



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday May 13, 2025
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the May 13 2025, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Tanis, Peterson, Turner, G. Dudek *Absent:* E. Dudek. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Police Chief Cordes, and six guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the May 12 Council Agenda, the April 22, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes, approval of the April 22, 2025 disbursements in the amount of \$188,015.31. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, supported by . A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Citizen's Comments:**
- A. Doug Lawrence with the Lawton Youth Softball and Baseball League wanted to express the LYSBBB's appreciation that President Appleby and President Pro-Tem E. Dudek came and threw opening pitches for the opening day celebration. He stated lights are on order, and that June 9th there is an end of the year tournament with a lot of games being hosted here in Lawton.
 - B. Sheila Motycka wanted to check in on the progress at Acorn Lane. Village Manager Hackenberg provided an update for a right of way option off of Second Street, as Acorn lane appears to be privately owned. She also requested an update on the deeding and property lines for the cemetery that are currently a part of their plotted property, which Village Manager Hackenberg provided.
 - C. Char Raber, a resident wanted to ask about blight cleanup, and had several questions about the blight cleanup process and Zoning Solutions, which were answered by Village Manager Hackenberg.
- VI. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:** None.
- VII. **Old Business:** None.
- VIII. **New Business:**
- A. President Appleby brought a draft of the Rental Inspection Ordinance Draft to the Floor. Village Manager Hackenberg stated that he would like council to take the next two weeks to go over this, and come with questions for our attorney at the next meeting. Peterson suggested since the Zoning is going to be held in public hearing on June 3, that council also plans to review for a final vote on the July 10 Village Council Meeting.

- B. President Appleby brought setting a public hearing for the truth in taxation to the floor. President Appleby stated that this is something that is done every year, after discussion, Peterson, seconded by Tanis made a motion to set a public hearing for the truth in taxation 2025. A roll call vote followed with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- C. President Appleby brought switching employee retirement to Modern Woodmen to the floor for discussion. Staff recommended this to council, as it will provide less fees for employees over time, as well as better one on one support at a local level. Turner made a motion to switch the Village of Lawton retirement plan from Retirement Solutions LLC to Modern Woodmen, seconded by G. Dudek. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- D. President Appleby brought an estimate from Asphalt Restoration Inc. in the amount of \$14,150.00. This estimate is for repairing both village-owned parking lots, as well as to repair the damaged berm on Concord Drive. Peterson made a motion to accept the estimate from Asphalt Restoration Inc. in the amount of \$14,150.00 so work can commence, seconded by Tanis. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- E. President Appleby brought Overnight parking on Main Street to the floor for discussion. Turner stated that there has been concern with the same vehicles parking on Main Street sometimes for multiple days at a time. There was discussion of some individuals living in cars as well. After discussion, council would like to have Chief Cordes and Village Manager Hackenberg to do some research and come back to council with options for the first meeting in June.
- F. President Appleby brought Second Meetings in summer for Village Council to the floor. Turner made a motion to hold no second village council meetings for the months of June, July, and August unless needed, with September's second meeting to be determined as the date draws closer. Tanis seconded this motion. A voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- G. Peterson made a motion to accept the Estimates from Darr's Rentals for blight cleanup in the amount of \$5,000 with any extra debris found to be billed at \$50/cubic yard. Turner seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- H. Village Manager Hackenberg stated he put a notice out for bids for new HVAC systems for the CEM grant. The village only received two bids, and he recommended we go with the cheaper option. Peterson made a motion that the Village accept the bid from Andy Egan Co in the amount of \$75,371.00. G. Dudek seconded that motion, followed by a roll call vote with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- I. President Appleby made a motion to appoint Char Raber to the vacant council seat to replace Trustee N. Smith. Raber would complete a partial term, and run for election in the November 2026 election, supported by Peterson. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion. Raber will be sworn in at the May 26, 2025 meeting.

IX. Board, Committee and Staff Reports:

- A. Village Manager Hackenberg reported that one of the downtown poles was hit on the corner next to Welch's. Hackenberg reported it will take 8-10 weeks to get a new one because they are custom made. They are working with the car insurance for the driver who hit it. Hackenberg stated the Village has approximately 64,000 left in ARPA funds left that have not been spent. It was budgeted initially for Village Hall. Hackenberg

stated he did get one quote already for this and wanted to know if this is how council would still like to see these funds spent, or if they would like to see something different done with the funds. Council stated they would like to see him continue to look into it, and get pictures and pricing. Hackenberg stated he met with Aleksich excavating on the Pickleball Court. Aleksich will get the grading done, and then the concrete will be able to be poured after. Hackenberg stated on the 20th he has a meeting with Market One and HS Fleet to go over the new HS Fleet project. Hackenberg stated that he met with Lisa and Kylie from Van Buren County, and it went very well for them to help completing our RRC project. Kylie is working on several updates, such as AI updates for the website, and available funding. Hackenberg stated auditors were in last week, and provided updates on the past fiscal year audit. Hackenberg is also looking into whether category B funds available for Bitely Street to see if that is feasible for next year. Village manager Hackenberg provided reminders that spring clean-up is next week, and that he will be on vacation June 20-29th. Benches are up in the park, and the DPW is waiting for a drinking fountain part to come in. Hackenberg stated the public works have also been out doing hot mix repairs, brush pickup has started, and they are trying to keep up with that. In June EGLE is coming to audit the village water system. Hackenberg stated the parks are opened up the splash pad things are up but not running yet, the DPW is doing yearly maintenance. Planning on opening up the splash pad the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. Finally, Hackenberg stated they had two internments at the cemetery in the past month. The jail crew was in to pick up sticks and branches and will be in to do more cemetery maintenance coming up.

- B.** Clerk Rathbun reported she went to an HR seminar for the day, and it was very insightful to see what was updated as far as mandates, and other Human Resource information.
- C.** Chief Cordes reported calls for service are starting to go up. Cordes stated the officers have several mandatory trainings coming up this month. Part timers' hours were up for weekend hours. Cordes stated that the homicide investigation is still continuing, it looks like trial will be happening sometime this summer. Chief Cordes reported that they just reconditioned their shot guns, and Hitchcock was sent to a week-long training, for the less lethal force with these reconditioned guns. Cordes stated in renovating the evidence room, he has become more educated on retention records, and has purged what he can, and has a retention record for the remainder. Every single year, the chief will throw away one box from the year prior. Want to remind everyone dispatch stacks the calls now, and when local police come back in they are waiting on them. Sometimes it takes a day or two for officers to get to these.
- D.** Trustee Peterson reported that the Planning Commission met, and they are having a public hearing on June 3 for the Rental Inspection Zoning Changes, as well as a public hearing for the cell tower provision rezoning. Peterson stated that information on what those changes are can be found in the clerk's office if council would like to review them prior to the meeting on June 10.
- E.** Trustee G. Dudek reported the DDA is going to put extra flower pots out because people were contacting them asking. She also reported the farmers market rules and regulations were finished up at the last meeting as well.
- F.** Trustee E. Dudek was not present to report on fireboard.
- G.** Clerk Rathbun reported that the library board met, they are gearing up for Summer Reading, there will be a Do You Believe Tour on May 20th at 5PM for bigfoot, and that MEL funding was an ongoing issue though the funding has gone from 0% for next year to 50% funding. Council asked how they could help, if they could write a resolution in support of

this to send to our representatives, Clerk Rathbun stated she would work on this for the next meeting.

X. **Council Comments:** None.

XI. **Adjournment:** Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with support from Tanis a voice vote was taken, with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk

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