



Village of Lawrence  
157 N. Paw Paw St.  
Lawrence, MI 49064  
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004  
[www.lawrencemi.org](http://www.lawrencemi.org)



**Village of Lawrence Planning Commission Meeting**  
**157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064**  
**November 24, 2025**

**Call to Order:** The Planning Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

- **Present:** Ryan Ransom, Mike Carpp, John Gritter, Annette Crandall, Skylar Closson, Amy Cordes (Ad Hoc)
- **Absent:** None

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Crandall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gritter  
All Aye. Motions Carried.

**Zoning Report-Amy Cordes:**

Consistent process and steady pressure are yielding results on several properties regarding blight. The shed was removed from the property on S. Exchange, the hot tub was moved off the trailer and installed, and the additional trailers are also no longer on the property. The property on Main Street began the process of following the items listed in the letter they received from the Ordinance Officer without further contact needed. A building inspection was scheduled to take place the morning of November 24, 2025, and Cordes will follow up on the findings of the inspection. It has been noted that the next steps will be determined by what the inspection report yields relative to the support that the Village is able to offer to the residents and their family. Cordes will follow up with 205 W. St. Joseph to see what progress has been made. There were issues with Safebuilt and getting the permits issued in a timely manner, however, if the permits expire the property owner will need to restart the process with our current company, Michigan Code Inspection. 111 E. St. Joseph has permits for the roof, however, running into an issue with an attachment from the adjacent building that is interfering with the area of work. Attempts to contact the adjacent property owners have gone unanswered and a civil matter vs building inspection matter. Keeping an eye on 125/127 S. Paw Paw as there are allegedly new owners. New owners came to change water account into their names but did not have the Property Transfer Affidavit or driver's license with them to do so. They were supposed to come back but have not done so yet and it has been roughly two weeks. Unsure if any of the work they are doing requires permits currently but keeping an eye out in case it comes to that point.

**Projects and News:**

**Railroad Development Update-** The project has a guaranteed grant of approximately <sup>\$5</sup>~~\$10~~ million (federal and state) initiated under the Trump administration. Construction is set to begin next spring.

- Phase 1: Replace 5.9 miles of rail from the CSX line toward the village, with some existing rail dating back to 1902.
- Phase 2: Bring the rail to Blackman Street.



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- Phase 3: Extend the rail over Brush Creek to Lake Cora. The project manager is aware of potential eminent domain issues but states the railroad has the right-of-way.
- Logistics and Impact: The increased rail traffic could cause significant delays for ISD buses which already slow down for the rail crossing without rail traffic.
- Crossings and Responsibility: The group discussed the potential impact of the railroad project on the Safe Routes to School plan. The current plan follows S.Paw Paw to St. Joe, not the rail line, so the impact should be minimal. An email was sent to begin the "Safe Routes" conversation, which needs to be addressed in February. A concern was raised about using grant money for ADA-compliant crossings that could be damaged by railroad work. It was noted that while the local entity is responsible for repairs within the railroad right-of-way, the railroad must grant permission for any work.

**New Business and Economic Development-**

- Potential Pickle Processing Facility: Michael with Fruitbelt expressed interest in opening a facility. He inquired about the Martin parcel on the Village limits and Cordes had not heard back from him in roughly a month. He has since been in contact with Annette and was initially interested in Lot 11 in the industrial park but was informed it is off the market. Alternative sites in the industrial park and a 13-acre parcel were suggested as better fits that would avoid long utility runs. The group discussed the potential need for the facility to pre-treat its wastewater to manage salt and pH levels.

**Continue Master Plan Final Review:**

Cordes is continuing to work on Master Plan revisions as time allows. She will look at the Township Master Plan to see how the Village can tie into it. The group agreed that the current Village Master Plan is outdated and has a great many items that can be removed as they are either no longer in line with the Village's plans or already being implemented.

The Planning Commission will not meet in December and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Motion by Crandall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Closson  
All Aye, Motion Carried.  
Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted:**

  
Annette Crandall, Secretary

  
Date