



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 9, 2024

Call to Order: The Regular Common Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by President Gritter

Roll Call:

- **Present:** John Gritter, President; David Deloach, Trustee; Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee; Annette Crandall, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee; Klass Maring, Trustee
- **Absent:** Phil Glennie, Trustee
- **Also Present:** Theresa Stroud, Village Manager; Paul Bianco, Police Chief; Mike Chappell, County Commissioner; Donna Spenner, Township Supervisor, Mike Anchor-Fire Chief; Ruth and Glenn Cowles, school board members; Chris Wright

Additions to Agenda: None

Conflicts of Interest: None

Approval of Agenda Feb/Mar:

Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall
All Aye. Motion Carried.

Approval of Prior Council Minutes, Public Hearing Minutes, Special Council Minutes Feb/March:

Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall
All Aye. Motion Carried.

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances Feb/March:

Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall
All Aye. Motion Carried.

Presentations & Guests:

Van Buren County Commissioner: Mike Chappell

- Not Present

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Dump Passes started last week of March and took effect first week of April with a great response.
- Invited Kolbie Singleton to pick up dump passes for residents who could use his services in removing dump items to help blight issues.



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- Have reserved the month of September with the dump dependent on how numbers for April come back.
- Millage for Concession Stand/Restroom/Storage Area at the Tiger's Den; Proposing Millage language at Thursday, April 11 meeting for 0.5 mil to cover Youth Rec Program. Would be for 3 years and bring in approximately \$72,000 year 1, \$75,000 year 2, and \$77,000 year 3.
- Applied for grant with Consumer's Energy for lighting at Tiger's Den but did not get that grant this year.
- Joint application for grant.
- Joint Meeting scheduled; 3rd week of May proposed.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services: Mike Anchor

- Call volume up about 10% from last year, medical calls are down, fire calls are up.
- Fireman statue up in the cemetery.
- Firefighter Auxiliary Breakfast and fundraisers will give all proceeds towards the cemetery memorial.
- \$20k grant for Firefighter Safety Equipment for Michigan will be put towards Air Paks that were already purchased. Also able to purchase new AEDs.
- ISO went down to a 4; 50 % Fire Department, 40% Water, 5% Communication (911), 5% Community Action Planning (fire inspections, flow testing of fire hydrants, etc).
- Mule all setup
- 99k gallons used at the Hilltop fire; billed the insurance company for that.
- Will be focusing on electric vehicles this summer; three trainings for emergency procedures involving electric vehicles.

Reports:

President's Report:

- Recognized Officer Dorr for talking down suicidal suspect and transport them to the hospital.
- New meeting time for Council
- Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Crandall. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Clerk's Report:

- No report

Village Manager:

- Fee Schedule-Add Illegal Dumping under Civil Infractions; Proposing initial fee is \$250 plus any additional cost of cleanup.
- Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach. Aye-Maring, Rowlee, Deloach, Crandall, Gritter, Lorenzo. Motion Carried.
- EGLE Meeting Thursday, March 18th at 6:30 PM at the ISD Conference Center.



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- Fee Schedule- Land Division; Remove fee for Land Division Request.
- Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach. All Aye. Motion carried.
- Housing-Joint Township/Village Grant Application for \$50,000 to have a Marketing Study done that can then be given out to developers. Lisa Ransler, County Community Services Director, will help with Grant Application.

Police Department:

- Report Attached
- State Police Dive Team out to help look for gun from suicidal suspect that was thrown in the river; submitted a case under the new Red Flag law, petition that allows guns to be removed if the person is a danger to themselves or others, determined by the court. Also flags them from future gun purchases.
- Citizen's Police Committee meeting May 21st at 6:30 PM.

Community Development:

- No Report. Easter egg hunt was Saturday, welcome presentation to Soule Farms Sweets. Discussion on having community fireworks at the school Labor Day weekend and then transition to 4th of July Fireworks in 2025. The Committee liked this idea. Will discuss with Phil when he returns. LPS Superintendent in favor of this to bring the community together.

DDA:

- Report Attached
- Jan and Anne are progressing on a market manager transition plan.
- Committee revised current façade grant programs; details in report.
- The Committee received a Wayfinding proposal from Valley City Sign. Committee consensus was to approve the concept, however, ultimately leave approval of the concept to Village Council.
- Panel and breakers replaced near Cook/Ellis building due to severe interior water damage.
- (6) Picnic tables for park purchased from Meyer Wood Products at \$219 each; (6) permanent steel benches approved for park not to exceed \$6,000; Remembrance tags for benches can be allowed for \$500 donation.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- Reached out to John Guillean at the school-haven't seen him in a few months; would like to have a school representative.
- Inquired about onboarding a new committee member.
- Joelle from Abon Marche was at the meeting. Recommended going for the Land/Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport. Plan is to submit application January 1st to be one of the first in for 2025. Forward documents from SPARK Grant application to Joelle to help her with scope of the project. MEDC also has Grant opportunities.

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- Chris Harrington from Scout Group would like to find new areas for his scouts to camp. Inquired about the Tiger's Den when it's not in use; received approval for that.

LDFA:

- No Report

Personnel:

- No Report

Planning Commission:

- Tidied up some loose ends at the Public Hearing; most up to date copy of Zoning rewrite on Council Share Point.

Public Services/DPW:

- Andrew from Wightman went over Water Reliability Study and grant for investigation of the lines; few more questions before the grant can be drafted.
- Flooding around the park needs to be addressed; use a pump to pull most of the water and then turn pump off and let it dry out.
- Backhoe in shop in Kalamazoo; could be three weeks or longer for it to be ready.
- Michigan and James St. ditching projects.
- Street signage for Second and W. St. Joe; Second and James; Brian needs to order those.
- DPW will start mowing around the pond by Crandall Parkway; will also start mowing empty lot next to DeHaven's.

Citizen Police Committee:

- Next meeting is May 21st at 6:30 PM

ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Public Comment: Ruth Cowles

- West Michigan Education Research and Development Foundation will oversee and help navigate the search for the new superintendent.
- New Reading and Writing Program at the Elementary as part of a \$50k Grant.



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- The new Principal at the high school is doing well. 3 staff from ISD came and observed students and noted 90% of students were focused, on task or attempting to focus on task.

Council Comment:

- None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Crandall
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Theresa Stroud, Village Manager


John Gritter, Village President