



**VILLAGE OF LAWTON**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday April 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Village Hall – 125 S. Main Street, Lawton MI 49065**  
**WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV 269.624.6407**

**MINUTES**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Appleby called the April 12, 2022, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Present: President Appleby. Trustees: E. Dudek, N. Smith, G. Dudek, J. Peterson, and R. Turner, R. Tanis. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Village Clerk Bell, Chief Mack, Superintendent Hackenberg and 3 guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the April 12, Council Agenda, the March 8, 2022 Council Meeting minutes, and March 2022 Disbursements in the amount of \$115,911.29. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, supported by E. Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS:**
  - A. Imus reminded that the master plan engagement session “Spring Fling” would be held on Thursday April 14, 2022. This event will be a family friendly event with the presentation on the master plan for the village and input. The
  - B. Imus presented a Thank-you from Van Buren Youth Camp acknowledging the Council donation to the Paul Knudstrup Memorial Fund.
  - C. Heather Shannon presented Summer Fest plans for 7/9/22. There will be two upcoming fundraisers - a Memorial Day Barbecue, on 5/30/22 from 11-2, as well as a yard sale Mother’s Day weekend that Saturday morning 5/7/22. They are looking for volunteers 6-9 am for the yard sale. They are accepting donations over the next three weeks. Summerfest will be July 9, and they are planning to shut the main road down. Would like to have permission to do it. E. Dudek, supported by Turner motioned to approve Summerfest on 7/9/22, voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion to have Summerfest on 7/9/22, passed.
- VI. **CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:** None.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARING:**
  - A. Grant Williams, attorney for Welch’s, reviewed Welch’s expansion plans in Lawton. Welch’s will be renovating exiting space and invest approximately \$26 million. Welch’s is asking for an

Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement for 12 years and will be submitting the permitting request within the next month. The renovations is anticipated to maintain 82 jobs and bring 57 new jobs. The Project should be completed by the end of 2022.

**VIII. EXISTING BUSINESS:**

- A. Resolution 07-22:** A resolution for set rates for the Oak Grove Cemetery effective June 1, 2022 offered by E. Dudek, supported by Smith. Roll call Vote was taken, all in favor, none opposed, resolution passed.
- B. Resolution 08-22:** A resolution to approve traffic control order #01-22 and post “No Stopping, Standing, or Parking” Signs offered by G. Dudek, supported by Smith. Roll call vote was taken, all in favor, none opposed. Resolution passed.
- C. Resolution 09-22:** A resolution to establish a Plant rehabilitation district and approve an Industrial Faculty Tax Exemption for Welch’s Foods, was offered by Turner, and supported by Smith. Roll call vote was taken, all in favor, none opposed, resolution passed.
- D.** A motion to approve Morrill Street Sewer Extension contract with Balkema Excavating Inc. of Kalamazoo, MI in the amount of \$45,505.00 was presented by E. Dudek, supported by Tanis. Roll call vote taken, all approve, none opposed. Contract approved.
- E.** Motion to approve proposal for engineering services from Wightman Engineering of Kalamazoo, MI to perform a Complete Distribution System Materials Inventory (CDSMI) in the amount not to exceed \$14,000 brought forth by E. Dudek supported by Smith. Roll call vote taken, all council members approved, none opposed. Motion Carried.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A.** Motion to approve the inspection contract for Lawton’s 500,000 spheroid elevated water tank contract with Dixon Engineering of Lake Odessa, MI in the amount of \$4,250.00 brought forth by Turner, seconded by G. Dudek. Roll call vote was taken, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.
- B.** Peterson motioned to accept the Village of Lawton Planning Commission Annual Report, seconded by Smith, voice vote was taken, all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS:**

- A. Manager’s Report:** Imus reported that Capital Improvement Program information will be presented at the next Committee of the Whole. Imus reported that the County approved the \$20,000 feasibility study ARPA contribution and Whitman is working on the project. Administration met for the first time with the DPW Union and their union representative. A subsequent meeting will occur on April 28. Imus also reported that the Village was approved

to partner with Market Van Buren and Southwest Michigan First to submit a funding application for the Vineyard Square project to MEDC.

- B. Department of Public Works:** Superintendent Hackenberg's reports were submitted to Council. Hydrant cleaning and Spring Cleanup details were discussed. He has started sidewalk asset management plan, sidewalks to be widened as needed. Fleet maintenance to be reported on at next meeting.
- C. Police Department:** Chief Mack's report was submitted to Council.
- D. Fire Department:** E. Dudek summarized the February Fire Board meeting. Credit cards have been approved by fire board for chief and officers to utilize.
- E. Lawton Library Board:** Circulation report for the month of March was presented to Council.
- F. Planning Commission:** Peterson reported Planning commission met in the month of April to approve the yearly report. They discussed the master plan and construction on storage units.
- G. Downtown Development Authority:** G. Dudek reported that the DDA met in March and agreed to purchase own used golf cart. The DDA will be providing the dunk tank for Summerfest. They have also begun taking façade program applications for local businesses.
- H. Community and Economic Development Committee:** Smith reported that the committee did not meet.
- I. Finance and Administration Committee:** Appleby reported that the committee did not meet.
- J. Public Safety Committee:** Turner reported that the committee did not meet.
- K. Public Service Committee:** Tanis reported that the committee did not meet.
- L. Water and Sewer Committee:** E. Dudek reported that the committee did not meet.

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- A.** Turner commented that American Legion is having a recruitment meeting on April 13 and the 2022 Memorial Day Celebration will be discussed.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Turner, supported by E. Dudek, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. A voice vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is May 10, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by

Brittany Rathbun, Lawton Village Clerk