

Regular Council
March 08, 2022



Common Council Meeting

Call to Order

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Common Council of Village of Lawrence was called to order by President, David Quick at 7:00 PM via Zoom and live.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Quick.

Roll Call

Present: Gritter, Glennie, Marring, Quick, Lorenzo

Absent: DeLoach

Zoom: Webster

Also Present: Theresa Stroud, Suzann Weston, Paul Bianco, Brian Johnson, Steve Lowe (LFD), Don Hanson, Donna Spenner, Suzanna Deneau (Wightman) (Zoom), William Jennings (Golden Greens) (Zoom).

Clerk- Suzann Weston

Reelections for Council seats: There are 3 Council seats up for reelection this year. Alicia Lorenzo, Klass Marring and Mary Webster. There are 3 forms that need to be filled out by July 26, 2022 but can not be filled out before May 08, 2022. (180 days before election date).

Additions to Agenda

Resolution from Wightman,

Conflict of Interest items

No conflict of Interest

Review bills, Consent Agenda and Minutes from February

Motion by Gritter, 2nd by Marring to approve.

All Aye, Motion carried.

No further discussion.

Presentations and Guests

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Don Hanson- County Commissioner

- The ARPA committee approved \$30,000 to replace lead pipes in South Haven.
- We have a new dispatch operator for 911.
- We've increased the Marine Patrol salary from \$16.00 to \$20.00 in South Haven.
- Our Building inspector/Supervisor left so we hired Paw Paws Supervisor.
- We're delaying Broadband in Berrien County. We've invested \$180,000 in Van Buren

Donna Spenner- Township

- We have a committee that we are appointing Thursday for our ARPA funds.
- We've collected 89% of the taxes for the Township.
- We have a housing committee that Matt Sanborn will be heading up. He has some land committed. Now we will work on getting a developer and financing.
- Judy & I are working on 3 Mileages. We are going to go for Lawrence Township Senior Services for ½ a millage. We are going to bump up Van Buren County roads to 2 Mileages and we're working on the joints Parks & Rec for a ½ millage.
- We are still working on our budget workshop. This should be concluded on the 26th of March.
- The Solar Farm will be bringing in 1,500 jobs.

Steve Lowe- Emergency Services

- We had 7 fires. 2 assist in Hartford. 2 in Bangor. A lift assist. A burning complaint. 1 fire out at the Tech center. 27 Medicals, 2 of which were in the Village. The rest in the Township.
- The Mileages will not be increased or decreased this year. Despite the fuel increases.
- The budget workshop is completed this year.
- The Retirement party went good for Charlie. There was a picture in the paper with Charlie and the Fire department.
- We're doing a pancake breakfast April 24th, which is at Hartford Fire department for Randy Lowe. 7a.m. to noon. Hosted by Hartford fire, Lawrence fire and Galaties.
- We're up about 20 fire calls and 55 medicals already this year.
- 1 pickup is painted. It will be sitting for 30 days before putting the decals on. When that one is done the other will go in.
- The Mule is getting wrapped this week.
- The grant that the County is going for has been pushed back until June.
- We purchased a new battery powered Ram for our truck.



Review Resolution from Wightman; Suzanna Deneau

- I'm here tonight asking you to pass the Resolution. This is about preventive maintenance on 3 bridges. We are proposing to take care of some deck work, a little bit of maintenance on some guard rail sections that are either broken or missing. Patching of some sidewalk pieces that have settled over time.
- The funding from MDOT is due April 4th. The minimum match is 5% from the communities. This is for 2025 construction. So that is when the money would actually be spent.
- Currently we are teaming with the city of Dowagiac. They have 6 bridges that they are doing similar projects on. We are hoping that this might make the grant funding a little more competitive although there will be a clean line between Dowagiac and Lawrence. This just gives us a more enticing, larger project by teaming the two communities together.
- The resolution basically says that the Village is willing to produce their contribution.
- Preventative maintenance is something MDOT would like communities to look at to preserve our bridges. We put together an itemized sheet to give an idea of the cost. Construction contingency is 20%. Mobilization is 10% and Inflation at 4% a year is 12% of the cost. The total is \$297,000. Design and construction engineering cost do not get paid by MDOT. These are strictly out of pocket. Local bridge funding from MDOT would 95% of the cost. The match at 5% of construction plus engineering cost would be \$80,250.
- The Resolution does not have that dollar amount in it so if you want to make a decision after the resolution is passed that is possible.

Quick moves to submit grant package.

Motion by Glennie, 2nd by Lorenzo

All Aye, motion carried

Quick moves to increase contribution to 10%

Motion by Gritter, 2nd by Webster to approve

All Aye, motion carried

William Jennings (Golden Greens) Renewal

- I appreciate you all taking the time to look over our renewal tonight as we're heading out of town tomorrow.
- We're looking toward our first scholarship this spring at the high school. We've been working with the Guidance Counselor there. We'll have candidates at the end of March so we'll be looking at those and hoping to have them picked by April.

Stroud: We have all of there documentation. Back ground checks have all gone through and they have been approved by the state. There has also been a check submitted for their renewal.

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Quick moves to accept Golden Greens renewal

Motion to approve by Gritter, 2nd by Marring

All Aye, Motion carried

Manager- Theresa Stroud

- Community Action Agency is asking us to partner with them for assistance with residents water bills. The current program is ending and they've been using funds from rentals to pay water bills. They have a new program that's starting and for our residents to receive help with their water bills, we have to opt into this. What we're committing to is if they offer help to someone to pay their bill we can't shut them off for 90 days. This would be an exception to the ordinance. After 90 days, if we haven't received payment we can shut them off. They have a \$689.00 annual max for individuals. A person can reapply every month for assistance but once they hit their max we can't shut them off for 90 days. We've been working with people to get their bills lowered. Some with payment plans. Others have received help from SMCCA. So we don't have a lot left that are over \$300.00. I'm also working with Kim from that office to put together a resource book for residents on contact information for resources that are out there that they could access to get help with their water bills and other utilities as well.

Quick moves to approve the water assistance program (LIHWAP)

Motion by Gritter to approve, 2nd by Marring

All Aye, Motion carried

- The Van Buren Historical Society is looking for a donation from us.

Quick moves to accept a motion to donate \$500 to the Historical Society

Motion by Webster, 2nd by Gritter to approve

All Aye, Motion carried

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- I did some pricing on tablets for Council. I can get 10" fire HD 64G for approximately \$1300. That's 7 tablets for all of Council. We could download the Council packet each month straight to those tablets.

Quick moves to accept motion to purchase tablets along with stylist pens for Council members. Using the funds that are in the budget for hardware equipment.

Motion by Webster, 2nd by Gritter to approve

All Aye, Motion carried

Chief- Paul Bianco

- We had 7 incident reports in the month of February. 1 for a violation of a controlled substance. 1 CPS complaint.
- We continue radar, help with medical calls.
- We have regular contact at the Business Park. Spending time in the school and the ISD. I have helped out with instruction at the ISD in their Law enforcement class. We continue to make a presence at sporting events at the school. Including the district basketball games.
- We had additional blight issues this week, we are still addressing those.
- We had 6 police calls for Sheriffs and 2 medical for the Village, 2 medicals for the Township.
- Still waiting on the shotguns we ordered from MSP.
- Submitted our 2022 budget.
- We were able to order ammo with our remaining budget.
- We found a grant for body armor that we will be applying for in April. That will cover half of the cost. Body armor has to be replaced every 5 years.
- Greg just finished up MMR testing for QR training for his license renewal.
- February was our Segues & Lien Audit for our computers. Which is audited by the State of Michigan and the FBI.
- Officer update: Officer Christenson probably won't be back this year. We have an officer in the application process right now for a part time position.
- We have our last member for the Assistant Police Committee. Hopefully we'll have our first meeting in April.

Community Development- Phil Glennie

- Reviewed our budget.
- Set dates for Music in the Park. Starting on June 8th through August 24th.
- Discussions with Ms. Lawrence group about the trailer for a permanent float. They are looking for funding for the trailer and storage.

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- We're going to do a recognition day for Chuck Moden June 4th.

DDA- No meeting

Joint Parks & Rec.- No meeting

LDFA-

- Approved bills and budget.

Personnel- No meeting

- Set next meeting for April 5th at 5:30

Planning- No meeting

PSC- John Gritter

- We're still working on our Booster stations. Looking at getting the motors replaced so we can continue to run all 4 of them. Repairs are delayed due to delays in delivery of replacement parts. All four of the damaged motors continue to run but we're not sure for how long. We are considering finding someone who may be able to rebuild one.
- The Village received a violation from the State due to changes in State rules for handling lagoon samples. Brian has implemented the new rule which require samples to be transported in a cooler.
- The Village also received a violation when portable water samples did not arrive to the State laboratory on time due to the Christmas holiday.
- Brian is working with Andrew Rudd from Wightman engineering on the water rate study. Brian believes that it may be possible to reduce or eliminate the potential 22% rate hike.

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- There's been some concern about a potential splash pad being installed in the park. This would mean that approximately 100,000 gallons of water would run through it per day and can our storm drains handle all that water.
- There's has been some concern about weather the new DPW guys are patching pot holes to the standards required.
- The annual 3% water/sewer increase has been put into the system as of March 1st.
- All of the REU's that should have been put into the system have now been complete.
- Andrew gave contacts on someone that could give us a rate study.
- Brian has been looking over Utility billing frequently. A water meter was found recently that was put in incorrectly.
- The ISD has been billed incorrectly from May 2019 through Jan. 2022. The REU's were not set at the higher usage rate. This has also happened with 3 other addresses. We will have to send letters that show what is owing and work with them on a repayment plan. We will ask them to contact us for a meeting as we're not sure who the proper contact person is.

Motion to negotiate settlement with ISD by Webster, 2nd by Lorenzo

All Aye, Motion carried

ZBA- Phil Glennie

- Went over the pole barn that Hendersons are putting up and the height restrictions. A variance was allowed concerning the height. Instead of the 16ft, we allowed an extra foot.

New Business-

- 305 is having their ribbon cutting March 15th.
- Purchase of 2 sheds for DPW equipment, Christmas decorations, etc. 10 X 12 with roll up doors. The price of these is \$4,500 each which will come out of 5 different funds.

Gritter motions to approve, 2nd by Lorenzo

All Aye, Motion carried

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Public Comment –

Chuck Williams- My property butts up against the 10 acres that is for sale north of town. I wonder what committee I could attend that talks about this land.

Old Business- None

Council Comment-

Glennie- Gene Carrs Memorial was Monday. It was a nice event.

Lorenzo- I am currently trying to study for my real estate license now that my baby is walking. We're also going to be flying with all of them in April.

Webster- In regards to the National issue around book banning. Mattawan library and Mattawan Village Council have had people come in to do audits. They have been filming at the Mattawan Village Council. The rest of the Municipalities may see that coming. They may do auditing in regards to marihuana so they may show up at Township meetings as well. I have strong feelings as to what is going on in Ukraine. It is sad and I don't have a problem with the cost of filling my car up with gas because my house is not being bombed and I'm not being forced to evacuate. I am not running for Council so we need to find someone to take this seat.

Quick moves to adjourn

Motion by Marring to adjourn, 2nd by Webster

All Aye, Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

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Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suzann Weston", is written over a horizontal line.

Suzann Weston, Clerk/Treasurer

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Quick", is written over a horizontal line.

David Quick, President