



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
May 13, 2025

Call to Order: The Regular Common Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Gritter

Roll Call:

- **Present:** John Gritter, President; Annette Crandall, Trustee; Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee; Phil Glennie, Trustee; David Deloach, Trustee
- **Absent:** David Quick, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee
- **Also Present:** Mike Chappell, County Commissioner; Donna Spenner, Township Supervisor; Andrew Rudd, Wightman Representative; Karissa Ingalls, Farmer's Market Manager; Henry Seyfarth, Resident; Paul Kolon, Resident.

Additions to Agenda:

- None

Conflicts of Interest:

- None

Approval of Agenda Month:

No changes; approval not needed

Approval of Prior Council Minutes Month Prior:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach

All Aye. Motions Carried.

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances Month Prior:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie

All Aye. Motions Carried.

Financial Manager Proposal: Annette Crandall

During the review of Financial Statements, Trustee Crandall brought up a proposal to hire a financial manager at \$30/hour at 24 hours per week.

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Glennie.

Roll Call:

Abstain: Crandall

Aye: Gritter, Glennie, Deloach, Lorenzo



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Nay: None

Absent: Quick and Rowlee

Presentations & Guests:

Van Buren County Commissioner: Mike Chappell

- Request from the Veteran's Dental and Emergency Relief Programs, some of that funding has been cut but hoping for the best on that.
- Approved \$35,000 loan to Jeremiah Smith Enterprises DBA Coin Express Laundry in Hartford as part of the Market Van Buren program.
- Transferred \$400,000 from General Fund to the Strategic Facilities Fund.
- Opioid Committee is almost ready to send out RFPs for anyone interested; Grants for that will have to be for Opioid related treatment, education, etc; launch will be July 1st with an application deadline of August 15th. Performance period will be October 1st through September 30th. The grant schedule will be every two years for each of them.
- County book has a section on how to sign up for alerts and notifications on the second page.
- No update on funding for the required radio encryption by the State.

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Township is working with Market One on grant opportunities and a list of tasks that the Township and Village can work together towards as a common goal. The Village has opportunities to bring in businesses, where the Township has opportunities for housing. Market One representative suggested the concentration be within Village limits and put the common goal effort there. Create a list of common goals and meet more often as a group to build up the Village.
- Joint meeting will be set for June 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Township Hall.
- Letter to Archangel from lawyers for both Township and the Village terminating respective agreements and requesting full reimbursement of the amounts previously paid. If approved by Village will be presented at the Township Board meeting Thursday, May 15th for approval to send. Motion to approve change to letter to correct name addressed to.
Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo.
All Aye. Motions carried.
- 100th Year Anniversary Celebration of the Fire Department has been moved from August 1st to August 9th. Open House/BBQ at the Township Fire Department.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services: Steve Richardson

- No report

Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent: Ryan Williamson

- No report



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Wightman: Andrew Rudd

- Village received a grant a while back for Lead Service Line Inspections; Wightman has completed about 300 of them, and identified that about half of them need to be replaced.
- Requirement of the grant was to go after the funding to do the actual line replacement. Part of the application requirements are met with the Resolution for adopting a final project plan for water systems improvements and designating an authorized project representative. Application will get turned in at the end of the month and hear back in October.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach.

Roll Call:

Aye: Lorenzo, Glennie, Deloach, Gritter, Crandall

Nay: None

Absent: Quick, Rowlee

Farmer's Market Manager: Karissa Ingalls

- Has worked with Al-Van in the past and has set up to have them at the Farmer's Market once a month for a pet adoption event.
- All animals will be leashed and held by a volunteer, up to date on shots and vaccines, etc.
- Event will require a Certificate of Liability on file that names the Village as covered, as well as a certificate from the Health Department due to the potential of feces in the park.

Resident: Henry Seyfarth, 123 South St.(keep address?)

- Requesting help replacing a line on his property due to continual flooding during heavy rains.
- Was told previously that the Village would take a look at the line and see if it actually connected to the storm system and correct that if so. They would be on their own if it did not. When looking into this, they did find a pipe that connects.
- There does not appear to be a drain that the pipe is connected in the field. The Drain Commission does not show one on their map either.
- Brian is going to spend a couple of hours with a metal detector to see if he can locate the catch-basin that is assumed to be there per owner.

Reports:

President's Report:

- David Quick resignation; leaves Council with six members. Will be looking to fill vacant Council seat.
- President Pro-Tem Appointment; President Gritter appointed Trustee Crandall to the position.
- Hiring Committee for Interviewing Village Manager candidates. Proposing to do that in two tiers with Gritter, Crandall, and Donna Spenner as the first tier. Will bring in Brian, Chief Bianco, and Clerk for second tier.

Clerk's Report:

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



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- No Report

Village Manager:

- Agreement for Code & Building Services through Michigan Code Inspections, LLC (Ben Brousseau) and Blight Process through Mihelich & Associates, LLC (Chris Mihelich). If agreement accepted, Safebuilt will be notified that we will be terminating our services with them effective in 90 days.
- Motion to approve agreement with Mihelich & Associates, LLC
Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Glennie
Aye: Crandall, Lorenzo, Glennie, Deloach, Gritter
All Aye. Motion Carried
- Motion to approve agreement with Michigan Code Inspections, LLC
Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Glennie
Aye: Crandall, Lorenzo, Glennie, Deloach, Gritter
All Aye. Motion Carried
- Truth & Taxation on June 10th prior to Regular Common Council Meeting at 6 PM.

Police Department:

- 23 incident reports in the month of April.
- Continue to radar enforcement around town to reduce speeding.
- Tenants at the former 305 Farms are up and running. State inspectors advised that all is within legal limits.
- Officer Vande Voren assisted school staff with AM and PM fire drills at the VB Tech on April 22nd
- Took two crash reports and made approximately 32 traffic stops for traffic offenses.
- Application given to on candidate 3/26/25 but taking a bit with all of the new State mandated requirements.
- Radio encryption updates need to be completed by March-April 2026 according to projected times.
- Attended Lawrence QR training on April 23 at 7 PM, Pump/Fire Training April 24th at 6 PM, and Fire Truck Maintenance April 10th, all while off duty from the PD.
- Officer Vande Voren took the MFR test again on May 8th and did not pass; will be discussing options for a potential 3rd test.

Community Development:

- Music in the Park invoices submitted and starts in June. Looking to bring in a few things during Music in the Park.
- Started working on items for Christmas and bring back craft show.
- Rainbella Tea and Sonlight Gifts are both new businesses in town and will work on planning a welcome get together.



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DDA:

- Looked into funding for Pickleball courts and projected costs were outside of feasible budget.
- Next meeting Wednesday, May 28th at 5:30 PM.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- Search is ongoing for the original deed for the park, which was last seen in the 1970s. Submitted a Supreme Court research request which may take 2-3 weeks. Supreme Court dedication being considered as substitute for deed.
- Land Water Conservation Fund grant application submitted for \$301,200 with a total project cost of \$602,400. The application deadline was April 1, 2025 with the awards expected December 2025. Grant agreements expected April-June 2026 (if awarded). Construction to begin in Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 depending on funding.
- Sponsorship information included on website and to be included in Tax Bills for Village and potentially Township.
- Donation Processing to go through Village of Lawrence Office or deposited at Arbor Credit Union. Electronic options raise concerns over transaction fees and tax deductions. Point & Pay could be a potential option.
- Mike C. reports Township might just pay \$5,000 to Paw Paw River Water Trail contract up front so funds don't flow into the following year. The Village paid \$3,177 for 2025; current balance owed to Paw Paw River Water Trail is \$3,763.
- CJ Webster (Mary's son) to repaint the Kids' Palace sign. Alicia to call CJ and inquire scope and budget for what CJ would like to do because signage letters need repair before paint. The committee will reimburse for paint/materials once CJ confirms plans.

LDFA:

- No Report

Personnel:

- Have received 18 resumes for Village Manager; with two candidates that interviews have been scheduled with.
- Interview questions presented to Council, open to suggestions and edits.

Planning Commission:

- Discussed Pet Adoption event and found nothing in Zoning or Ordinance that prohibited it.
- 18 acre parcel in the Village for sale that has had multiple inquiries as to whether or not horses were permitted; horses are not allowed in the Village unless the lot has been grandfathered in.

Public Services/DPW:

- Did not meet



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- Did receive official EGLE-VOL Water Supply Survey Results letter showing deficient in several areas that should be able to be remedied.

Citizen Police Committee:

- Next meeting is Tuesday, May 20th at 6:30 PM.

ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- Paul Kolon; asking about update on enforcement of blight regarding neighbor, J. Johnson.
- He would like it noted that same neighbor has started parking in yard over the weekend, which is against Village Ordinances.

Council Comment:

- None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Glennie
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Theresa Stroud, Village Manager


John Gritter, Village President