



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday August 12, 2025
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Pro-Tem E. Dudek called the August 12 2025, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Tanis, Peterson, G. Dudek, Raber, Turner *Absent:* Appleby. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Police Chief Cordes, and seven guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the August 12 Council Agenda, the July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes, and approval of the July 2025 disbursements in the amount of \$614,165.77. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented supported by Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Citizen's Comments:**
 - A. Lyle Streeter who lives on the corner of North and 4th street, wanted to bring the council's attention to the manhole cover between he and the post office on Main Street. He stated since the road project, it rattles the windows in his house when it is driven over, and it is really loud. He would like to know if the Village can look into holding the construction company accountable for fixing this. Streeter also wanted to mention that coming into town from the north side of town there is a 40mph sign and there isn't a 30mph until the post office sign, and with the crosswalks, traffic is going too fast. The council agreed with that, and has looked into it based on prior concerns, however it is up to the state, because it is an MDOT road. Streeter also stated there are some trucks going through here that are hitting their engine breaks through much of the town. The village is looking into this, and it seems to be primarily gravel trucks, and the council would like to see a reminder letter sent to the company who is primarily responsible.
 - B. Sheila Motycka stated she believes that they have an agreement on survey markers in the cemetery. She also wanted to provide and update on opening of Acorn Lane, she called AEP and has an order number for someone to come out and see whether the AEP pole can be moved. She brought up a zoning ordinance stating that Acorn Lane could be a private drive that public can drive on. Todd will get ahold of our attorney to double check the next steps, and order the survey for Acorn Lane.
- VI. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
 - A. Sherriff Abbott from the Van Buren County Sherriff's Department wanted to come and honor officer Scott Hitchcock for his actions taken on July 4, 2025. Abbott stated he appreciated the relationship that Lawton Police Department has with the Van Buren County Sherriff's Department, and Scott being on the SWAT team. Officer Hitchcock

received the letter of commendation for a high-risk felon, who had an explosive that was detonated as police attempted to enter the building. The Van Buren County SWAT team was subsequently activated, two explosives were thrown toward deputies and officers. Despite danger, officer Hitchcock held his position and utilized the less lethal shotgun to take the subject out without loss of life. The Van Buren County Sheriff's Department stated they are very appreciative Cordes has allowed him to be on the SWAT team and he has been a huge asset to their team.

- B. Lyle Streeter stated the American Legion will be hosting their second annual Pig Roast, on September 13 that is open to the public beginning at 3PM. Plates are \$12 each or 2 for \$20, and all proceeds will go towards a new roof for the building. A bake sale will also be available, provided by 4-H.**

VII. Old Business: None.

VIII. New Business:

- A. President Pro-Tem E. Dudek brought the potential purchase of a new Village dump truck to the floor for discussion. Village Manager Hackenberg stated there are a couple he is currently looking at. Hackenberg is looking at one truck in particular at Midwest Tractor and Equipment. It is a 2011, and has 22,000 miles on it. It was owned by the city of Ypsilanti, and they are on a regular equipment rotation. Hackenberg stated that the Village budgeted 70k for a new dump truck, however, due to invoice timing, we did have to \$32k on the new sidewalk machine out of this year's budget. Hackenberg stated that there are funds in Motorpool reserves for this that can cover the difference. This will not sit around for very long. Peterson made a motion to purchase a truck from Midwest Tractor and Equipment Company in the amount of \$69,500 contingent on inspection of the vehicle by Village Manager Hackenberg, supported by Turner.**
- B. President Pro-Tem E. Dudek brought the potential purchase of a new Village leaf vacuum to the floor for discussion. With fall quickly approaching, Hackenberg wants to get something locked down. Pros and cons for several different types of leaf vacuum trucks were discussed. Hackenberg has a few he is looking into, and he will continue looking into the best option for the Village, with Council's approval.**
- C. President Pro-Tem E. Dudek brought the codification update to the floor for discussion. Village Manager Hackenberg reported that Civic Plus is making some changes that they found in the zoning codification. These are primarily just missing definitions and context. The Planning Commission has set a public hearing for September, and they will be setting another public hearing for October to make the necessary changes going forward for this project.**
- D. President Pro-Tem E. Dudek brought the Planning Commission and joint DDA meeting Policy to the floor for discussion. Hackenberg stated part of the Rural Development Readiness certification is to have joint meetings, and have these policies. Hackenberg wanted to know whether the joint meetings would be on Planning Commission or Council nights, and whether DDA would be DDA and Planning Commission. Council's belief was that it would be best to hold the normal meetings each month for both of these boards, and hold the joint meetings on the second council meeting of the month since Village Council has two meetings. Turner made a motion to adopt the Planning Commission Village Council Joint Meeting Policy, seconded by Peterson. A voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried. Following this, G. Dudek**

made a motion to adopt the DDA Village Council Joint Meeting Policy, seconded by E. Dudek. A voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

IX. Board, Committee and Staff Reports:

- A. Village Manager Hackenberg reported that the paving is done on White Oak Road. Hackenberg stated a few things need to be done to button up the project, and he has a progress meeting tomorrow. Hackenberg would like to see sidewalk updated on Bitely and Washington, one block at a time. Hackenberg stated the kick off meeting with Hydrocorp was yesterday. He received an informational packet today; and a letter went in with the waterbills to explain everything to customers. We are going to have a separate page on our website to break everything down for them as well. Hydrocorp will give up to 4 backing breakers for hose spickets when they do inspections of residential houses. They will start with businesses, and then move on to residential. Hydrocorp will also handle contacting customers, and mailing letters going forward. They will be inspecting each water service. Hackenberg stated last week, he and DDA Chair Osborne went to Texas Corners to look at their Pickleball Courts. Hackenberg stated he is having a hard time getting contractors to come out prior to next spring to paint the Pickleball courts, as they are so popular that these companies are backed up. Hackenberg reported the cameras are now installed and operational. He also reported the Village did get it's sanitary survey report back from EGLE. Hackenberg has a few updates to go over for the future including certain policies, and fencing around the water tower and wellhouses. Hackenberg stated Thursday, he and a few other DPW employees will be at MIS Speedway getting credits for going to classes at MRWA.
- B. Village Manager Hackenberg reported for the DPW they pumped 18million gallons of water this month compared to 10million at this time last year. They are fixing spots that have sewer leaks, and getting road patches done.
- C. Clerk Rathbun reported everything is in order to get the retirement switched over in the next couple of weeks.
- D. Chief Cordes reported the Police Department had a tough month. Cordes reported that the village had mixed crime, but a hard hit on larceny and stolen vehicles. It was one group that did this, they got 4-5 houses, and stole one truck. The group that came through had already stolen a truck in Kalamazoo and came down here following that. The stolen truck was recovered in Ottawa County. The Police Department would like to remind everyone to remember to lock vehicles at night, as each vehicle that was hit was unlocked. Cordes reported that Summerfest went well, there was one arrest for a drunk driver at the end of the night. Finally, Cordes reported that the police department has been working on state required trainings.
- E. Trustee Peterson reported that the Planning Commission met, and they have a public hearing set for their next meeting to fix the rental inspection ordinance.
- F. Trustee G. Dudek reported that DDA met and they are working on checking prices, and purchasing tables for Reid's Corner.
- G. Trustee E. Dudek reported that fireboard met and has nothing new to report.
- H. Clerk Rathbun reported that the library board met, and the library has shirts for sale currently at \$15.00 each.

X. Council Comments:

- A. Turner stated that he has noticed several golf carts driving down M-40, or the sidewalks on Main Street and he would like to see those people warned. The Village will place

reminders in the September Newsletter, as well as on the Facebook page highlighting this ordinance.

- B. Raber asked if Xfinity was the only internet provider that could be in town due to a contract. Hackenberg advised that are not the only ones that can be in town, and Frontier is an option as well, but they are the only ones that are currently.
- C. E. Dudek reported he and Hackenberg had a meeting with AEP about the tree trimming today. He stated the crew that is going to be in town stated anyone with any issues can get ahold of AEP, and they will work with them. They have marked the trees they intend to work on. A red dot is trim the tree, and an X means the tree will be cut down.

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 8:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk