

Concord Village Voice ♦ February 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

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!!

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: February 13th @ 7:00pm

Parks & Recreation: February 6th @ 7:00pm

Planning Commission: February 20th @
6:30pm

Fire Board: February 21st 6:00pm - Meeting
at Fire House

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

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 March issue is
February 19th.

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– December 12, 2023 Absent: View at www.villageofconcord.com or pickup hard copy at Village Office

The Village Council of Concord met on December 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Village Commons Meeting Room.
Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, J. Jackson, T. Thurman, A. Meeks, M. Lovitt and K. George.
Council Members Absent: T. Norris.

Public Present: K. Wyatt, B. Raut, J. Raut, Township Sup. D. Saenz, E. Poleski, Deputy Jacobson, Clerk J. Lefere and DPW Director J. Blossom.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George to accept the minutes from the 11/14/2023 meeting. Motion approved by all.
Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by K. George, to accept the minutes from the 11/28/2023 meeting. Motion approved by all.

Public Comments:

B. Raut discussed Light Up Concord. The last event of the season will take place Friday December 15th with a Live Nativity located behind Holton Hardware; awards will be presented to the Light Up Concord Contestants.

K. Wyatt said a Pulaski Township resident inquired about the status of the speed signs. J. Blossom informed him that the signs were not the ones ordered. J. Blossom tried to return them but the company sent someone from Missouri to modify the signs. J. Blossom put the signs up and they failed to work. He called the company to come and pick up the signs. He is going to check into other options.

D. Saenz reported that the township/village electrical inspector is retiring. He plans to interview 3 people for the position. The village has hired Ken Swift for the position.

E. Poleski gave an update on the County Commissioners meeting. For information on the Jackson County Commissioners meeting go to <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/365/Jackson-County-Commissioners> and select the news tab.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$59,072.59 was presented. Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Jackson, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$59,072.59. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson discussed his November Blotter. 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 the DPW along with Concord Excavating upgraded 5 old grinder pumps. After the first of the year the DPW Department and Concord Excavating will be assessing the 21 residents that returned their forms to have the village move their pumps outside and start scheduling the jobs. They plan to replace at least 5 per year. J. Blossom was contacted by the Lookin Sharp Salon owner because the Jackson District Library Librarian stopped in and told her that her and her employee were no longer to park behind the salon because the lot is owned by the Jackson District Library. J. Blossom spoke with the librarian and said the library was leased and it is a public parking lot. After much research it was found out that the library is not leased and actually back in 2006 the mayor at the time quit claim deeded the building and property to the library. J. Blossom will contact the village attorney to see how to proceed. The village has repaired/replaced/maintained the lot for the past 18 years and is willing to continue if the parking lot remains public. If not, the village will likely bill the library for these services.

J. Blossom shared with the council that himself, J. Bush and E. Poleski had been the recipients of some text messages from M60 Grill owner K. Foster. J. Bush shared the entire conversation with the council and the public present at the meeting. The original text was Saturday afternoon, K. Foster sent a message to the 3 of them wanting to know why his cardboard dumpster was left in his parking lot and not put back where it was and why aren't they doing their job! J. Blossom responded with – if you had notified the village on Thursday (the day the dumpster was serviced) it would have been taken care of during village and Granger operating hours. He responded at 5am on Sunday that it was still there and the village should hire people that aren't idiots! He proceeded to belittle J. Blossom and J. Bush with such hate and vulgar language it will not be printed in the minutes. When J. Blossom arrived to work Monday morning, he went to take a look at the placement of the dumpster and contacted Granger. The dumpster was not in the parking lot, it was on a patch of grass near the regular trash dumpster. J. Blossom sent K. Foster a picture of where it was placed and that it was not in the parking lot and asked K. Foster to get back with him on what the issue was and invited him to the council meeting to discuss with the council! J. Bush also responded to K. Foster to ask what the issue is and K. Foster had not responded as of the time of the meeting. This treatment to village employees has been an ongoing issue with K. Foster for years which is why all correspondence must be done through text.

J. Bush discussed the letter from ACT 51 regarding 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 shows Blossum St as an active street. The street was never developed therefore is not eligible for ACT 51 monies. The village presented a resolution to remove these sections from the ACT 51 map.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to pass the resolution to decertify/vacate Blossum St. (1250 feet) and the piece of land (60 feet) at the end of Cecil and Michigan Streets. All were in favor. Motion approved.

J. Bush presented the amendment to the employee handbook regarding employee health insurance. **Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to amend the employee handbook to provide health insurance for all full-time employees after 3 years of satisfactory employment. All were in favor. Motion approved.**

J. Bush presented the amendment to ordinance #8132019, section 16, (b), (iii), Covenants that an annual audit be performed. **Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to amend ordinance #8132019 to allow a biannual audit. All were in favor. Motion approved.**

J. Bush presented the budget amendments for the 2023 budget. **Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by M. Lovitt to transfer in \$30,000.00 to the water fund and \$50.00 to the trust and agency fund. All were in favor. Motion approved.**

J. Bush presented the 2024 proposed budget. **Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to approve the 2024 budget as presented. All were in favor. Motion approved.**

J. Bush stated that to stay in line with the water rate study completed during the USDA Water Main Project the water rates will need to be increased. **Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by K. George to increase the ready to serve fee for water by \$1.50 per month. All were in favor. Motion approved.**

Council Comments:

A. Meeks informed the council that two internal candidates applied for the Fire Chief position and the interviews will take place at the December 20th Fire Board meeting.