

Village of Pinckney

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

Official Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 13, 2026

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Michael Szafranski, Chair

Jen Cooke, Vice Chair

Julie Amy, Secretary

Marie Butler

Mike Carney

Greg Strine

Jim Jensen

Jeff Buerman

Martina Fenech

Members Absent:

Linda Seger

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by **Jen Cooke** to approve the agenda.

Seconded by **Martina Fenech**.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by **Marie Butler** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Seconded by **Mike Carney**.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Forum

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

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

Reports

Chairman's Report

Chairman Michael Szafranski noted that his report was embedded within the agenda and would be addressed throughout the meeting.

Village Report – Jeff Buerman

- Discussion regarding a **\$234.13 invoice** from the Township for welcome bags provided to new residents. No prior agreement existed for cost-sharing.
 - **Julie Amy** will follow up with Cheryl for clarification.
- A **special budget meeting** is scheduled for **March 23 at 9:00 a.m.**
- Update on **DDA expansion** to be discussed later in the agenda.
- Legal update: **lawsuit** because of Mugg & Bopps postponed to June.
- Two marijuana licenses approved; one moving forward, one currently stalling.
- Future consideration to eliminate micro licenses.

DPW Report

Deferred to New Business.

Old Business

Community Garden

- Will remain in its **current location for the 2026 growing season.**
- Committee exploring enhancements:
 - Movable pavilion
 - Walking path
 - Lighting improvements
- Martina Fenech has prepared marketing materials for plot rentals.

Motion by Jeff Buerman to maintain the current location and continue committee planning.

Seconded by Martina Fenech.

Roll call vote: **Unanimous approval.**

Streetlights (M-36)

- DTE has completed work on 10 lights; quality concerns noted.
- Continued coordination with DPW to ensure proper completion.

Beautification Project (Treescape)

- Marie Butler presented updated cost estimates:
 - Fiberglass: ~\$6,000 per tree (10–20-year lifespan)
 - Steel: ~\$20,000 per tree (long-term durability)
 - Bronze: highest cost, 50–100-year lifespan
- Estimated total project cost: **~\$80,000.**
- Discussion emphasized durability, longevity vs. cost.

Marion & M-36 Property

- Discovery: The village holds responsibility for part of the diner parking lot due to the agreement made by a previous administration.
- This limitation caused a potential buyer to withdraw.
- No current active buyers.

DDA District Expansion

- Two proposed maps (A & B) were reviewed.

Motion by Julie Amy to adopt a resolution to amend the DDA district using **Map B**.

Seconded by Mike Carney.

Discussion included:

- Notification process to affected property owners.
- Public notice and hearing requirements
- Council ordinance approval and county recording
- Clarification: **No tax increase**, only reallocation of captured value

Roll call vote: **Unanimous approval.**

Welcome Packages

Previously discussed; pending clarification.

New Business

Village Pantry Proposal (Tina & Stewart Hall)

- Proposal for an upgraded, visually appealing food pantry structure at Village Hall.
- Features:
 - Weather protection
 - Visibility of contents
 - Functional design
- Potential collaboration with community members from other agencies (Farley Food Bank, St. Mary's, etc.)
- Suggested placement: north side of building.

Motion by Julie Amy to form a committee to develop and improve the pantry.

Seconded by Greg Strine.

Roll call vote: **Unanimous approval.**

Pinckney Business Owners Update – Julie Amy

- Strong participation at the recent meeting.
- Topics:
 - Community event involvement
 - Business engagement levels
 - Event logistics and ROI
- Guest speaker: Scott Storey (Brighton Chamber)
 - Benefits of Chamber membership
 - Business visibility strategies
 - Personal & professional benefits to community engagement

Welcome New Member

Jim Jensen was formally welcomed to the DDA.

Budget Committee

- DDA approaching first anniversary.
- Current financials:
 - Approx. **\$210,000 balance**
 - Approx. **\$61,000 spent.**

- Budget Committee Members:
 - Linda Seger
 - Julie Amy
 - Michael Szafranski
 - Jim Jensen
- Jim Jensen to gather Fall Festival budget expectations from Heritage Vintage Markets.

Recap & Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Parade

- Scheduled for **March 14**
- All preparations complete.

Pure Michigan 20th Anniversary

- Deferred to future meeting.

Depot Fundraising

- \$2,000 raised to date; approximately \$4,000 still needed.
- The building is now classified as **historical**, adding complexity.
- Discussion on adaptive reuse strategies.

Memorial Day Parade

- Will follow established structure with emphasis on **commemorative tone**.

Public Forum

Opened at **10:58 a.m.**

Closed at **10:58 a.m.**

Member Discussion

Mural Initiative

- Proposal for murals tied to:
 - America's 250th Anniversary
 - Pinckney's 180th Anniversary
- Goals:
 - Increase tourism and social media engagement.
 - Community involvement (including schools)

Motion by Greg Strine to form a mural committee.

Seconded by Jen Cooke.

Roll call vote: **Unanimous approval.**

Fall Festival Follow-Up

- Jim Jensen to coordinate with organizers and the committee.

DDA Membership Eligibility

- Mike Carney noted the potential need to step down if property ownership changes.

- Possible solution: district boundary adjustment to retain eligibility.
- To be revisited at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by **Julie Amy** at **11:09 a.m.**

Seconded by **Jen Cooke**.

Motion carried unanimously.

Michael Szafranski, Chair

Julie Amy, Secretary