



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday April 14, 2026
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the April 14 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 three guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the April 14 Council Agenda, the March 24, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes, and disbursements in the amount of \$128,680.70. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented supported by Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:** Village Manager Hackenberg stated the American Legion is looking for help cleaning headstones at the cemetery. The dates planned for this is May 16-17 at 9am. Anyone who wishes to volunteer should reach out to the Legion for more information. Hackenberg also provided updates from Van Buren Conservation District on 2026 programs. More information for their yearly programs can be found on their website at vanburencd.org/programs/.
- VI. **Citizen Comments:**
 - A. David Dudek gave an update on the Boyscout building in the park. The Lions Club voted to do away with ownership of the building by July 1.
 - B. Heather Shannon confirmed David's information, and provided updates on the Lawton Summerfest series of planning events.
 - C. Doug Lawrence from the LYSBBB Board came in and stated opening day is April 25, and games officially kick off on April 27. He stated two travel teams are playing games on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and they are utilizing field 4 for practices as well, it is bringing in quite a few people. The board is planning to do two tournaments in the fall. Lawrence stated would like to meet with Eric and Josh soon. Council agreed they would like to meet up, and they would like to have Lawrence bring a wish list to the meeting.
- VII. **Public Hearings/Appointments:** None.

VIII. Old Business: None.

IX. New Business:

- A.** President Appleby brought the DDA Bylaws to the floor for discussion. This Resolution was recommended by the Lawton DDA, and would bring us a step closer to our Village RRC designation. E. Dudek made a motion, seconded by Raber to adopt Resolution 10-2026, A resolution to adopt DDA Bylaws. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- B.** President Appleby brought the 2026 Master Fee Schedule to the floor for discussion. E. Dudek made a motion seconded by Tanis to adopt Resolution 11-2026 A resolution to adopt the 2026 Master fee schedule. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- C.** President Appleby brought MML Renewal in the amount of \$47,551.00 to the floor for renewal. This is an increase over last year, however, explainable due to a meeting with the loss control representative. Hackenberg explained the factors going into the increase, and following discussion, Peterson made a motion to accept the renewal, with a second from Tanis. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.
- D.** President Appleby set a public hearing for the Village to review the Headlee Act for May 12,2026. Council Approved by acclamation.

X. Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:

- A.** Village Manager Hackenberg reported that Consumers Energy is in town working on a gas restoration project. The tree company has also started grinding stumps, putting top soil, and planting grass seed from the project in the fall. Hackenberg reported that they have been working through interviews on the police chief search, and they have a few more coming up. He stated that the village currently has an open position at Public Works, which has been posted on Indeed, MRWA, and the Village website. In other reports, Hackenberg stated hydrants have been flushed, and all went well. Hackenberg reported sidewalk repairs have all been made. Hackenberg provided an update on water meters. Parking lots have been re-striped; however, the contractor will be coming back because the basketball courts had too much water when they came initially. They did mess up the spacing in the parking lot next to Adams Hardware, and they are coming out to fix that. Hackenberg reported that he is finishing up the water reliability study testing, and that last year was the last year for the rate increase on the sewer usage. He provided current funds in the water and sewer funds, as well as several maintenance needs and pricing. Hackenberg reported he is still awaiting news from MSHDA on the grant he applied for, but according to website, they will let everyone know Thursday. Hackenberg reported the Reid's Corner sign is almost finished. Hackenberg also reported a Lawton student at the Tech Center is coming in to job shadow next week, and possibly do an internship this summer. Hackenberg reported that at his annual meeting with them, MML made a couple recommendations to us, which is to subscribe to Secretary of State

of Driving record, and we need to implement an annual training on harassment for all employees and elected officials.

- B.** Village Manager Hackenberg reported for the DPW, the street signs are all going up, they are just waiting on more brackets to get the remaining signs hung. Hackenberg will be meeting with a contractor this week to go over crack sealing projects for this year. Hackenberg provided updates on monthly water and sewer pumping, including a project on well 4. The fence is installed down at the park for pickleball courts, and we are just waiting on painting of the courts, which will need to be done in warmer weather. Signs and a paddle holder have also been ordered. In the process of bidding out a new Skidsteer for the DPW, he has two quotes currently, this month at the cemetery there were three internments, and signs have been put up marking the blocks that are easier to read. There was some vandalism at the cemetery, and the person has been identified and charged. Village Manager Hackenberg is working with the court on the amount owed, and potential community service in the cemetery.
- C.** Clerk Rathbun reported she went to Mt Pleasant for a clerk's training which was informative and she begins RRC 101 tomorrow for a series of 5 weeks.
- D.** Peterson reported that the Planning Commission did not meet.
- E.** G. Dudek reported that the DDA met, and there is a new position in DDA, the Treasurer of the DDA, they have new officer positions, and 10 committees.
- F.** E. Dudek reported the fireboard met and nothing new to report.
- G.** Rathbun reported that the Library Board met and nothing new to report.

XI. Council Comments:

- A.** Tanis wanted to know whether there has been any movement at the house on Washington, or if that is still tied up at the county. Hackenberg reported it is still tied up at the county.
- B.** Peterson asked for updates on house on Durkee. Raber stated this home is being worked on.
- C.** Appleby asked about the demolition expiration on D Coy Ducks. Hackenberg reported that expires in fall, however, the owners are currently working on having it demolished.
- D.** Raber asked for an update on the Police Training Grounds, which Hackenberg provided.

XII: Adjournment: E. Dudek moved, with support from Turner to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 8:13p.m. Next regular council meeting to take place on April 28th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk