



**Village of Lawton  
VILLAGE COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407  
Tuesday June 10, 2025  
MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the June 10 2025, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Tanis, Peterson, G. Dudek, Raber *Absent:* Turner. *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 June 10 Council Agenda, the May 27, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes, approval of the May 2025 disbursements in the amount of \$132,192.17. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, supported by E. Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Citizen's Comments:**
- VI. **Public Hearings/Appointments/Proclamations:**
  - A. **Truth in Taxation Public Hearing:** President Appleby opened the public hearing at 7:05 pm to receive comment on the establishment of the 2025 millage rates. The proposed millage rate is equal to last year's millage rate (a total of 16.9322), due to the Headlee Amendment and will generate a 0.93% increase of the net operating tax revenues for the Village of Lawton. President Appleby commented that the Truth in Taxation Hearing is completed each year in order to allow for the inflationary increase which will total \$6,970.00.
  - B. **Hear Public Comment:**
    1. No one who was present wished to make comment on the public hearing.
  - C. President Appleby closed the public hearing at 7:06 PM with no further citizen questions or comments.
  - D. **Council Consideration of Resolution 07-2025:** Peterson moved, supported by G. Dudek, to make a motion to adopt Resolution 07-2025 to establish the Village of Lawton 2025 Millage rates at a total of 16.9322 mills. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, none opposed. Resolution adopted.
- VII. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
  - A. Village manager Hackenberg stated the Village Council has been invited to a Market One awards ceremony on June 26.
- VIII. **Old Business:** None.

**IX. New Business:**

- A.** President Appleby brought Ordinance 01-2025: Rental Inspection Zoning Ordinance to the floor. Planning commission has reviewed and recommends this change to the zoning ordinance. Trustee Peterson provided a presentation of the Planning Commission findings on the Ordinance. Peterson recommended two changes to the ordinance to 1.10 and 1.11 should be removed due to redundancy between the planning consultant and the attorney. Peterson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 01-2025 with the removal of sections 1.10 and 1.11 from the proposed ordinance with support from E. Dudek. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- B.** President Appleby brought Ordinance 02-2025: Rental Inspection Ordinance to the floor. After discussion, Appleby made a motion to pass Ordinance 02-2025 with corrections to 155.3 item D to state that the requirements of subsection (A) will take effect January 1, 2026, section 155.4 section D to state that the requirements of subsection (A) take effect on January 1, 2027, and an amendment to 156.4 (G) to state that unless revoked, a license is valid for three years from the date of issuance. This motion was seconded by Peterson. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- C.** President Appleby brought a draft press and mailing documentation for the rental inspection ordinance to the floor. Upon discussion and corrections, council determined these were to be sent out once the rental registration application was completed by staff.
- D.** President Appleby brought Ordinance 03-2025: Cell Tower/Solar Panel Zoning Ordinance to the floor for discussion. Planning commission has reviewed and recommends this change to the zoning ordinance. Peterson made a motion to adopt ordinance 03-2025 with the addition of sections 11.13-11.18 to be added to the ordinance. E. Dudek seconded this motion, with a unanimous roll call vote in favor. Motion carried.

**X. Board, Committee and Staff Reports:**

- A.** Village Manager Hackenberg reported the summer banners are now hung. He reported he is looking into a water service replacement grant for next year. Hackenberg stated another pole in town has been hit and the banner bracket was ripped off. He would like to see the banners flipped around to face the sidewalk, however, MDOT has stated that cost would be on us. Council agreed they would like to see Hackenberg look into the cost for this, as it seems to be an ongoing problem. Hackenberg provided an update on the pickleball courts, stating the sand is in and graded, and the contractors are now working on getting the forms in and the courts poured. Hackenberg stated we did get the MDOT permit for the Summerfest. Hackenberg stated that T-Mobile has a grant that he is looking into. He stated the road project is moving along, and the contractor is still giving an anticipated date of completion for 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Hackenberg stated the village utilized a total of four dumpsters for spring cleanup. He also stated the village has not gotten the finalized copy of the audit back yet, he will make that available by the next meeting. Finally, Hackenberg wanted to provide a reminder that he will be on vacation June 20-28.
- B.** Village Manager Hackenberg stated for the past month, the Public Works department has been patching village parking lots, as weather allows, to have them ready in time for Summerfest. Hackenberg reported that all of the necessary state reports have been sent in for waste water. On the parks, Hackenberg reported that wood chips are coming for kids dream next week. He also reported that the Village has had to replace the switch

at the splash pad three times since Memorial Day, and though he has looked into a different type of button as an option, this has turned out to be difficult, because they are water tight waterproof buttons. Hackenberg reported that there have been 4 internments at the cemetery this month. He also reported that the DPW looked at a new leaf vacuum truck, which they liked and is cheaper than the other options.

- C. Clerk Rathbun reported she went to the Municipal Clerk's annual conference last week, and it was very informative.
- D. Chief Cordes reported that the Lawton Police Department dealt with 47 complaints in the last month. Cordes also reported that in between calls, the police department was able to accomplish a lot of training for the month of May. Chief Cordes reported that they are still working the homicide case, with a scheduled for trial in October for the first suspect. Chief Cordes stated that school is out, and he wanted to give a shout out to officer Largen, that he did a great job with graduation this year. Cordes reported they are about a year and a half into the organization of the department and now have a book of policies going forward. Two new patrol cars for the police. All new taser guns, as the old ones were about 26 years old. Cordes provided several organizational updates, as well as several mandatory gear updates the police have accomplished this year so far.
- E. Trustee Peterson reported the Planning Commission met and they recommended two zoning ordinance amendments to the village council.
- F. Trustee G. Dudek reported the DDA met done with farmers market rules and regulation. DDA member, Zach has taken over the DDA Facebook page.
- G. Trustee E. Dudek reported that the fireboard met and got to see a new QR truck in action.
- H. Clerk Rathbun reported that the library board met, they are very appreciative of the resolution sent to the law makers by the Lawton Council.

**XI. Council Comments:**

- A. Peterson wanted to mention the number of signs in the right of way popping up in town.

**XII. Adjournment:** E. Dudek 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 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Brittany Rathbun  
Village Clerk