



**Village of Lawton**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407**  
**Tuesday April 9, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the April 9 2024, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, E. Dudek, Peterson, Turner, G. Dudek, Tanis, Smith *Absent: Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Police Chief Cordes, and four guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the April 9 Council Agenda, the March 26, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes, and approval of the March 2024 disbursements in the amount of \$186,341.67. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with addition of item D. under New Business: to Consider approval of Kalin Construction Bid for Water Service Project in the amount of \$101,858.00, supported by Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
- VI. **Citizen Comments:**
  - A. R. Turner wanted to bring up a Memorial Day parade. They are thinking of meeting at the corner of Railroad and Second St, and taking second street to the cemetery. Council agreed that with a portion of Nursery St blocked off long enough to have the parade, this was possible and Turner could continue with the planning. Residents are encouraged to reach out to the American Legion for more details.
- VI: **Public Hearings/Appointments/Proclamations:** None.
- VII. **Old Business:** None.
- VII: **New Business:**
  - A. President Appleby brought the MML Pool Renewal in the amount of \$44,796.00 to the floor. This is an overall increase since last year of \$1,775.00, this increase is due entirely to the \$3,000,000.00 increase in property values resulting from the updated Appraisal that was completed for this year. E. Dudek made a motion to accept the MML pool renewal in the amount of \$44,796.00, seconded by Tanis. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
  - B. President Appleby brought the potential White Oak Property Tech Center project with the school to the floor for discussion. Village Manager Hackenberg stated he is going to

double check on the garage as that is all that the tech center did not include in their plan, however, it would be required under the zoning for that area. Hackenberg stated even if we do not donate the property to the Tech Center to build a house, we should at least consider selling that portion of the property as the Village does not have any projects in mind for it, aside from a potential right of way through a portion of it. Hackenberg will look into seeing what this lot is worth, and get some more questions answered, and bring it back to a future meeting with more details.

- C. President Appleby brought the Quote from System Specialties in the amount of \$16,280.00 to the floor. This quote is for Victaulic Butterfly Valves for the water sewer treatment plant. Village Manager Hackenberg stated we don't have any spares and the current parts are getting old, and requiring more manual labor with the actuator broken. This part is a valve and actuator that assists with water entering and exiting the waste water tanks. Peterson made a motion to accept the quote from System Specialties in the amount of \$16,280.00, seconded by G. Dudek, a roll call vote approved the motion with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- D. President Appleby brought the Water Service Project Bids to the floor. Wightman Engineering recommends going with the low bidder, Kalin in the amount of \$101,858.00. Village manager Hackenberg stated that when we sent this out for bids, we received two back, Kalin being the low bid. This will take the water from the curb stop into the homes, which is a new requirement under the Lead and Copper bill. E. Dudek made a motion to accept the bid from Kalin in the amount of \$101,858.00, in order to replace the water service lines between curb stops and homes on Main St. seconded by Smith. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.

**VIII: Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:**

- E. Village Manager Hackenberg reported that he has been in contact with Welch's for the new fire suppression system. Hackenberg reported 2.4 mil gallons waste water were treated last month, and our treatment system is at 30% capacity for the plant. Hackenberg is looking into renting a vac truck for a month for current projects in town. Hackenberg stated that we have 5-6 services left to inspect and locate for the DSMI project. He also said construction kicks off on Main street on Monday, April 15. Hackenberg stated for the Reid's Corner project, we only got two of the necessary bids, so we cannot yet begin that project. The Village Manager also stated he was advised by Progressive AE to rebid that information in mid-summer and we will have better luck with getting a general contractor for the entire project. This will not impact the grant for Reid's Corner, as per the Grant administrator, Patrick Britton, we can send it back out with a broader timeframe update. Village Manager Hackenberg stated MDOT and Kalin had a kickoff meeting earlier this week, and they will have progress meetings every two weeks. Trustee E. Dudek suggested someone should come from the construction to the next meeting. Hackenberg stated that he had a meeting today on the DNR park grant and it looks ok to continue, though there were things paid for that were not sent into DNR. We are moving on a forward path, the Village has already met our match for this grant, but he needs to get things tallied together with prices and get everything more organized. The next step is that Hackenberg is going to get the concrete pour scheduled. This upcoming Friday, there will be a meeting with Julia Turnbull on the Redevelopment Ready Communities' updates and to go over our next steps for that. Hackenberg stated that he would like to see the park closed this summer because of construction. We will have the water main tore up, and things, we will shut down the Splash Pad this summer, we are

also having the large tree taken down from the middle of Kids Dream this summer. Council agreed that due to the safety issue of construction, it should remain closed this summer.

- F. Rathbun reported nothing new to add.
- G. Chief Cordes Reported that calls and traffic stops had an average month overall. Lots of sick time was used this month. Toward the end of March there was a Lawton school threat that came in, originally as a bomb threat, and later as weapons coming in on a vehicle. They had several police, the fire department, and bomb dogs come in, and were able to keep the kids safe and calm, while determining there was no bomb within any of the school buildings, and later that the call was a hoax. The police were able track the threat to a 13-year-old from Ohio, who had a dispute with a Lawton student over a video game. The person who made the threat to Lawton schools, also made a threat at West Lake Ohio's school, and he is currently being charged with four felonies between Michigan and Ohio. Cordes reported that today he did a news release to News Three, to hopefully help deter this in the future as it does have very real consequences. Cordes reported he also spent a week at Okemos Chief's Conference, and he learned quite a bit. They are continuing on the blight clean up, and more properties are scheduled to be done over the next week or so. He stated that the Lawton PD cleanup has continued, and the evidence is now organized and signed off on. Cordes stated Hackenberg and he are going tomorrow to pick up the new patrol car. It will need to be detailed but most of the equipment is in the new patrol cars except for the radios. He also reported that the new police policies are still underway.
- H. Peterson reported that the Planning Commission met joint with the Village Council, and it was a great meeting to continue on the zoning ordinance review, and the next one will again not be the regular meeting, but, will be another joint meeting to hopefully conclude the zoning ordinance rewrite process.
- I. G. Dudek Reported the DDA met, and it was a quick meeting, but they discussed downtown during the construction this year.
- J. E. Dudek reported that the fireboard met and it was a regular meeting.
- K. L. Tone, the library director, reported that the Library had the hallway cleaned over Easter Weekend, she reported that the new drive-thru book drop appears to be a big hit. The library has an upcoming event on April 24 from 1-2PM they are very excited about. Les Caroll, author of This Troubled Ground will be coming into speak bout his book. Tone also reported that the Library has several events planned for Summer Reading despite construction. Kick off is planned for June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM, this event will be held in the firehall. Other events this summer will include Michigan Mysteries on July 17 at 6PM, the Biggest Little Baseball Museum from Three Oaks, among others with dates still to be determined.

**IX: Council Comments:**

- a. President Appleby stated that council will be having a strategic planning meeting with Lew Bender from 9am to 1pm, then break for lunch, and from 1-3PM all staff will come in to do a DISC profile, and do some teambuilding exercises together.
- b. Appleby asked if there were any updates on the Washington house we gave a demolition permit for. Village Manager Hackenberg stated the landbank has it connected to another house in Hartford, and one in Bangor, which is slowing the process, but he should have more information after the next County Landbank meeting later this month.

- c. Trustee N. Smith suggested that she would like to see our police go in and talk to Ben Banfield about educating kids about the consequences these actions can carry, as well as to assure them that the person responsible for the threats was caught.

**X. Adjournment:** G. Dudek moved, with support from Turner to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 8:10 p.m. Next council meeting to take place on April 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun  
Village Clerk