

## ***Attachment 13***

### ***Market Segment Alternative 2***

#### ***MLive Article***

# Pinckney, County at odds over factory demo



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*The Livingston Community News*

Demolition of the abandoned Patterson Lake Products factory in [Pinckney](#) has resumed after a shutdown Monday by [Livingston County building officials](#).

The delay is just an example of what "has not been a cooperative atmosphere" between the village and county in regard to a demolition fee or plan since their collaboration to tear down the long-vacant building began in February, said Village President Rebecca Foster.

"It's been nothing but confusion," Foster said. "We don't know what's been expected of us. There's been no detailed process or checklist."

Regal Recycling Inc., of Howell, began demolition before a predemolition inspection that the county requires was completed. Work resumed Tuesday after County Building Official Bob Kobylas and several county building department inspectors checked the site at the corner of South Howell Street and Patterson Lake Road.

While Foster agrees with Kobylas' action to halt the work, she questions why he didn't call her or stop by the Village Hall, about a mile away from the site, to let her know what was going on.

"I'm almost insulted that in all the years this village has been dealing with this site, that we're being told we're not capable of handling this demolition and the county has to come in and baby-sit," Foster said.

In defense of the county's actions, Kobylas said that the site is the biggest demolition project Livingston County has ever undertaken and it's his department's responsibility to do it right to ensure public health, safety and welfare. Village officials say they are being charged for the county building department's learning curve.

"Absolutely not," Kobylas said. "We know our job."

Tension started when the village received an initial \$7,489 bill from the county for a demolition permit. That was reduced to \$3,681, plus \$100,000 to be held in escrow after the Livingston County Board of Commissioners adopted a demolition fee schedule based on square footage - action taken as a result of the Patterson Lake Products demolition.

"I hate how much they are gouging us, but we owe it to everyone in the community to move along with this project," said Village Trustee Kurt Mohrmann.

Village trustees also said they believe Pinckney is being charged for the county's duplication of work that is already done and approved by the state Department of Environmental Quality. A due-care plan that found traces of iron and lead in the groundwater and lead, arsenic and cyanide in the soil was completed last September. Asbestos that was also found was removed by the end of last year.

"Once these plans were approved by MDEQ, that should be it," Village Trustee Tom Pais said. "Why is the county double-checking MDEQ? I can see why they'd want to have the reports on file, but they aren't responsible for what the MDEQ has signed off on."

County building inspectors could make daily visits to the site to ensure all codes are being followed, Kobylas said. That makes some village officials nervous.

"It seems like the county makes up the rules as they go," said Village Trustee Barry White. "They're not giving us any help; they're just giving us a hard time."

Bill Kalmeta has lived across from the decaying factory for eight years and has repeatedly seen vandals kids break in and damage vandalize the building. He shares village officials' concerns about the county's actions.

"This is frustrating," Kalmeta said. "It's ludicrous. It's government doing the same ineffective things over and over again."

Patterson Lake Products has been vacant since 1990. The village acquired the former heat-treating facility and automotive manufacturing site for back taxes in the late 1990s.

Barring other delays, Foster said, the site could be clear and ready to market as useful real estate in about six weeks.

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