



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
April 14, 2026

Call to Order: The Regular Common Council Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Gritter

Roll Call:

- **Present:** John Gritter, President; Annette Crandall, Trustee; David Deloach, Trustee; Phil Glennie, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee
- **Absent:** Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee
- **Also Present:** Brian Johnson, Amy Cordes, Kim Thompson, Greg Cordes, Donna Spenner, Mike Chappell, Rich Glista, Jeff Moses

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.

Finance Manager Report-Kim Thompson:

- 2023–2024 bank reconciliations paused while reconciling tax fund to GL; last balanced tax fund in 2020, now figured through end of 2023 (audit boundary).
- Journal entries and revised trial balances to be prepared for auditors; fieldwork is expected early next week with audit completion targeted by end of April.
- Thompson presented a revised General Appropriation Act (Budget) Resolution adding public hearing language and correcting Township terms and/or typos. Amendment added to include language stating expenditures deemed necessary as immediate health and safety emergencies for the public may exceed the \$4,000.00 required approval threshold.
Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach to approve the General Appropriation Act (Budget) Resolution as amended.

Rollcall:

Aye: Deloach, Gritter, Glennie, Rowlee, Crandall

Nay: None

Absent: Lorenzo



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All Aye. Motions carried.

- Michigan Treasury recommended adopting a Fund Balance Policy. Thompson presented a draft which is to be reviewed at a future date.
- Special Permits funds have the means to transfer funds to the police department for the previously approved \$75,000.00 for a new police vehicle. The estimated total for purchase and to equip a new Police vehicle is \$90,000.00. Upon approval, Thompson will complete the transfer to allow for payment and possession of the vehicle.

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Rowlee to approve transfer of \$90,000.00 from the Marijuana Special Permits Fund to the Police Fund for the police vehicle.

Rollcall:

Aye: Gritter, Rowlee, Deloach, Glennie, Crandall

Nay: None

Absent: Lorenzo

All Aye. Motions carried.

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances Month Prior:

Motion by Glennie, 2nd by Crandall

Rollcall:

Aye: Rowlee, Deloach, Crandall, Gritter, Glennie

Nay:

Absent: Lorenzo

All Aye. Motions carried.

Presentations & Guests:

Van Buren County Commissioner: Mike Chappell

- Board approved a request to submit a \$1,000,000.00 federal grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Funding will be used to support and strengthen the Swift and Sure Probation Program, an evidence-based alternative for individuals at significant risk of incarceration.
- Board approved the acceptance of a Congressionally Directed Spending grant in the amount of \$576,000.00 to acquire Rapid DNA technology.
- Board approved the 2026 PC Refresh purchase in an amount up to \$55,000.00 for 33 desktop PCs and 14 laptops. Additionally, the Board moved forward with a five-year copier lease renewal through Applied Innovations to replace nine existing copiers with new models.
- Van Buren County Parks meeting was today, and grant applications were discussed. There is an initial draft, and the Village is up on the list. The application will be finalized at the next meeting and then they will start sending out the applications.

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Dump passes are available at the Township for residents to use during the month of April. There will be a second opportunity in August.



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- Township Board will be meeting with several members from the Van Buren District Library Board to have an open discussion of the contract. The Village and Township sent a joint letter requesting the Village be removed from the library contract language.
- Township has partnered with Van Buren County jail crew to clean up disposed tires from roadways. They have already removed one load of tires and will make several more trips.
- Township can now submit for the Renewable Energy grant now that the solar panels are on site.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services: Bill Featherstone

- Not present

Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent: Ryan Williamson

- Not present; report provided including:
 - VanBuren Football Co-Op Update:
 - Students at both schools participated in multiple surveys and ultimately selected Vipers as the team's name (Van Buren Vipers)
 - Lawrence and Bangor combined to hire Ryan Casey as the Head Football Coach
 - The schedule is set and both schools will have 2 to 3 home games each (Homecoming and Senior Night)
 - VB Applied Skills Hub Update:
 - As a result of VBISD closing their Special Education Career Readiness Program, LPS is replacing the program and offering the new Applied Skills Hub to county schools.
 - The program will focus on 6 areas of transition: Daily Living & Personal Management, Health and Wellness, Community Navigation & Safety, Financial Literacy, Workplace Readiness, Social Skills & Self-Advocacy.

Lawrence Township Grant Coordinator: Matt Sanborn

- Not present; report given by Spenner
- There will be a joint public meeting between the Village and Lawrence Township regarding the CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation Program on May 6, 2026, at 5:30 pm at the Township Hall. While it is a joint meeting, the program is being run individually by each the Village and the Township.

Cannabis Administrator: Rich Glista

- Glista was contacted by Golden Greens and notified that their last day will be the last day of April. There is someone who is interested in purchasing their license and transferring it into their name. Glista presented a draft transfer application of a cannabis license with \$450 application fee for Council approval.

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Glennie to adopt the Village of Lawrence Cannabis Facility License transfer application with \$450.00 application fee with corrections.

Rollcall:

Aye: Crandall, Glennie, Deloach, Gritter, Rowlee



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Nay: None
Absent: Lorenzo

Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Rowlee to approve the transfer of the license from Golden Greens to Good Nature Cannabis Company LLC.
All Aye. Motions carried.

Reports:

President's Report:

- No Report

Clerk's Report:

- No Report

Village Manager:

- Manager Cordes presented the Memorandum of Understanding for the County GIS Addressing system.
Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie to approve signing of the Addressing Service Agreement.
All Aye. Motions carried.
- Native Landscapes provided an update and next steps for the invasive species treatment plan, which included assessment of 2025 treatment, mowing of treated areas, and a follow-up chemical treatment in the fall of 2026.
- Manager Cordes presented the Zoning and Ordinance Summary which shows how the case loads are trending. We tend to see an uptick in cases in the spring and summer, while work starts to decline in the fall and winter. Several ordinances will be brought to Planning Commission for review.
- CDBG update provided the reiterates what Spenner reported for the Township. The joint meeting will be held May 6th and there will be several in-house opportunities for residents to receive help with filling out applications.
- Manager Cordes presented the 2026 Water and Sewer Rate Increase Resolution.
Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Crandall to approve the 2026 Water and Sewer Rate Increase Resolution.
Rollcall:
Aye: Gritter, Glennie, Crandall, Deloach, Rowlee
Nay: None
Absent: Lorenzo
All Aye. Motions carried.

Police Department:

- Presented calls for service breakdown.



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- CJIS IT Audit is now complete; touchpoint items that were identified have been remedied.
- Total cost of the vehicle is \$87,911.51 (\$52,807 for the vehicle, \$34,319.51 to equip, and \$785 for the wrap).

Motion by Glennie, 2nd by Crandall to approve the amended police car amount of \$87,911.51.

Rollcall:

Aye: Glennie, Gritter, Deloach, Crandall, Rowlee

Nay: None

Absent: Lorenzo

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Chief Cordes presented examples of the police policies and procedures manual that will be kept electronically.

Motion by Glennie, 2nd by Gritter to approve the Lawrence Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual.

All Aye. Motions carried.

Community Development:

- No meeting.
- Glennie has Music in the Park three-quarters booked.

DDA:

- DDA minutes amended to correct a dollar amount.
- Jan is working with the new Farmer's Market manager to bring him up to speed.
- Postcards will be going out to highlight opportunities with the Façade grant and the CDBG grant.
- Hitching posts will be installed both behind the Village Hall and the green space (NE triangle) by the park for horse and buggy parking.
- Next meeting is Wednesday, April 22 at 5:30 PM.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- Focusing on fundraising and signs to track fundraising amounts. Goal is to have signs installed late spring/early summer.

LDFA:

- No Report; next meeting Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

Personnel:

- No Report

Planning Commission:



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- Master Plan final review continued. Work on it will pick up again after ordinance review work is complete.

Public Services/DPW:

- The signs for the pavilions will be installed during recognition ceremonies, dates to be determined.
- Brian and Andrew from Wightman Engineering met to go over service line inspections and fill out the next portion of the paperwork for grand money for service line replacements.
- The Conference Center booked May 11th at 5:30 pm for our North Paw Paw Street project. This will be in the paper, and we will also be mailing letters to our North Paw Paw Street residence.
- Update: As of 4/8/26, Pickleball Court concrete has all been poured. While they are doing the concrete they will help us put the new flagpole in. Flagpole base has been installed.
- LPD and LTES helped clear downed trees after the last round of storms. Tree removal from last year continues and there are several additional trees that have come to the attention of DPW that need to be removed. Quotes for those removals come to approximately \$6,800 in addition to the current \$16,000.

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Rowlee to approve the additional \$6,800 for tree removals from the Municipal Fund.

Rollcall:

Aye: Crandall, Deloach, Glennie, Rowlee, Gritter

Nay: None

Absent: Lorenzo

All Aye. Motions carried.

- Our electrician will be getting us a small generator and installing a plug-in bypass for the main four lights. When the power goes out, we will run the generator at the main four for the traffic lights instead of putting up the stop signs.
- The waste site is now open in the mornings and close at night. John has been using the backhoe to move everything around for us and to keep the compost pile turned over and usable. Again, if anyone would like some compost or woodchips please take advantage of it.
- Discussion on ditching out a portion of N. Paw Paw has been tabled until after the Public Hearing on the N. Paw Road project in the event the issue is addressed at that time.
- Johnson will attend the Planning Commission meeting on the 27th to provide insight on how it will impact DPW.
- Discussion on additional woodchips for the park playground tabled while they attempt to refresh the existing woodchips, as well as get input from Lorenzo.
- Request made to schedule a meeting with the County Drain Commission to discuss the issues with the drains in Lawrence. Manager Cordes will reach out to the Drain Commission.

Citizen Police Committee:

- Meetings scheduled upon request.



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ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Council Comment:

- Crandall requested the process to report residents burning trash in the evening when there is not an officer on duty. Spenner suggested calling the non-emergency phone number for the fire department to initiate contact with the resident in question.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Glennie
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Cordes, Village Manager

John Gritter, Village President