



**Village of Lawton**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407**  
**Tuesday January 13, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the January 13 2026, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Tanis, E. Dudek, Peterson, Turner, G. Dudek, Raber *Absent:* none. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, and two guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the January 13 Council Agenda with the addition of New Business Item B. Contribution to the Van Buren County Resource Recovery & Recycling Program, the December 9, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes, and approval of the December 2025 disbursements in the amount of \$147,214.58. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda supported by Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
  - A. Village Manager Hackenberg presented that Market One is having an Investor's Gala here in town, and all of Village Council is invited to attend.
- VI. **Citizen Comments:**
  - A. Calvin Ragan, a resident, wanted to know what is going on with the Stearns and Stafford building.
- VII. **Old Business:** None.
- VII: **New Business:**
  - A. President Appleby brought approval of 2026 Holiday dates to the floor. These will be the same as they have been in the past, with the addition of Veteran's Day for the 2026 observed Holiday Schedule. Turner made a motion to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule for the Village of Lawton, seconded by E. Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote approved this motion.
  - B. President Appleby brought a request from Van Buren County Resource Recovery & Recycling Program for the annual contribution. In the past the Village has contributed

\$500 annually to this program. E. Dudek made a motion, seconded by Turner to contribute \$500.00 for the 2026 Van Buren County Resource Recovery & Recycling Program. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.

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

- A.** Village Manager Hackenberg reported that as of today, there are seven rental properties have not registered and are past the deadline. With council support, the village clerk will send out letters that have a final reminder, and those noncompliant after will be subject to a \$1,000 fine per the ordinance. Hackenberg also reported that BS&A will be updating their systems, and eventually we will have to update as well as updates and support will stop with our version of the program eventually. Hackenberg stated he almost has the March through June budget completed and will update council at the end of the week. He would like council to bring questions to the next meeting, as at the next meeting we will be setting the public hearing for the budget at the second February Meeting. Hackenberg reported that the Village Attorney is working on the easement/right of way paperwork for Acorn Lane. Hackenberg stated he checked with Patrick and he is still waiting on the MEDC grant person to get back to us, and we haven't gotten the funds as of yet. Hackenberg reported street signs have been ordered, he is also looking into new wayfarer signs to point toward the School/Old Winery/Library, etc. Hackenberg stated that the first week of February, he has a meeting with Julie from Market One to discuss initiatives and social media. He stated there are a couple newly elected official trainings coming up, and anyone on boards who would like to sign up is welcome to. On the Police Training dispute, the attorney is reaching out to Antwerp Township as another meeting has been canceled by the township, after several cancelations in a row.
- B.** Village Manager Hackenberg reported in the month of December, the DPW has been plowing snow, and keeping things in the village running with winter maintenance. The secondary roads are plowed each day the village gets snow, though less often than primary roads with the most traffic. For the month of December, the Village pumped 10.9 million gallons of water, and 2.6 gallons of waste water, over 201 million gallons of water were pumped for the year in 2025. Hackenberg reported he just received a MissDig at the park, so hopefully weather allowing, the fences will be going up around the pickleball courts. Hackenberg also reported that routine maintenance has been performed on the vehicles for the month of December. Finally, he reported three internments at the cemetery this month.
- C.** Clerk Rathbun Reported 2025 W2s and 1099s have gone out.
- D.** Peterson reported Planning Commission met and pin high golf sent a site plan for their clubhouse, as well as a special use permit for alcohol sales, HS Fleet, another new business in town, will have a site plan in for the February Meeting. Peterson reported specifics on the site plans.
- E.** G. Dudek reported that the DDA met and they have sworn in a new DDA member, Mark Cichos.
- F.** E. Dudek reported that the Fireboard met and there is nothing new to report.

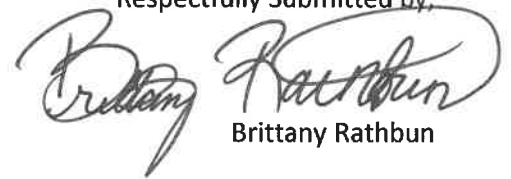
- G. Rathbun reported that the Library Board met and they will be adding Veteran's Day and President's Day to their holiday schedule, as well as upping employee pay with a 5% COLA increase each year in addition to the current annual review with raises that are done.

**VIII. Council Comments:**

- A. Tanis asked if there was any timetable on the demolition of D Coy Ducks. Hackenberg stated that he has until the end of July with his current extension on the demolition permit, and he will follow up with the owner to see where they are at with plans to demolish.

- IX. **Adjournment:** Turner moved, with support from E. Dudek to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 7:52p.m. Next regular council meeting to take place on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany Rathbun", written in a cursive style.

Brittany Rathbun

Village Clerk

