. Questions about the repairs that have been done to the sidewalks. Mr. Moffie tells her where they were fixed.

She is worried about someone converting single family homes to multi-family dwellings due to the burden of illegal immigrants being dumped in communities which are bankrupting their governments. She is wanting the council to be proactive regarding this situation.

Mr. Thompson said the Village has no control over immigration.

She wants to know if streets can be blocked off for block parties? Mayor Sicafuse assures her that they can and she should speak to Maureen O'Neil.

### 16. Remarks by Council and the Mayor:

- A. Mr. Thompson- NA
- B. Mr. Walkama-N/A
- C. Mr. Moffie- N/A.
- D. Mr. Graff- N/A
- E. Mrs. Bosak- N/A

### 15. Adjournment

A motion was made by **Mr. Moffie** and seconded by **Mr. Bosak** to adjourn the meeting at 8:47p.m.

*Vote, Graff, Bosak, Walkama, Thompson, , Moffie, Zembower-yeas.  
Motion carries 6-0.*

Amy E. Brenoel, Clerk Of Council  
Village of Poland, Ohio

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*Amy E. Brenzel*

The next REGULAR MEETING of the Poland Village Council will be **August 20, 2024** Caucus will begin at 7:00 p.m., with Regular Session beginning at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Poland Village Town Hall, 308 South Main Street, Poland, Ohio 44514-2082.

