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
July 14, 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; Annette Crandall, Trustee; Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee; Phil Glennie, Trustee
- **Absent:** David Deloach, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee

- **Also Present:** Kim Thompson, Chief Greg Cordes, Brian Johnson, Amy Cordes, Rich Glista, Jeff Moses, Matt Sanborn, Tim Griffin, Dale Gribler, Joelle Regovich, Donna Spenner, Mike Chappell, Rachel Rerrell, Lisa Crawford, Stephanie Timmer

No Additions to Agenda

No Conflicts of Interest

Approval of Prior Council Minutes Month Prior as Amended with name changes on page 3 for a statue donation to reflect "Kim Thompson and Kelly Sousley":
Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo
All Aye. Motions Carried.

Finance Manager Report-Kim Thompson:

- **FY23 Audit:** The fiscal year-end 2023 audit is complete, and the final report was accepted by the council. Auditors will not present in person for the FY23 audit due to its late submission but will for future audits.
- **FY24 & FY25 Submissions:** FY24 will be treated as an F65 submission year, with full audits resuming for subsequent years.
- **Bank Reconciliations:** Fiscal year-end 2024 bank reconciliations are approximately 60% complete.
- **Budget Amendments:**
  Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to amend the budget as presented in the financial report.
  Rollcall:
  Aye-Lorenzo, Glennie, Crandall, Gritter.
  Financial reports will now show original vs. amended budget values, and the trend analysis budget will be updated with audited actuals for FY22 and FY23.
- **Tax and Utility Collections:** The 2026 property tax bills were mailed on June 30, 2026. It is estimated that 85% of tax bills will be paid by the end of February 2027. Delinquent water and sewer bills have been added to property tax bills to ensure collection.

- **Banking Services and Investments**: Kim Thompson and Amy Cordes met with representatives from Sturgis Bank to discuss their governmental banking products. Sturgis Bank offers competitive services, including a CD special with rates of over 4% on short-term CDs (3-12 months), which is higher than the current bank, Huntington. They also provide remote deposit scanning, positive pay, sweep accounts, and a courier service. Recommended by Thompson to amend our approved bank list and include Sturgis Bank to take advantage of their higher investment products.
  Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie to amend our approved bank list to include Sturgis Bank.
  Rollcall:
  Aye-Crandall, Lorenzo, Gritter, Glennie
  Nay-None
  All Aye. Motions carried.
- **Sturgis Bank Presentation:** Lisa Crawford is the Treasury Management Relationship Manager for Sturgis Bank. Presented business products that would be beneficial for the Village's needs, among them are CD specials on shorter terms.
- **Orr Building Purchase:** Roy remains interested in purchasing the building. A primary concern for Roy is the lack of a water meter and paying basic fees with no services. A recommendation was made to waive water and sewer fees until service is established as there is no meter.
  Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall to waive fees until such time that service is established.
  Rollcall:
  Aye-Lorenzo, Gritter, Glennie, and Crandall
  Nay-None
  All Aye. Motions carried.
  Kim will meet with Roy on July 15, 2026, to discuss the updated agreement.

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances Month Prior:
Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie
Rollcall:
Aye-Gritter, Lorenzo, Glennie, Crandall
Nay-None
All Aye. Motions carried.

Presentations & Guests:

Van Buren County Commissioner: Mike Chappell

- The County has received Opioid funds that have been used in part to purchase a vehicle for transporting people to treatment.
- There will be classes coming up through the County held at the Van Buren ISD on Renewable Energy Update for Municipalities, Solar & Battery Storage, and Data Centers.
- The County is secured a grant through the MSHDA CDBG program. There will be a fee information session on Tuesday, August 4th at 5:30 p.m. at the VBISD Conference Center.

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

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner & Matt Sanborn

- Township has hired a full-time Cemetery Sexton, Buddy Earls, and an assistant, Jayden Brooks.
- Tom Reynnells and Donna had a meeting with the school regarding partnering on a youth rec program. They attended the School Board meeting where the Board approved their plan. A Board will be created that will consist of a representative from the Township, the school, school staff, and parents and get a 501c3 formed. The Township will always maintain a representative on the Board, but their role is strictly financial.
- The agreement has been signed by all parties, removing the Village from the Library contract between the Township and the Van Buren District Library.
- The primary election is August 4th, and the Board of Review is July 22nd at 11 a.m. Thompson stated that one of the millages that the Township is looking to renew is the Senior Services millage. 100% of that goes towards Senior Services activities and the Township takes zero from the millage for administrative costs.
- Matt created an AI agent to help locate available funding opportunities for our water system updates. Requesting photos and data that can be sent to help build the database for the agent to work with. Matt informed Council there will be a Township Zoning Rewrite Public Hearing to be held August 25th at 5 p.m. The rewrite will align the Zoning with the Master Plan. He confirmed that there is a separate account established for Parks and Rec for funds to be moved to that were awarded to the Township and earmarked for the Park Playground Project. He will create a resolution to release the funds to Parks and Rec.

Cannabis Administrator: Rich Glista

- Rich provided a list of cannabis facilities for Council approval for their annual renewal of licenses.
    - Motion to approve the annual renewal of the Cannabis Retailer Village License held by Good Nature Cannabis Company, LLC by Crandall, 2nd Lorenzo. All Aye. Motions carried.
    - Motion to approve the annual renewal of the 5 Medical Class C Grower Village Licenses and 5 Excess Grower Village Licenses held by PG Manufacturing, LLC (aka Pure Options) by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo. All Aye. Motions carried.
    - In consideration of past fee paid to the Village and the history of State licenses held by Great Lakes Natural Solutions, LLC (aka True Leaf), a motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie to cancel invoice #1562 (for 2024 licenses), and consider them to be in good standing with the Village upon their payment of invoice $1588 (for 2026 licenses).
      Rollcall:
      Aye-Glennie, Gritter, Crandall, Lorenzo
      Nay-None
      All Aye. Motions carried.
    - In consideration of past fees paid to the Village and the history of State licenses held by Myndset Herbs LLC, a motion by Glennie, 2nd by Lorenzo to amend the amount of invoice #1561 (for 2024 licenses) to be $5,000 and to consider them to be in good stating with the Village upon their payment of that invoice and invoice #1586 (for 2026 licenses) within 30 days.

Rollcall:
Aye-Lorenzo, Crandall, Glennie, Gritter
Nay-None
All Aye. Motions carried.

- Rich is working on revising the ordinance to consolidate it into one chapter. It is intended to be ready for review by the next Council meeting.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services: Bill Featherstone-Not present; No report

Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent: Ryan Williamson-Not present; No report

Abonmarche: Joelle Regovich

- Joelle presented the resolution to accept and participate in the Michigan DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the Village Park Playground improvements. Once it is submitted to the DNR we will get a fully executed copy and can then begin working on the project. The intent is to move forward with Abonmarche for the project. Joelle will have the proposal ready by the next Council meeting.

  Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie to accept the resolution with amended language in section 1 to state "To appropriate the funds raised by the Parks Playground Project fundraising efforts to complete the project during the project period and to provide up to **three hundred one thousand and two hundred ($301,200)** dollars to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT."

  Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Gritter to delegate Alicia Lorenzo as a signer for the purpose of the Park Playground project.
  Rollcall:
  Aye-Gritter, Glennie, Lorenzo, Crandall
  Nay-None
  All Aye. Motions carried.

DDA & Mural Project Proposal: Rachel Ferrell & Dale Gribler

- Rachel presented a proposal by Mari Barros for a mural on the north side of the Village Hall building that would be community-painted through a guided "color-by-number" process. After reviewing samples of her work, it was requested that the DDA get more information on the artist's position on input from Council and residents on the design concept.
  Motion to approve use of Village Hall wall for future mural project with Council design approval by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo. All Aye. Motions carried.
- Brian and Dale met with Wyoming Asphalt for a joint paving project. Individually the projects would total $84,630 vs $73,500 to combine the projects into one. There is money budgeted to cover 50% with the DDA covering the other 50% contingent upon each other and pending approval by DDA.

Motion to approve the joint project with DDA by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall.
Rollcall:
Aye-Gritter, Glennie, Crandall, Lorenzo
Nay-None
All Aye. Motions carried.

Reports:

President's Report: No report

Clerk's Report: No report

Village Manager:

- For the purpose of the minutes, Council formally ratifies the following resolutions that were passed on April 11, 2023:
    - Resolution 2023-040, Resolution 2023-041, Resolution 2023-042, Resolution 2023-042, Resolution 2023-043, and Resolution 2023-044.

  Motion by Glennie, 2nd by Lorenzo to ratify resolutions from April 11, 2023.
  All Aye. Motions carried.
- Parcel 80-44-349-067-00 is a landlocked parcel owned by the Village. A tree branch fell on neighboring properties leading to the discovery that it was still Village owned.

  Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to initiate process to sell the parcel to an adjacent property owner.
  All Aye. Motions carried.
- Presented invoices for Market One administrative services and Van Buren County Digital Information Department Technical Support for the CDBG Housing project.

  Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to approve Market One and Van Buren County invoices for payment.
  Rollcall:
  Aye-Glennie, Crandall, Gritter, Lorenzo
  Nay-None
  All Aye. Motions carried.
- The transition from NTM to Clark Technical for IT services revealed several deficiencies, including compliance gaps and a lack of owned equipment. Amy presented network equipment quotes from Clark Technical for firewall subscriptions and wireless equipment to replace what was serviced through NTM.

  Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Glennie to approve equipment and firewall quotes as presented for Clark Technical transition.
  Rollcall:

Aye-Crandall, Lorenzo, Gritter, Glennie
Nay-None
All Aye. Motions carried.

- For purposes of employee hours, it was noted that park bathrooms and the waste site should have defined closing hours.

  Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie to approve closing times for the park and waste site to 7:30 p.m. in the fall and 9 p.m. in the summer.
  All Aye. Motions carried.
- Zoning and Ordinance report was provided in the Council packet. Update that 205 W. St. Joseph has siding up and now in compliance with ordinances. Presented option to do a text amendment for the Martin parcel as an alternative option. That will ultimately depend on what the homeowner finds out after assessment with EGLE.
- Presented 2026-2027 fee schedule.
  Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall to approve the 2026-2027 fee schedule as presented.
  Rollcall:
  Aye-Glennie, Lorenzo, Crandall, Gritter
  Nay-None
  All Aye. Motions carried.
- Opened discussion on Council Trustee reduction. It has been increasingly difficult to fill vacant seats required to maintain a 7-member Council. Determined to wait until after elections to see if any candidates write-in and reassess then.
- Motion to delegate Amy Cordes to cast votes on behalf of the Village for associations like MERS and MML by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie. All Aye. Motions carried.

Police Department:

- There were 27 written reports and one arrest. The new patrol car is about 30 days from being in service. The department is researching new body/car camera systems, with a lease quote from Lensloc for $7,200/year. The evidence room shelving project is complete.
- During June, both Chief and Officer Vande Voren attended the PAAM training at the ISD, as well as a joint firearms training day with the Lawton Police Department. Chief completed online training to maintain his Medical First Responder license.

Community Development: No meeting for July; No report

DDA:

- Shawn Strasser introduced himself and family. They are reopening the laundromat. It's a long process and things are proceeding. He needs information regarding getting the water turned back on. Also has questions regarding occupancy permits. He was referred to Brian Johnson for the water setup and Chris Mihelich for the zoning/occupancy permit. They may expand to have a coffee shop and possible café' in the other part of the building, but that will be in the future.

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

- Kim mailed postcards to all in the DDA district for grant opportunities and Village rehab grants. Feedback is already coming in.
- Pavilion dedication for Jim and Gayle Crandall will be Saturday, July 18th at 12 pm at the East Pavilion.
- Farmer's Market started July 11th. Discussion on last-minute location change was initiated and will be monitored and reviewed as the season progresses.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- Did not meet but continue to fundraise for the Park Playground project.

LDFA:

- No report; Next meeting rescheduled to September 23

Personnel:

- Brian and Amy interviewed a candidate for the open DPW technician position. Interviewee is an excellent candidate and requests a higher starting rate than previously approved. Kim reviewed the budget and determined we could support the wage requested. The personnel committee is recommending that the Council approve the budget increase to allow hiring of the candidate.

  Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Glennie to approve an increase in the budgeted pay for the candidate interviewed up to $24.00 per hour.
  Rollcall:
  Aye-Glennie, Crandall, Lorenzo, Gritter
  Nay-Non
  All Aye. Motions carried.

Planning Commission:

- Rental registration, Sidewalk Ordinance, and Master Plan tabled until completion of Short-Term Rental process. Proposing to add Short-Term Rentals as a Special Use in the Central Business District. A draft is in process and there will be a packet that will outline the process along with regulations that operators will have to follow.

Public Services/DPW:

- Jeff and Jim are getting us caught up with mowing around the Village and at the Lagoons. They will move onto the Business Park when fully caught up in the Village.
- Getting a quote for taking down trees around the pond. The trees are shading the solar panels that run the fountain in the pond.
- Lead and copper samplings were all good this time around.
- It's been determined that part of the issue at the park bathrooms are tree roots that have grown through the lines. That will have to be dug up to get the roots out of there.
- Lead service line inspections finished and scored a 46 which is in the fundable range. They received 100% of the grant funding which is $2.2 million dollars. The grant does not replace the

water main and the plan is to find a way to budget replacement of the main on the older side of town when the service lines are replaced.

Citizen Police Committee: Meetings scheduled upon request.

ZBA: No Meeting Held.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- Glennie inquired whether or not there was an update on a long-standing financial dispute with the railroad. The railroad believes the Village still owes money and the Village believes they are still owed monies.

Public Comment: None

Council Comment: None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Glennie
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Cordes 08/11/2026
Amy Cordes, Village Manager

08-11-2026
John Gritter, Village President