



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday February 13, 2024
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the February 13 2024, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Tanis, E. Dudek, Peterson (at 7:05PM noted below), Turner, G. Dudek, Smith *Absent:* None. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Police Chief Cordes, and three guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the February 13 Council Agenda, the January 09, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes, approval of the January 2024 disbursements in the amount of \$318,854.18, as well as setting a Public Hearing for the Regular Council Meeting on February 27, 2024 to hear comment and consider adoption of Lawton 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget. Turner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a correction to the public hearing date listed on the agenda as it stated 2023-2024 Fiscal year rather than 2024-2025, supported by Smith. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
 - A. Village Manager Hackenberg presented Trustee Peterson's request to join the Village Council Meetings via Zoom under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with an attorney opinion in favor of this position. E. Dudek made a motion to allow Trustee Peterson to join via Zoom, under the request via the ADA, seconded by G Dudek. A roll call followed with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried, and trustee Peterson joined the council meeting via Zoom at 7:05PM.
 - B. President Appleby brought a contract amendment update for the construction on Reid's corner to the floor for discussion. The amendment will include marketing and tabulating bidding expenses, as these were not included in the previous contract. This amendment will still be covered under grant expenses, and needed no motion by council as it is budgeted and falls under Village Manager Todd Hackenberg's jurisdiction.
- VI. **Citizen Comments:** None.
- VI: **Public Hearings/Appointments/Proclamations:** None.

VII. Old Business: None.

VII: New Business:

- A.** President Appleby brought Resolution 01-24: A resolution to amend contract 22-519 between the Village of Lawton and MDOT to the floor for consideration. MDOT would like to amend the contract to place a cap on federal funding, and to state that the Village is responsible for maintaining existing sidewalks. Council members brought some concerns and questions to the floor. Council would like MDOT to answer questions on the reasons for the federal cap being added prior to agreeing to the contract amendment. Smith made a motion to table Resolution 01-2024 until the meeting on February 27, 2024 seconded by Turner. A voice vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- B.** President Appleby brought Resolution 02-2024: A Resolution to Update Authorized Signatories for all Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Program Sub-Grant Agreement with Southwest Michigan First and All Associated Documents for the Project to the floor. E. Dudek made a motion to approve Resolution 02-2024 and allow new Village Manager Todd Hackenberg to replace Lisa Imus as the primary Signatory for the RAP Grant. Clerk Rathbun will remain the secondary signatory. Motion seconded by Tanis. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Resolution passed.
- C.** President Appleby brought the bid from Kalin Construction in the amount of \$999,291.00 for the North Main Street Utility Extension Project for discussion. Village Manager Hackenberg reported that Kalin was the only bid, but they came in under what the expected cost was, and that they would make the project more cohesive, as it will be happening in tandem with the Main Street Project which Kalin was also awarded the bid on. Having the same company handle both projects that are happening simultaneously will help serve the community with a quicker process and better communication since there will only be one contractor to work with. E. Dudek made a motion seconded by Smith to approve the Kalin Construction Bid for the North Main Street Utility Extension Project in the amount of \$999,291.00, a roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- D.** President Appleby brought a bid to the floor to consider bids for concrete for the planned Pickleball Court in Chauncey Lewis Park. The staff's recommended bid to council was Advanced Poured walls in the amount of \$55,200.00 coming in at the lowest amount. Several bids were received for this, and before all is finalized, it will need to be approved by the DNR as well in order to proceed. Smith made a motion, seconded by Tanis to approve the bid from Advanced Poured Walls in the amount of \$55,200.00 for Pickleball Court Concrete. Roll Call vote taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- E.** President Appleby brought an estimate from C-Comm of Kalamazoo in the amount of \$18,252.88 to the floor for discussion. Police Chief Cordes stated that the police radios are all programmed by the same company causing scheduling constraints, so even getting them ordered now they will not be programmed until around June, however, no matter when they are ordered, there is a several month backlog for programming due to this issue. Police Chief Cordes stated that though this is slightly over what was presented in the budget, it is still the cheapest option for the necessary new police radios by far. After discussion, E. Dudek made a motion to purchase the police radios from C-Comm Kalamazoo for the amount of \$18,252.88, seconded by Turner. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

- F. President Appleby brought several estimates from Zoning Solutions to the floor for properties that are ready to be moved into the mandated clean up phase for blight. Discussion ensued. Trustees asked how it works, and were advised the Village pays the bill for cleanup to be done, and the amount will be placed on the property owners' taxes, at which point the Village will be able to recoup the entire cost. These clean up prices are estimates, as the pricing is by cubic yard, and some comments on the estimates state we do not know how much clean up is to be done exactly because some things are not within sight. Police Chief Cordes and Village Manager Hackenberg will be meeting with Beth Pompei from Zoning Solutions to get an exact date for cleanup so that Chief Cordes can make sure that police presence is occurring during clean up. Smith made a motion to approve the cumulative estimate from Zoning Solutions in the amount of \$7,100.00 for five different addresses. G. Dudek seconded this motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

VIII: Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:

- A. Hackenberg reported that the DPW has been able to work outside and they are almost done with cemetery cleanup. He reported that 16 million gallons of water were pumped last month, and in getting ready for spring they will be getting water set up for spring's extension. G. Dudek stated that she was walking on Fourth Street, where Mr. Pratt had complained about the brush not being picked up had a pile and she is unsure if it is fresh or not, but would like to have the DPW look into it.
- B. Hackenberg Reported that the Village has signed a contract with the new growth group who will be administering the grant going forward for the Reid's Corner project. Hackenberg stated that he contacted the state of Michigan on the water sewer utility extension on the North end of town. He stated we are a couple quarterly reports behind on that because the state did not have his contact information after the previous Village Manager left. He stated he will be speaking with his contact at the state tomorrow on how to get up to date, but they are more than willing to work with us on it. Hackenberg stated we are signed up for the IRIS system. There will be a form in the next water bill that residents can fill out. The form will also be mailed with newsletters to those who do not have water/sewer in the Village. Hackenberg stated that Council has an all-day meeting with Lew Bender on April 18th at the American Legion Hall. Hackenberg stated a new police car has been ordered, and is being built. The equipment is being ordered this week. If we wait another year to get the new car it will cost an additional \$30,000, so we are better off ordering the car now.
- G. Rathbun reported that the Village did receive the RRC grant, and that she has gone to two meetings with two more coming up. She reported that they are meeting one on one with a project list for individual communities and she would like to know some project goals for council. Council unanimously stated they would like to see grants for a trail system to be implemented in town. Rathbun stated that there is a grant available that the RRC has been discussing for energy efficiency and there is a lot of money on the table for that this year. The Village will need an energy efficiency audit in order to do it, but she will look more into it and see if it is something the Village could benefit from.
- H. Rathbun reported that the library board met, Jackie McDowell is doing a fantastic job of painting the walls, and will be finished with the project at the end of the week. She stated that the quilt donated by the American Legion is up, and the library is working on getting a book drop off placed by the back entrance for this summer's upcoming MDOT project.

- I. Cordes Reported there were a few noticeable incidents with drugs. He reported that there is a lot of online training the officers have been doing during bad weather. He reported he met with the Schools' principals and superintendent to go over the lockdown procedures. Cordes would like to see class numbers on the outside of the glass for the classes to make it easier on officers if something should happen. He stated the lockout system will go directly to his phone, as well as the officer on duty's phone within 5 seconds of being set off. Cordes reported has ordered more Narcan to keep the residents and officers safer due to a noted uptick in Fentanyl over the past three years. He reported the police officers got new bullet proof vests and carriers, and he got a grant for 50% reimbursement. Cordes reported that they got rid of the police PO Box, as there was no need for a separate PO Box from the Village's. He stated he also started working on the police policy updates, and this will take some time. Chief Cordes stated he got a lot of good information at the Chief's conference, and has been in contact with other chiefs on policy updates, to help see what we should change.
- J. Peterson reported that Planning Commission did not meet for February. She reported Paul Rathbun has been chairing the meetings, and she was not at the last one so she asked President Appleby to discuss. President Appleby stated that the meeting went extremely well, we are about 2/3 through the zoning ordinances, and hope to finish up with the next meeting.

IX: Council Comments:

- A. N. Smith reported that leaves weren't picked up on one part of the street, and the residents bagged leaves at some addresses in Concord Hills. She stated that an ice storm came through and branches came down. She stated our ordinance states that we will come through after a storm and pick up branches after such a storm. Smith would like to see a system that lets people know exactly where we are going to be picking up in order to bring a solution to this problem, and make the pickup more organized for residents. Smith stated she knows the DPW is working hard to complete this, however, with addresses that don't have sidewalks, she believes it becomes a safety issue, and she wonders if we don't have the manpower to do pickups as frequently, perhaps a solution is that we have dumping sites for things so that residents may do their own drop off in between. Hackenberg stated he does understand there needs to be a better system, however, there are communications going out via the newsletters and the Village website. President Appleby stated that Jim Stermer, being the foreman may have some new ideas as well to see how we can help find a solution. Hackenberg stated he was contemplating doing the brush pickup April and May, and hiring someone from 8-12 on Saturdays to have a drop off available for residents coming up. This is not finalized as of yet, but it is an idea being considered. Council also discussed reminders that Antwerp Township Transfer Station offers free brush drop off on Saturdays in the Winter, and Tuesdays and Saturdays in the Spring and Summer seasons free for all residents. Residents can contact Antwerp Township to get their card for drop off as well. Council also said they think the IRIS system will help with communication with leaf and brush pickup notifications.
- B. Appleby stated in DPW building, lots of old treasures were found in the attic. Much of it was donated to the museum.

X. Adjournment: Turner moved, with support from E. Dudek to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 7:54 p.m. Next regular council meeting to take place on February 28, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk