1. Call to Order

Chairman Gelfund called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge to the Flag

Chairman Gelfund led the Pledge to the Flag.

3. Roll-call

Commissioners Mark Bonner, Antonio Costantino, Donald Gelfund, Georjean Nickell, Claude Petit, Scott Troiani, Acting Public Works Director Andrew Letson, Village Engineer James Amelio, Officer Michael Knapp and Chief of Police Robert LaMantia were present.

Commissioner James Lee was absent.

4. Report by Chair

Chairman Gelfund reported that the Traffic Commission is comprised of resident volunteers appointed by the Mayor and Village Board of Trustees to review, analyze, discuss, and recommend objective traffic safety initiatives to the Village Board. Chairman Gelfund welcomed everyone in the audience and requested that they complete a speaker request form if they wish to speak on any items on the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Troiani moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting, as presented. Commissioner Nickell seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Unfinished Business

None

7. New Business
Chief LaMantia presented a previous request to remove the turn restrictions from Central Avenue on to Sauganash, Dowagiac and Ionia Avenues. Sixty-seven meeting notification letters were sent to the area bordered by Central, Sauganash, Ionia and Minnehaha Avenues. Two residents attend the meeting, two sent letters and one left a voicemail for the Chief of Police.

Chief LaMantia presented traffic speed and volume data for Sauganash, Dowagiac and Ionia Avenues with and without the restrictions on Central Avenue. Speed data was within the norm. Traffic volume data was inconsistent and varied over the course of several traffic studies. Staff could not make a recommendation based on the results of the speed and volume studies.

The following residents sent a letter to the Commission, left a voicemail for the Chief of Police or spoke at the meeting.

Dr. Lawrence Levin  
6700 Block of Sauganash Avenue  
Letter to the Commission

Dr. Levin discussed the traffic staging on Central Avenue at Sauganash Avenue and requested a more visible police presence from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to address his concern.

Myles Berman  
6600 Block of Ramona Avenue  
Letter to the Commission

Ms. Berman stated covering the current signs has not had any impact on traffic volume and/or speed.

Helen Rek  
6700 Block of Lockwood Avenue  
Voicemail Message for the Chief of Police

Ms. Rek reported traffic on Sauganash Avenue is heavy.

Maurice Storm  
6600 Block of Dowagiac Avenue  
Spoke at the Meeting

Mr. Storm reported he would like to see the turn restrictions removed.

Ira Hachberg  
6600 Block of Minnehaha  
Spoke at the Meeting

Mr. Hachberg suggested the signs should be removed or changed to local traffic only. She would also like to see a more visible police presence.
Following a review and discussion, Commissioner Bonner moved to add “Local Traffic Only” to the current restrictions. Commissioner Troiani seconded. Commissioners Bonner, Costantino, Nickell, Petit, and Troiani voted Aye, Chair Gelfund abstained. The motion was approved.

8. Public Forum

Stan Wilk
4800 Chase Avenue
Mr. Wilk stated that cyclists are subject to the Rules of Road.

9. Report by Staff

None

10. Good of the Order

None

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Bonner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Commissioner Petit seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert LaMantia
Chief of Police