

Village of Pinckney Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, January 9, 2026

Time: 9:32 AM

1. Call to Order

Chairman **Michael Szafranski** called the meeting to order at **9:32 AM**.

2. Roll Call

Present at Roll Call:

- Michael Szafranski
- Julie Amy
- Marie Butler
- Bridget Kane
- **Jeff Buerman**
- Martina Fenech

Arrived Late:

- Greg Strine – arrived at **9:42 AM**
- Jen Koch – arrived at **9:48 AM**

Absent:

- Linda Seger (scheduled time off in Montana; expected to return next week)

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Marie Butler

Second: Martina Fenech

Vote: All in favor

Motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Marie Butler

Second: Jeff Buerman

Vote: All in favor

Motion carried.

6. Public Forum

Public forum opened at **9:37 AM**.

No public comments.

Public forum closed at **9:37 AM**.

7. Chairman's Report

Chairman Szafranski reported that he would be reaching out to **Mike Carney** regarding **attendance**. Linda Seger was noted as absent due to scheduled travel and is expected to return the following week.

8. Village Report

Jeff Buerman reported there was nothing new to share at this time.

9. DPW Report

Chairman Szafranski covered the DPW report, noting there was nothing new beyond items scheduled later the agenda under Old Business.

10. Agenda Adjustment

Motion: Jeff Buerman

Second: Julie Amy

Vote: All in favor

Motion approved to move the **Community Garden** item to the end of Old Business to allow full committee participation upon Greg Strine's arrival.

Old Business

a. Tree Skirts / Streetlight Repairs on M-36

Chairman Szafranski reported that orange flags are currently marking tree skirts. There is a discrepancy regarding the tree skirt invoice that requires clarification. Payment will be issued once resolved.

Marie Butler discussed the **Tree Grate Project** and the **communication column concept**, which will be formally presented in February. Marie will create a **weatherproof 3D display featuring four trees representing the four seasons**, to be shared at the next meeting.

b. Governor Whitmer Main Street Funding

Funding opportunities are being handled by **Linda Seger and Joe**. No new information was available. This item was tabled pending Linda Seger's return and follow-up regarding recertification.

c. Community Garden

With all members present, **Mike Szafranski, Greg Strine, and Martina Fenech** conducted a practice presentation in preparation for their upcoming **Village Council presentation scheduled for the following Monday**.

New Business

a. Certified Tourism Ambassadors & Explore Brighton Howell

Mary Robinson, joined by **Caroline**, presented information on the **Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) Program** and **Explore Brighton Howell Magazine**. Their objective is to increase visitation and awareness of Pinckney.

Highlights included:

- A previously pledged **\$2,000 contribution from 2022** toward community signage remains available.
- Funds may be applied toward the **Community Garden** if the committee coordinates with the group.
- Discussion of collaboration opportunities to promote Pinckney beginning in April.
- Introduction of the **Destination Development Project Grant**, requiring attendance at two meetings and offering a **\$10,000 matching grant**.

- Matching funds may come from donations, sponsorships, or existing project funds.
- CTA is a nonprofit funded through tourism and destination development.
- An annual visitors guide is published, with **15,000 copies distributed throughout Livingston County**.

Questions regarding metrics were discussed; formal tracking is limited.
The slogan “**Up North Vibes Without the Drive**” was shared.

b. Pinckney Business Owners! Group Update

Julie Amy reported:

- A meeting was held on **Thursday, January 8**, with **10 attendees**.
- New participants attended and the meeting was well received.
- Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **February 12** and **March 12**.
- Membership payment links are not yet active; a bank account has been established, and a website is in development.
- The meeting was held at the Pinckney Library, with relocation being considered.

c. Heritage Pharmacy Festival Proposal

Jeff Buerman reported that Heritage Pharmacy representatives were unable to attend but are proposing a **September festival (Friday–Sunday)**. Jeff requested a meeting with **Julie Amy, Jo Self, Jeff Buerman, and Michael Szafranski** to discuss details.

Chairman Szafranski led a discussion regarding **Village charges for road closures**, including signage, police presence, setup, and cleanup. Jeff Buerman noted that future applications and fee structures will provide transparency. Fees may be waived by the Village Council in special circumstances if presented to the council in advance.

Events potentially impacted include:

- Homecoming Parade
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- Memorial Parade
- Food Truck Fridays
- Hootin’ in the Park

d. Upcoming Events

Jo shared details on upcoming events:

Recognition Banquet

- **January 30**, 6:00 PM
- Location: **The Dio**
- Theme: **1920s Great Gatsby attire**
- Cost: \$35 per person / \$60 per couple
- Proceeds benefit engineering for the **Depot**.
- DDA members were asked to:
 - Nominate award recipients.
 - Create a raffle basket representing their business.
 - Notify Jo of basket details by **January 20**
- Payments are currently accepted by check payable to the **Pinckney Business Owners Group**

St. Patrick’s Day Parade

- **March 14**
- Legionnaires and Michigan Scottish reserved

11. Public Forum

Public forum reopened at **11:04 AM**.

No public comments.

Public forum closed at **11:04 AM**.

12. Member Discussion

Jo requested assistance with creating centerpieces for the Recognition Dinner.

Julie Amy expressed concern regarding public perception of certain events and post-event cleanup. A potential solution discussed was allowing the **Chamber** to assume responsibility for events such as **Light Up the Park**.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Marie Butler

Second: Greg Strine

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned. 11:10am

Mike Szafranski – DDA Chair

Julie Amy – DDA Secretary