



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



Village of Lawrence Regular Common Council Meeting
157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064
June 9, 2026

Call to Order: The Regular Common Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Gritter

Roll Call:

- **Present:** John Gritter, President; Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee; Annette Crandall, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee; David Deloach, Trustee; Phil Glennie, Trustee
- **Absent:** None
- **Also Present:** Kim Thompson, Treasurer; Greg Cordes, Police Chief; Brian Johnson, DPW Supervisor; Amy Cordes, Village Manager; Donna Spenner, Township Supervisor; Janice Martin, Resident; Bill Featherstone; Fire Chief

Additions to Agenda:

- Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to add Janice Martin to the agenda.
All Aye. Motions carried.

Conflicts of Interest:

- None

Approval of Prior Council Minutes Month Prior:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Loreno
All Aye. Motions carried.

Finance Manager Report-Kim Thompson:

- The Fiscal Year 2023 audit is complete, and a draft report is being prepared. The report will likely contain comments due to its late completion and the number of errors corrected.
- The auditor will not present the FY23 audit but will present once the Village is caught up.
- The FY24 audit will be a reduced F65 submission but will be treated internally as a full audit.
- FY25 and FY26 will be full audits, with a recommendation for full audits every year thereafter.
- No budget amendments are needed at this time, though potential salary adjustments may require them later.
- Preparations are underway for the summer tax season. The updated L-4029 is needed to proceed. Delinquent water or sewer charges will be added to the property tax bills, and a message can be included for parcels with delinquent taxes.
- Resolution 2026-003 Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Increasing Property Taxes Adoption Resolution was presented. Determined Resolution name should be amended from Increasing to Establishing.



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie to adopt the resolution as amended.

Roll call:

Aye: Lorenzo, Rowlee, Glennie, Deloach, Gritter, Crandall

Nay: None

All Ayes. Motions carried.

- Resolution 2026-004 Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Police Special Assessment Millage was presented.

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Lorenzo to adopt the resolution as presented.

Roll call:

Aye: Glennie, Gritter, Crandall, Rowlee, Lorenzo, Deloach

Nay: None

All Ayes. Motions carried.

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances Month Prior:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach

Roll call:

Aye: Deloach, Glennie, Lorenzo, Rowlee, Crandall, Gritter

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions Carried.

Presentations & Guests:

Resident: Janice Martin

- Presented a proposal to transfer her 18.64 acres from the Village to the Township to help her in the sale of her property. Current Village zoning and lack of access to Village water/sewer have made it difficult to sell the land for residential use. Extending services would be costly, covering at least a quarter of a mile. The transfer would require an annexation process, initiated by the Township and requiring approval from the Village and County Commissioners. Concerns were raised about the land's developability, specifically regarding its wetness and whether it will pass a percolation test for a septic system. Janice will reach out to the County to have the property perc tested prior to the start of the annexation process.
- Motion to approve the concept for annexation in order for Township to move forward with the process by Deloach, 2nd by Lorenzo.
All Aye. Motions carried.

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Donna Spenner provided documents prepared by Tracy regarding the road millage and senior service millage for public information that will be posted in the Village Hall office lobby.
- Date for the next Joint Village and Township meeting will be Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 6 pm at the Township Hall.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Update: The application deadline, originally set for June, has been extended to at least mid-July. Applicant numbers are lower than



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



anticipated for both the Township and the Village and efforts are underway to determine what those factors are. Efforts to increase awareness include contacting Channel 3 News, considering outreach via a radio show, having staff carry application packets, and discussing door-to-door outreach. Barriers for potential applicants include age-related application difficulties, a belief they won't qualify, and the requirement that properties be owner-occupied primary residences. Suggestions to assist applicants include hosting an "application party" and creating a social media infographic with clear income/asset limits. The maximum assistance per unit is \$40,000. Residents cannot "stack" grants by applying to both the Village and the Township. If fewer than 20 applicants qualify, remaining funds can be used to provide additional support to approved homes.

- Early voting will open nine days before the election on July 26th. Absentee ballots will be available with the Township Clerk.
- A statue was donated to the Veteran's Park by Kim and Kelly Thompson in honor of their father. They are in the process of having a second statue donated by the Crandall family. The two donations have helped them towards their goal of seven statues for the park.
- The Township signed the Library addendum and were hand delivered a check for \$25,000. They will begin the process to replace the boiler soon.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services: Bill Featherstone

- There were 47 calls last month, 14 Fire and 33 QR. Calls YTD-243, Meetings/Trainings YTD-24, Total YTD-267.
- 1721 was damaged leaving for a call and dropped off for repair 6/9/26. Gas monitor also sent out for repair with a bill to replace for \$345.15.
- Jayden Brooks and Tony Goodrich passed Firefighter I and Firefighter II.
- Lawrence Public Schools Bike to School was held and LTES participated and assisted with traffic control along with LPD.
- Received our new boat and begun training on it and how to prepare it for use.
- Starting to get the process for getting fuel pumps with electrical run and fencing up to meet the July 1st deadline.
- AFG grant on hold for the time being. Have applied for the Firehouse Subs Grant and will hear back in July.

Reports:

President's Report:

- No report

Clerk's Report:

- No Report

Village Manager:



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



- Zoning Enforcement Update: Amy Cordes reported that zoning enforcement has moved into the citation phase, with approximately 23 open cases. The plan is to prioritize significant cases, such as the "Tyvek house" at 205 St. Joe West, where ownership via an LLC is complicating enforcement. Generic violation list sent to mobile home park management. Copies made and given to residents.
- Noxious Weeds Ordinance: Website has a 2026 Noxious Weeds Ordinance Reminder link. The current process involving certified/first class mail is costly and inconsistently effective. The ordinance may allow for posting notice on the door with photo evidence. Amy will coordinate with Chris to streamline the process.
- Received a quote from Clark Technical for VIPRE anti-virus for \$504.00 to cover 10 workstations and the server for one year.

Motion by Glennie, 2nd by Crandall to approve moving forward with the quote for the VIPRE anti-virus software.

Roll call:

Aye: Lorenzo, Glennie, Rowlee, Deloach, Gritter, Crandall

Police Department:

- Police Department Report (May): Chief Cordes reported 18 police reports, 12 citations, numerous assists to fire/EMS, and hours worked (170 full-time, 114.5 part-time). The department assisted with a disaster drill, and a new patrol vehicle is being outfitted (expected in August). The department received \$2,365 from a state prime distribution. Crime reports (embezzlement, arson, assaults) are increasing for the summer. Assisted the Fire Department with a visit from the 5th/6th graders from LPS. Assisted with the ISD Mock Disaster and attended the Lawrence HS graduation.

Community Development:

- Park Courts (Pickleball & Basketball): The DDA funded new pickleball courts, which required removing a corner of a basketball court, making it a half-court for this year. This has caused some community concern as basketball is heavily used. The long-term master plan is to reorient a new full court and a half court elsewhere, creating more green space.
- Music in the Park & Food Trucks: The Council discussed attracting food trucks on Wednesdays to enhance the "Music in the Park" events. The Village has a simple, no-fee process for self-sufficient food trucks. Elizabeth Street could be closed to accommodate them.
- Community Recognition: Plans to name the new pickleball court in honor of Mary Webster. There is already a bench in the park dedicated to her. A dedication for Jim and Gayle Crandall is scheduled for July 18, 2026, from 1-3. A recognition plaque has been suggested for the one-year anniversary in September of JD's New Beginnings on First St.

DDA:



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



- Mural Project: A plan to paint a mural on a local business wall fell through. The default site is now the Village Hall's north wall, pending design approval from the Council. The proposed artist is a local ArtPrize winner.
- The DDA is looking into creating and posting a common sign in vacant properties for sale directing interested parties to a list of properties available in the Village.
- Potential new tenant at the old laundromat. Inquiries have been made about getting water service, incentives, etc for that location. Also the possibility of renting the other half of the building to CozyTea from Hartford.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- Parks and Rec approved paying the Paw Paw River Trail invoice.
- They are going to apply for Patronicity crowdfunding as another means of raising the funds for the Park Playground project. They received a \$1,000 donation from Sandra Stoll.
- They took a maintenance walk through the park and noted items that needed updating or removal. The wobbling bridge and the cobweb features will be removed for safety concerns and they will be replacing some rings and swings.
- Additional wood chips are on hold for the time being. Focus is on addressing weeds in the park. Will address issue with DPW as availability allows.

LDFA:

- Discussion on using some of the tax capture and applying it towards the James St. life station vs paying off the remainder of the water tower in the business park. They would need to change the TIF plan to include that as part of their plan and get approval from the Village, County, Township, and ISD. Could potentially contribute \$200,000 by holding this year and next year's tax captures.

Personnel:

- DPW needs to hire a full-time position to fill Tommy's vacancy. Brian presented a five-year fund allocation analysis based off historical data. He included in those numbers two part-time seasonal positions that will help him and Chris get caught up with the mowing around town and the lagoons. The numbers include bringing Chris up to \$22/hour from \$20/hour and Brian to \$70,000 annually from \$66,200. These increases will be effective 6/8/26 upon Council approval.
- Amy received her review and received an excellent performance review. At her time of hire, her salary was \$60,000 based on lack of experience. Proposing to bring her salary to \$80,000 annually upon Council approval based on her review and the need to bring her in line with salaries in the area.

Motion to approve wage changes to pay scale as presented by Deloach, 2nd by Crandall.

Roll call:

Aye: Glennie, Rowlee, Deloach, Crandall, Lorenzo, Gritter

Nay: None

All Ayes. Motions carried.



Village of Lawrence

157 N. Paw Paw St.

Lawrence, MI 49064

PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004

www.lawrencemi.org



- Due to factors outside of our control, there is a need to restructure Ron's job responsibilities and separate out the crossing guard duties. Amy will reach out to the school to collaborate upon Council approval to restructure.

Motion to restructure Ron's job responsibilities by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo.

All Ayes. Motions carried.

- Motion to authorize Briand and Amy to fill DPW positions as presented by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo.

All Ayes. Motions carried.

Planning Commission:

- Sidewalk Ordinance, Rental Registration Ordinance, and Master Plan Revisions on hold until Short-Term Rental Ordinance work completed.

Public Services/DPW:

- Dukes has finished all the exterior service line inspections. We are struggling to get the inside plumbing inspections.
- James Street update: We ordered parts but while trying to take everything apart I broke another pipe. That pipe has been ordered. I have two quotes from L.D Docsa Associates (field service company) for repairing and attempting to fix the other pump in James St.
Motion to allow Brian up to \$10,000 for pump repair with LD Docsa Associates by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach.

Roll call:

Aye: Deloach, Glennie, Lorenzo, Rowlee, Gritter, Crandall

Nay: None

All Ayes. Motions carried.

- Chris Leach did a fantastic job the week I tried to take off. We had several issues that popped up that week. When the James St bypass pump clogged up and failed, Chris handled most of it himself and some of it with just directions from text messages until I could get here. We had to run our pump overnight until AIS could get us another pump.
- Update as of 6/9/26, Pickleball Court. Fence is completed; groundwork is being worked on. Painting and court work still needs to be completed.
- The Flagpole at the park was installed before Memorial Day.
- Both Water Towers have been power washed. They look really good. They will start to do the inspections June 22.
- I am asking for approval to hire 2 part time seasonal workers for mowing. We are very behind on several things, but these 2 part timers would help us get caught back up and keep us caught up with mowing around town and tractor mowing at our Lagoons and Crandall Pkwy.
- I am also working with the County to finish the boom mowing from last year.
- We tried getting all water meters read but it just didn't happen with how the middle/end of the month turned out for us.



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



- Hitching post should be installed in June. One will be by the dumpster in the Village Hall parking lot and another in the middle triangle Northeast of the Park.
- Consumers Gas is working on replacing the Gas main on West James and Michigan St.
- CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) is due July 1st, 2026. This has been pre-approved and will be posted for the July deadline.
- We have a lot of water testing in June and July. I have several reports I am also working on.
- Until all our Audits are completed, I am asking to have PSC meetings Quarterly and not monthly. Nothing can be planned until the audits are completed except monthly reports.

Citizen Police Committee:

- Meetings scheduled upon request.

ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

New Business:

-

Old Business:

-

Public Comment:

-

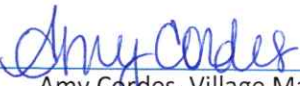
Council Comment:

- Sealcoating projects are not planned for this year. There are some portions of the Village that could benefit from cost-effective seal coating as the roads are at risk of deterioration.
- Ox Roast meetings will be moved from the 3rd Thursday of the month to the 3rd Tuesday of the month and will be held at the Fire Station.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

 07/14/26
Amy Cordes, Village Manager

 07-14-2026
John Gritter, Village President