



JANUARY 2023

GOVERNMENT

■ The **Village office** is closed on January 2, 2023, for *New Years Day* observed.

■ **Meetings:**

Tuesday, January 3, 2023, a Special **Budget Workshop Meeting** @ 6 pm precedes the regular **Village Council** meeting @7:00 pm.

The Village **Planning Commission** will meet on Thursday, January 5 @ 7:30 pm.

The **DDA** will meet Monday, January 9 @ 6:30 pm.

A Village Council Special **Budget Workshop Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, from 6-8 pm.

A regular **Village Council** meeting will convene on Tuesday, January 17 @ 7:00 pm.

All meetings take place at the Village Hall.

FROM THE VILLAGE MANAGER

■ **Budget:** The Village budget is much more than just balancing tax revenue in and expenditures out. A budget is also a policy document that lays the groundwork for projects, capital investments, and public works. A complete budget will include items such as; rates to sustain utilities such as sewer and water, plans to maintain public facilities such as roads and town halls, and annual revenues needed to be saved each year in order to provide services with the least amount of debt. Budgets look at both immediate fiscal responsibilities, as well as long range forecasting to plan for the future.

■ **Budget Season process, FY 2024**

The Village fiscal year runs from March 1-February 28. Village Council is currently reviewing the proposed budget for FY24. Fiscal years are labeled based on the year the budget will close. The Village Council will have its first budget review meeting on January 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm, followed by the regular Council meet-

ing at 7:00 pm. A second meeting will be held on January 10, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for further review and discussion of the budget. There will be a public hearing on February 15, time to be determined, before the Village Council votes to approve the FY24 budget.

■ **Your rights:** The Village Council meeting agendas provide opportunity at every meeting for residents to speak at the beginning of each agenda in order to have their opinions heard before decisions are made. I would encourage residents to attend meetings, read meeting packets posted to the website, and to ask questions of the local government in order to factually know what decisions are being made, and what data is being used to make those decisions.

The Village Manager and council members can be reached during business hours by phone or appointment, or via email from contact information posted on the Village website.

GOVERNMENT WINTERTIME REMINDERS

■ **Street parking, mail boxes, and snow plowing:**

The Village of Grass Lake requires, via posted signs at Village entrances and supported by the State of Michigan Traffic Code, that all vehicles are removed from streets during the hours of 2am-6am. Beyond the obvious risk of being ticketed or towed, here are just a few reasons why residents should park elsewhere after snowfall.

• Move all vehicles from streets before going to bed and enjoy cleared roadways in the morning.

• **For your own convenience:** By clearing the streets of vehicles, the work of snow removal is efficiently completed by DPW staff. This will save your back, your time, and your wallet.

• **For your property:** The Village is not responsible for damage to vehicles or other property that occurs incidentally by the force of the snow, or any object that may be in the snow. Vehicles left on the street are more apt to be damaged by ice, rocks, and other debris contained within the snow being pushed by equipment.

• **For your safety:** The visibility from the driver's seat of the plow trucks is limited, especially for the International truck. Vehicles are obstructions that make it even more challenging to see pedestrians and children.

• **Mailboxes** that are damaged indirectly, without there being direct contact with the equipment removing the snow, are also not the responsibility of the Village to repair. Securing mailboxes to withstand the force of pushed snow is the responsibility of the resident.

Grass Lake express is produced by Village of Grass Lake staff as a community information resource and we welcome your feedback. Contact information, including emails, phone numbers, and office hours, are found on the website.

■ **Connect with the Village anytime at www.villageofgrasslake.com** ■