

Concord Village Voice ♦ January 2024

Village of Concord: 110 Hanover Street-PO Box 306 Concord, MI 49237 / 524-8534 / M-Th: 8am- 6pm

Village of Concord Contact Information

Village President:

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Village Council:

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DPW: Jason Blossom-

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Clerk: Judy Lefere-clerk@villageofconcord.com

Treasurer: Colleen Gibbs-

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Fire Chief: Lloyd Mosher-

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Website: www.villageofconcord.com

Village Meeting Dates and Times

All meetings are held in the Village Commons unless otherwise noted and are open to the public. Come participate in your local government!

The Village Council meets one time per month!!

Village Council: January 9th @ 7:00pm

Parks & Recreation: January 2nd @ 7:00pm

Planning Commission: January 16th @ 6:30pm

Fire Board: January 17th 6:00pm - Meeting at Fire House

Village Voice—Village of Concord Website

Do you have community information you want included in the Village Voice or on Village of Concord Website? Call Village Office. Email: office@villageofconcord.com. All info. must be submitted a week or more prior to the beginning of the month. The submission deadline for the February issue is January 19th.

No Overnight Parking on Village Streets

November 1st through May 1st.
This is in place so the DPW can plow and salt our streets.

SAFE SNOW PRACTICES!!

Piling or depositing snow that obstructs vision is a violation of Michigan's Vehicle Code.

It also is important to remember that the Village ordinances require residents and businesses to keep sidewalks clear of snow. This is important for pedestrians.

Winter can be a difficult time to get around for those on foot, so please make the extra effort to clear your sidewalks and help everyone stay safe!

Community Blessing Box

Concord UMC, 119 S. Main St.

The blessing box is located next to the church parking lot.

Items such as canned goods, mixes, stews, soups, cereal, peanut butter, personal items, deodorant, toothbrushes, soap, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, etc. are needed.

Donations can be dropped off at the church office

Mon-Thurs 9-3.

The Blessing Box is a community outreach, and based on take what you need and give what you can!!

Thank you!!

Concord District Library

Concord Branch of the Jackson District Library are back to their regular hours!

Hours:

Monday and Wednesday 10-6

Tuesday and Friday 1-6

Saturday 10-2

Weekly Take-n-Makes Stop by each week for a new take-home craft!

Monthly iSpy and Scavenger Hunt activities

Please check the JDL website for updated information.

www.myjdl.com

GRANGER GARBAGE/RECYCLE INFO

You may have three additional bags of garbage if you have a 90 gal trash bin!

Please place all bags of garbage and recycling in your bin!
Bags should be no larger than 30 gallon and weighing no more than 30lbs each

Garbage Pick Up: At curb by 6am Tuesday morning.

Village Council Meeting Minutes– November 14, 2023 Absent: View at www.villageofconcord.com or pickup hard copy at Village Office

The Village Council of Concord met on November 14, 2023 at 6:15 pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room.
Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, J. Jackson, T. Norris, T. Thurman, A. Meeks, M. Lovitt and K. George.
Council Members Absent: None.

J. Bush called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm, with no public present other than Village Employees present there was no Public Comment.
J. Bush opened the meeting discussing the purpose of the meeting was to complete employee reviews. Bush described the process of a closed meeting and how a closed meeting was an available option for employee reviews if the Village employees wanted to complete their reviews in this manner. Bush asked the Village employees in attendance if they would like to complete their employee reviews in a public or a closed meeting? All Village employees stated they would prefer employee reviews take place in a closed meeting. Bush then asked the Village employees who they would like to be in attendance in their closed meeting to discuss employee reviews? The Village's employees stated they were fine with all Village employees being in attendance.
Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George at 6:17 pm to enter a closed meeting at the request of Village employees for the purpose of completing employee reviews.
Motion approved by all.
A closed meeting was conducted to complete employee reviews.
Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks at 6:50 pm to end the closed meeting which occurred at the request of Village employees for the purpose of completing employee reviews. Motion approved by all.
Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks at 7:00 pm to return to an open meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Present: K. Wyatt, B. Raut, J. Raut, T. Brigham, Township Supervisor D. Saenz, Clerk J. Lefere and DPW Director J. Blossom, DPW Employee K. Thomas, DPW Employee N. Kidder.

Motioned by K. George , seconded by A. Meeks to accept the minutes from the 10/10/2023 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

B. Raut discussed Light Up Concord events that will be taking place in the Village. November 24th – tree lighting at the Methodist Church, December 1st – Chili Cook Off at Concord High School cafeteria, December 8th – Hay Rides, December 9th – Santa will be at Trail Head Coffee Shop, December 15th – 5K run will take place downtown, Live Nativity will be located behind Holton Hardware, awards will be presented to the Light Up Concord Contestants.
D. Saenz discussed a water leak at Maple Grove Cemetery, which caused extremely high usage. He explained that this happened during a transition from one sexton to another and asked if there was anything that could be done. The council agreed to reduce the usage charge by 50%.
K. Wyatt asked about the status of the charges against the three boys that were caught tearing up the parking lot at Gottschalk Park. J. Bush and J. Blossom informed him that Deputy Jacobson had turned in the report a second time and the Prosecutors Office is pursuing charges.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$46,917 63 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by M. Lovitt, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$46,917 63. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson was unable to attend. To view a copy of L. Jacobson's Concord Area Police Blotter, go to the Village website at www.villageofconcord.com look on the home page – quick links. A copy may also be picked up in the Village Office.

J. Blossom informed the council that he had been contacted by the state regarding ACT 51 revenue the village receives for street maintenance that there are two discrepancies on the ACT 51 map. They are – the piece of property between Cecil and Michigan. These streets do not connect. The other discrepancy is the map shoes Blossum St as an active street. The street was never developed therefore is not eligible for ACT 51 monies. The village will present and adopt a resolution at a future meeting removing these sections from the ACT 51 map. J. Blossom also informed the village that the speed signs have not been put up yet because the company shipped the wrong signs; they sent an employee here from Missouri to modify them to what the village ordered. They will be put up as time allows. He also discussed the well on Michigan St., water tests have come back with no issues and the well was put back in service. However, the well is over 70 years old and will need to be replaced. The village will plan to replace the well in 2025. J. Blossom also informed everyone that Concord Excavating has changed ownership. The new owners are B. Gloar and I. Huff/ this is expected to be a smooth transition.

J. Bush discussed the Fire Budget each council member received via email. The Fire Board is asking for an increase of \$14,250.00 to be divided between the Township and the Village. Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to approve the fire budget as presented. All were in favor. Motion approved.
J. Bush discussed Village employee reviews were performed during a closed meeting at the employee's request at 6:15pm prior to the regular council meeting. He discussed how valuable the staff is and how the Village has a great team that works well together. After discussion the Council agreed to the following employee compensation measures:
Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to increase DPW Director J. Blossom and DPW employee K. Thomas wages by 3% and increase their retirement by 5% effective 1/1/2024. All were in favor. Motion approved.
Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by T. Thurman to pay 100% of the healthcare premium for DPW employee N. Kidder and Clerk J. Lefere with the understanding there will not be a wage increase for 2 years. All were in favor. Motion approved.
Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by T. Thurman to change the employee hand book as follows – new hires working full time will pay 21% of their healthcare premium for the first three years of employment. After the completion of their third year the premium will be covered at 100%. All were in favor. Motion approved.
J. Bush announced the resignation of Treasurer C. Gibbs. After some discussion the council moved Clerk J. Lefere into the treasurer position at 40 hours per week. The village will be posting the clerk position in the next few weeks.
J. Bush informed the public that there will be a budget meeting on Tuesday November 28th at 6:30pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room. The 2024 budget will be presented and reviewed for adoption at the December 12th Village Council meeting.
J. Bush discussed the MDOT-TEDF-B Grant that the village applied for was approved. The grant is to pave Allman Rd. from Homer Rd. to M-60. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$119,418.00 The grant is 50% of the cost in the amount of \$59,709.00.

Council Comments:

T. Thurman announced tat the PTO Craft Show is being held at Concord Schools on Saturday November 25th from 10am – 3pm.
K. George informed everyone that the Girl Scouts will be there selling Girl Scout Cookies.

Village of Concord Budget Hearing Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on November 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room to discuss the 2024 Projected Budget and the Review the 2024 Budget Summary.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, T. Thurman, K. George, A. Meeks, and M. Lovitt.
Council Members Absent: J. Jackson and T. Norris
Public Present: K. Wyatt, B. Raut, J. Pratt, Clerk J. Lefere and DPW Director J. Blossom.

J. Bush reviewed the proposed budget and the 2024 budget summary. The budget will be approved at the December meeting.
J. Bush also noted that an amendment to ordinance #8132019 would be voted on along with an amendment to the employee handbook regarding health insurance benefits as discussed during the November 14th meeting. These amendments will be voted on at the December 12th meeting.

B. Raut and J. Pratt inquired about businesses closing and how it will affect the village. J. Bush responded that the revenue to the village will not change as the property owner will still be responsible for utility and tax bills. The closing of Unique Molded Foam may affect revenue for local businesses.
K. Wyatt asked about well #1 that J. Blossom mentioned replacing in a previous meeting and if that was in the 2024 budget. J. Blossom and J. Bush replied that it was not and they plan to budget that in the future. He also asked about the grinder pumps that will be moved out of people's homes. J. Blossom stated that the pumps will be replaced over the course of several years as it will be hundreds of thousands to replace them.