

Village of Lawrence

Common Council Meeting

June 8th, 2021

www.lawrencemi.org

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Quick.

Roll Call

Present: Quick, Gritter, Ouzts, DeLoach, Glennie, Webster

Lorenzo-via Zoom.

Absent: NA

Also, Present: Theresa Stroud, Becky Everhart, Paul Bianco, Don Hanson, Donna Spenner and Mike Anchor

Guests: John Wellehan; Myndset Herbs and Dennis Cowan Plunkett Cooney Attorneys via Zoom.

Additions to Agenda:

Conflict of Interest items

No conflict of Interest

Approval to pay bills and Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes from May 4th Special Session, May 11th Common Council, May 11th Closed Session, May 25th Public Hearing, May 25th Special Session meetings.

Motion by Webster

2nd by Ouzts

Webster-bills to be paid; posted to Herald Palladium. This is fine but we should use Palladium officially.

Stroud-it is a back up publication. We had to post Grant notice to Palladium because Courier could not meet the deadline we needed to post.

All Aye-Motion carried

Roll Call

Present: Gritter, DeLoach, Quick, Ouzts, Webster, Lorenzo, Glennie.

Absent: NA

Quick-we need to run reports in 5 minutes each to wrap up by 8:15pm.

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Presentations and Guests

John Wellehan-Myndset Herbs in person per Quick approval.

Wanted to come in and meet everyone in person. Thank you for helping us through the process. Final payment of License was processed today.

Quick-move to Planning to request motion for approval.

Ouzts-thank you for brining in additional funds. All paperwork has been reviewed by attorney and they have met the requirements. 6 grow license-Myndset Herbs and 1 Processing under Myndset Alchemy.

Motion by Ouzts
2nd by DeLoach

Ouzts-Your contractors are reaching out to our Engineers?

Wellehan-yes; they spoke yesterday and are in harmony.

Cowan-thank Board, Planning Commissions, Manager, Clerk and Attorney. Confirms that Myndset has picked the right community to do business within the future. Look forward to getting through the Planning Commission on the site plan.

No further discussion.

Roll Call

Present: Gritter, DeLoach, Quick, Ouzts, Webster, Lorenzo, Glennie.

All Aye: motion carried.

County Commissioner presented by Don Hanson-

- Delinquent taxes. VBC Treasurer Tricia Nesbit paid local units of government 11 million unpaid taxes; will need to pay with penalty or sell their property.
- Radio Towers-Commissioner has approved replacement of 2 towers. 1 tower will be located at Fairgrounds near Hartford and 1 will be in Columbia Township Fire station 2. Cost will be \$347,730.00 and have funds to cover.

No further discussion.

Township Supervisor-presented by Donna Spenner

- Hired Marijuana agency staff:
 - Clerk-Matt Sanborn-2003 Lawrence Graduate. Started training today with Kelly.
 - Administrator-Richard Galista-1985 Lawrence Graduate. Starts June 29th.
- Official Ballot-is out 1.5 mill for road fund. Been without a road fund for a year. August 3rd vote from 1 mill to 1.5 mill.

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- Webinar for COVID 19 Recovery Fund-Do's and Don'ts. Is distributed in waives, will not got all in one lump sum. Will have to work with Village to provide plan on how money will be spent prior to release of funds.
 - Quick-do they have to approve the plan prior?
 - Spenner-it does not specify approval is needed only that the plan must be submitted prior. One suggestion she has for Twp. funds is Park & Recs, Youth ball program. Have been without program for 2 years. Do not have any equipment. Will need to go through Twp. Board first.
- Food Commodities for Low Income Senior Program-will be moved to Twp. Starting in July. They moved from Village to VBC ISD; will fit their needs.
- Solar Farm Coming into Twp. meeting this Thursday. Bell Town Power is going to build a large solar energy farm out by the old Sill Farms on 50th street.
- Kim Thompson was sending out Senior Citizen mailing. One address had 38 registered voters at one address. They submitted a challenge. Another address had 15 and another 9. Did basic registered voter's search. Has been turned over to Attorney General for review. No votes or absentee ballots were casted from these addresses.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services Report – Chief Mike Anchor

- May call logs; 366 for the year. Up 5% on medical down 6% on fires.
- 1st month of their new budget.
- Bought 2 new grass rig pick up trucks. Both Fords; one will be support vehicle (lane Blocker) and one will be grass to replace old 2000 current truck. State purchased; \$36,600.00. Fall delivery due to chip. Old will be sold.
- New firefighter; James Ivy. Comes from Eau Claire Fire dept. and started in April.
- The Tech-new copier fire alarms, fax machine, phone lines etc. Will be working on adding new surveillance cameras. Currently has 16 cameras; going to put 40 to 50 cameras to cover entire area.
- Mule-lost 4 x 4; production has been low. Had to surrender due to supply and demand. As inventory comes back can look at getting it back.
- Emergency reporting-2 tablets for the chief truck and 1710 main medical truck. Currently manual write and when they get back to the office, they have to enter them. This software will allow them to enter remotely.
- Auxiliary-up and running. If anyone wants to join; contact Mike to join. Support Fire dept.; food and or support. Must be 18 years of age, valid DL and good record.
- Inspections-Golden Green may partner with them in Fall to do a Public Safety Day. Maybe even provide back packs for back-to-school event.
- Map/Email presentation. Ox Roast fireworks. Will follow NFP guidelines; will be at Library and building will be closed. Handed over to Ox Roast Committee to complete. Insurance has been covered up to 5 million.
 - DeLoach-will they need to park at water tower parking lot?
 - Anchor-tried hard; why they provided the map. The only parking, we are losing is the library.
- Truck Show-at 9:15 with fireworks to follow at 10:00. DPW and Police will need to assist with barricades and direct traffic for 20 minutes during fireworks. Main intersection will be closed; semi traffic will have to pull over as they cannot make turn. Has requested access at the Asphalt plant to get off Red Arrow. Start at Michigan Paving and go back toward town.

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Reports:

President-presented by Quick.

- Ordinance on park. We have been unable to locate an Ordinance. Will be set at dusk versus 11:00 pm. Will draft ordinance for next month. Will change signs to reflect.
 - DeLoach-what is the definition of dusk?
 - Quick-sunset; confirm by Chief Bianco.

Clerk-Presented by Everhart

- Update on past due Utility Bills. Sent out 25 letters of shut off, received 10 payment plans, 10 paid in full, 5 shut offs will be done tomorrow.

No further discussion.

Village Manager-Presented by Stroud

- Update on fiber; Bloomingdale. Working excellent; no timing issues.
- Grant-confirmed has been received. Hoping in the next week or so to hear about grant.
- Met with Whitney from AR Engineering today about Blackman project. Things are moving along but still having issues with Consumers. Within budget and on target. Discussed E St Joseph St for next year. Village portion will be \$125,000.00.
 - Glennie-when will the culvert go in on Blackman? Prior to paving?
 - Johnson-as soon as Consumers is done.
- Special Assessment for Police dept. Heard back from attorney's office; need a resolution to authorize up to 3 mills. 5 days posted in paper to do a Public Hearing. Should be done by end of June and on the tax bills at the beginning of July.
 - Quick-do we need an action item?
 - Stroud-need motion to approve up to 3 mills. Then we will type of the Resolution and get it signed.
 - Will need action item to set the special assessment district for all properties in the Village. Will have to construct a board, hold Public Hearing, and funding. Funding Plan was listed on budget spreadsheet.
 - Webster-what do you need tonight?
 - Stroud-Funding Plan, approve Resolution up to 3 mill and approve the Assessment District.
 - Webster-can it all be done in one motion?
 - Stroud-has to be done in at least 2 motions. Funding requires to be separate.
 -

Quick-call for motion for Funding Plan already in place.

Motion by Webster

2nd by DeLoach

Further Discussion:

Quick-everyone remembers what was in the budget? What was outlined?

- Webster-was the budget for 1 mill or 1.5 mill not 3?
- Stroud-no it was for 3 to 4 mills.

No Further discussion.

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Roll Call

Present: Gritter, DeLoach, Quick, Ouzts, Webster, Lorenzo, Glennie.

All Aye: motion carried.

Quick-call for motion to approve Assessment district.

Motion by Glennie

2nd by DeLoach

No Further discussion.

Roll Call

Present: Gritter, DeLoach, Quick, Ouzts, Webster, Lorenzo, Glennie.

All Aye: motion carried.

Quick-call for motion to approve for Special Assessment for up to 3 mills.

Motion by Ouzts

2nd by DeLoach

Quick-so everyone knows; the assessment may be less than 3 mills. This is to get us to where we need to be. We didn't increase water rate increase to put assessment in place.

No Further discussion.

Roll Call

Present: Gritter, DeLoach, Quick, Ouzts, Webster, Lorenzo, Glennie.

All Aye: motion carried.

Chief of Police-Presented by Bianco

- Official calls; 15 Police and 2 medical.
- Patrol times have been very effective. Ticket issued to 87-year-old man for going 78 mph. Let him know if there are problem areas.
- Criminal cases-had attempted car theft; Village truck. Johnson stopped them and both ended up going to jail.
 - Stroud-would like to commend officer Bianco for his handling of the situation. Where using profanities and Chief kept his clam. Was throwing things at Bianco and use of fowl language.
- Officer Todd Christianson-has extensive training on working with Mental Illness and set up training at previous position. Started as office with Village in 1988; out of Police Academy. 21 years with Kalamazoo and Mattawan; went back and got certified and excepted position with Village. Presentation-Pin of official badge.

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- Memorial Day parade-went well, lots of compliments.
- Aggressive dog has been destroyed. They were given the option to relocate or destroy. They were unable to relocate.

Christensen- Primary function of the officer is to eliminate things that are effective residents' quality of life. Provided recap on accomplishments while in Kalamazoo; gun violence, prostitution and attend meetings with residents to build rapport.

- School key cards in each vehicle. This will allow 24-hour access in the event of an emergency.
- New car-has been delivered to Mc Donald and are awaiting radio and antenna installation.
- Blight & Ordinance violations. Working to ensure all ordinances are pertinent and up to date.

Administration-presented by Everhart.

Announcement of office opening. Moving to Summer hours for the office and will alternate Friday's off between Weston and Everhart.

- Stroud-staff are in office from 8 to 5 but open to public from 9 to 4. This will allow staff an hour at beginning and end of day for clean-up or prepare for the day. Appointments can be scheduled between 4:00 and 5:00 pm.

Community Development: presented by Glennie. No meeting.

- Music in the park
- History of Lawrence day had low participation on Sunday. Will go back to weekday event next year.

DDA-Presented by President Quick

No meeting minutes in file. If you have any questions, contact Dale.

LDFA-Presented by Webster

Approving the payment of 1st year to Bloomingdale of broadband in the Industrial Park. 4-year agreement at around 25,000.00 annually. Everyone is enjoying the service.

Parks & Rec-presented by Lorenzo

- Still working on dock quotes. 2 estimates; Can Docks \$14,600.00 Paw Paw.
- Docks and Landings \$14,100.00 Schoolcraft. Brand "Waive Armor". Made in the USA and has good feedback.
- Amos Alexander: felt it was too expensive. Looked into other options and provided another option at \$10,000.00 for floating dock.
- 305 Farms is not an option at this time for funding.

Quick-maybe at our next meeting we can reach out to Amos and have him Zoom in.

- Glennie-will it be at Twp. Parking lot?
 - Lorenzo-North River Park location has been selected. More noticeable and shorter walk.
- Glennie-will it have to be pulled in the Fall?
 - Lorenzo-no; it will be anchored in.
- Johnson-so it would go down in the River?
 - Lorenzo-this is another reason North River location. Flatter if you have a flood, it will work well.
 - Quote on tree removal. One estimate at \$4,800.00 to clean it up; 2 that are falling into the river.

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- Only has \$7,000.00 in budget.
 - Stroud-Does the person who installs them do they provide maintenance?
 - Lorenzo-she will have to ask them, she has not thought about that.
 - Stroud-thinks it will need inspection twice a year; Spring and Fall.
 - John Wellehan-would like to learn more about what she is working on. Everhart to send contact information in the morning.

DDA-no report.

LDFA-no report.

PSC-Presented by Gritter

- Water Ordinance; formatted and has Public Hearing set for July 7th at 6:00 pm.
- Things are progressing at dump site with the opportunity to get salvage from Blackman Street project as fill.
- Kabuto-in service under warranty.
- Waiting on updates on construction cost for new barn.
- 305 Farms is moving along with phase I.
- Noise complaint regarding concerns for fireworks. We will follow state guidelines. Chief to follow up with resident regarding blight.
- Installation of wireless alarm system at tower and pump stations ongoing.
-

No further discussion.

DPW- presented by Johnson-no report.

Kubota was returned next day; had a defective barring.

Quick-do have the Public Hearing for water ordinance prior to next PSC meeting. At Council will vote at next.

Redevelopment-no report.

Stroud-does have training for Redevelopment in the Fall. Will be 8-week course.

ZBA-no report.

New Business: NA

DeLoach-do we have any updates from Roy regarding the building?

- Quick-Roy has it; purchase agreement has been signed. Has contingencies on time to do blight repairs. Deed will be held until he meets requirements.
- Webster-what does he plan to do with the building?
 - Quick-he doesn't know but at one point he wanted to expand but thinks he plans to use as storage. Priority is to get the blight done.

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o Webster-one of the original requirements was that it not be used as storage. Stroud-guard rails coming down from Blackman; has spoke with Roy about obtaining one to put at the side of the building so no one can hit the building. They were to be scrapped; no need once the road is widened.

- Quick-he has room cause the easement is 5 feet. That is a good idea.
- DeLoach-Johnson; do we have some from the well?
 - o Johnson-Roy can have them when ever he wants.

Old Business: NA

Public Comments:

- Wellehan-thank you to everyone for all their help.
- Quick-thank you for staying for the whole meeting.
- Wellehan-interested in being part of the community and growing together.
- Quick-welcome when you are ready; could possible join one of our committees.

Council Comment.

Webster-explanation to Wellehan. If you come in a listen to a Council meeting it seems things happen quickly, but all the work is done through the committees so when come to Council they can present recommendations.

- Wellehan-can tell we are very synchronized, work well together. Also, has received feedback from Engineers and Addicts very pleased with working with Village. Easier to get things accomplished.

Gritter-good to see Christensen back.

- Quick-has had good feedback from residents. Some complaints regarding office opening up.

Lorenzo-daughter is now 5, son just turned 3 and baby is now 5 months old. It goes by fast.

Quick-call for motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion by Webster

2nd by Gritter

Regular Session adjourned at 8:23 PM

Respectfully submitted:


Becky Everhart, Clerk

Attest:


David Quick, President