



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
August 11, 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; David Deloach, Trustee
- **Absent:** Phil Glennie, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee
- **Also Present:** Amy Cordes, Village Manager; Kim Thompson, Finance Manager; Chief Cordes; Brian Johnson, DPW Manager; Donna Spenner, Township Supervisor; Rich Glista, Cannabis Administrator; William Featherstone, LTES Chief; Mike Chappell, Van Buren County Commissioner

Additions to Agenda:

- None

Conflicts of Interest:

- None

Approval of Prior Council Minutes Month Prior:

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach
All Aye. Motions Carried.

Approval of Prior Council Minutes Month Prior:

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

Finance Manager Report-Kim Thompson:

- The budget was amended to include the new fund established for the CDBG Grant.
- \$600,000 from the Water fund and \$100,000 from the Sewer fund will be placed into a three-month CD at Sturgis Bank.

Approval of Bills Month Prior:

- Amendment to add \$7,000.00 to the Municipal fund for tree trimming work and change the amount of the distribution from the Municipal fund to the Major and Local Street funds.



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Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Lorenzo to approve budget amendment to add \$7,000.00 to Municipal fund for tree trimming.

Rollcall:

Aye: Gritter, Crandall, Lorenzo, Deloach

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Addition of \$5,200.00 invoice for tree trimming as a result of recent storms.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to approve payment for \$5,200.00 for tree trimming.

Rollcall:

Aye: Deloach, Crandall, Lorenzo, Gritter

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Budget amendment to include \$87,100.00 to 482 Admin Expense cost center for project expenditure; add \$87,100.00 to project reimbursement.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to approve budget amendment to add \$87,100.00 to 482 project expenditures.

Rollcall:

Aye: Deloach, Gritter, Crandall, Lorenzo

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Addition of Duke's invoice for \$87,026.50 for lead service line inspection work. Once paid it will be submitted to the State for reimbursement.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach to approve payment of \$87,026.50 for Duke's lead service line inspection work.

Rollcall:

Aye: Lorenzo, Gritter, Crandall, Deloach

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to approve the bills as presented.

Rollcall:

Aye: Gritter, Crandall, Deloach, Lorenzo

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

Presentations & Guests:



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Van Buren County Commissioner: Mike Chappell

- The Board considered and advanced a proclamation honoring James and Gayle Crandall for their lifelong dedication and economic contributions to the Village of Lawrence, culmination ~~g~~n the naming of the James and Gayle Crandall Pavilion.
- The Specialty Court-Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration Grant supports the Van Buren County Mental Health Court program and provides funding for the retention of key staff. This is a five-year funding opportunity with an award amount of up to \$400,000.00 annually.
- The Board approved the request to upgrade the mobile radios to comply with FBI encryption standards for CJIS compliance.
- The Board approved the Parks Grant application today and it should be available shortly.

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Both the Senior Millage and the Road Millage passed last week's election. Both are for six years with the Senior Millage generating roughly \$88,000.00 per year and the Road Millage generating roughly \$353,000.00 per year for local roads.
- There is a joint venture with the Township and the school on creating a new youth rec program. The board will have seven members, made up mostly of parents, and include Township spokesperson, Tom Reynnells.
- Two of the three Council seats up for reappointment have submitted their intent to run. The deadline has passed and write-ins must contact the County Clerk to declare their intent.
- There will be a Zoning Re-write Public Hearing on August 25th at 5 pm at the Township Hall. The Township received a grant through MSHDA to redo the zoning. This meeting will be an opportunity for the public to give their input.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services: Bill Featherstone

- 49 calls for the month of July, 16 of those were in the Village. Yearly total is 330 calls.
- Chief has started yearly maintenance on the vehicles.
- Held a driver's training with the QR last month and did a lot of tours of facilities.
- The department submitted their AFG grant. It is open through the end of this month, and they likely won't hear back for a few months.
- The department will be doing their physicals at the end of the month, and Chief has received two resignations from the department.

Cannabis Administrator: Rich Glista

- True Leaf is up to date on payments for their licenses. They will not be renewing their processing license though.
- Myndset has not paid their licensing fees yet. Rich presented the idea of placing their license in a suspended status until payment is received.



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Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Lorenzo to place the two (2) Village Cannabis Growing licenses held by Myndset Herbs LLC into suspended status until payment is received from them for past due license fees in the amount of \$15,000.00.

Rollcall:

Aye: Lorenzo, Deloach, Gritter, Crandall

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Revision of Marijuana Ordinances is still in process with the intent is to remove redundant language and simplify the ordinances by aligning them with State regulations. Several revision requests were made by True Leaf and would need to go before the Planning Commission.

Reports:

President's Report:

- No Report

Clerk's Report:

- No Report

Village Manager:

- Update on Drain Petition to make Council aware that there is no procedure to stop the process for property owners or municipalities once/if the Board of Determination approves the necessity of the petition.
- Presented Renewal for Cannabis Administrator Agreement that allows for agreement to auto-renew with termination by either party with 30-days written notice.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to approve Renewal Agreement for Cannabis Administrator with auto-renewal and termination by either party with 30-days written notice.

Rollcall:

Aye: Deloach, Lorenzo, Crandall, Gritter

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Presented Resolution for the Lighted Truck Parade on December 12, 2026, with same provision regarding 25 mph through the Village as last year.
Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Deloach to support the Red Arrow Convoy Lighted Semi Truck Parade.
All Aye. Motions carried.

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Lorenzo to authorize Amy for Lighted Truck Parade approvals for Christmas in the Village and Ox Roast Celebrations.

All Aye. Motions Carried.



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- Update on Crossing Guard hiring process. Four applications were submitted, four were interviewed, and two were viable candidates. One candidate contacted was busy and needed a call later. Manager Cordes left a message and received no return call. A second candidate was contacted and declined the offer. Lawrence Public Schools has been contacted by Chief Cordes to update them to the status for the start of the year.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach to increase the wage for the crossing guard position from \$13.73 to \$15.00 per hour.

Rollcall:

Aye: Gritter, Crandall, Lorenzo, Deloach

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

Police Department:

- Chief's full-time day will be Wednesday, August 12. He will transition to one day a week interim hours for a limited time while we search for a new Chief.

- Presented the C-Comm estimate to update the police radios of \$4,127.80.

Motion Deloach, 2nd by Crandall to amend the Police budget to add \$4,200.00 to repairs and maintenance line item.

Rollcall:

Aye: Gritter, Lorenzo, Crandall, Deloach

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

Community Development:

- Halloween is Saturday, October 31st. Trunk or treat will be the same as last year. They will check with the library for a late afternoon event with costume contest, perhaps around 4 pm, prior to trick or treating.
- A new tree will be purchased and planted in the center fountain for Christmas in the Village. Christmas in the Village date set for Saturday, December 5th. The Lighted Truck Parade is on Saturday, December 12th.
- Music in the Park is ongoing. Discussion on moving it to noon on Saturdays during Farmer's Market.

DDA:

- Discussed changes to the remaining surplus based on the fiscal years 2022 and 2023 final audits. Thompson presented the modified budget to the DDA as well.
- Capital Projects and Budgeted Amounts:
 - Bathrooms: \$15,000.00
 - Sidewalks: \$25,000.00
 - Pickleball: \$75,000.00
 - Old Town Hall HVAC: \$30,000.00



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- Asphalt work on Elizabeth had not yet been factored into the budget.
- Park Playground Project: \$75,000.00
- Thompson met with Roy, who is actively selling the bar and does not want to continue prior plans related to the Orr Building. The DDA recommendation is to sell the building as is.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Lorenzo to offer demolition of the Orr building as an option for the purchase agreement.

Rollcall:

Aye: Deloach, Lorenzo, Gritter, Crandall

Nay: None

All Aye. Motions carried.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach to sell Orr building as is with demolition allowed.

Rollcall: Crandall, Lorenzo, Gritter, Deloach

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- Proposal received from Abonmarche for Park Playground Project Professional services.
Motion to approve Abonmarche proposal for professional services for continuation of work on Park Playground Project that deviates from policy due to existing relationship on project by Crandall, 2nd Deloach.
Rollcall: Gritter, Deloach, Lorenzo, Crandall
Nay: None
All Aye. Motions carried.

LDFA:

- No Report; Next meeting on August 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel:

- No Report

Planning Commission:

- Holding a Public Hearing on Short-Term Rental Ordinance on Monday, August 24th at 6:00 p.m. prior to Planning Commission meeting.
- Next focus for Planning Commission will be the topic of data centers.

Public Services/DPW:

- Brian voiced his appreciation on being able to hire two part-time DPW to help get caught up on mowing.
- Waiting on EGLE Lagoon (sewer) inspection results.
- New DPW hire, Ryan Downs, is doing well in his first week.



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- Truck n Trailer picked up our Western Star and as of now it is still on track to be completed by the end of November.

Citizen Police Committee:

- Meetings scheduled upon request.

ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach to go into closed session to discuss Village purchase of property.
All Aye. Motions carried.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Council Comment:

- None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Deloach
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Amy Cordes, Village Manager

 9-8-2026
John Gritter, Village President