



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
September 10, 2024

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; David Deloach, Trustee; Alicia Lorenzo, Trustee; Phil Glennie, Trustee; Chuck Rowlee, Trustee
- **Absent:** None
- **Also Present:** Donna Spenner, Township Supervisor; Ryan Williamson, Superintendent; Garden Club representative; Emily Hickmott, Van Buren County Conservation District; Hudson Neer, Resident

Additions to Agenda:

- None

Conflicts of Interest:

- None

Approval of Agenda Month:

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

Approval of Prior Council Minutes Month Prior:

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

Approval of Bills & Review of Bank Balances Month Prior:

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

Presentations & Guests:

- Garden Club-Hosting a Fall Fest with Food Truck October 5th to coincide with the last Farmer's Market. Requesting approval for a Food Truck vendor to provide food options at event.
Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Deloach.
All Aye. Motions Carried.



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Van Buren County Commissioner: Mike Chappell

- Not Present

Lawrence Township: Donna Spenner

- Hired a new Fire Chief, Steven Richardson. Officially starts September 16th but has already started and attended a Fireman's Training in Mount Pleasant today.
- Chuck Carpp Retirement Presentation 5:30 pm Thursday, September 19th.
- Safebuilt will not be at the Township office for the remainder of the week and next week. They are still looking for a Permit Tech. Pay is \$18.50/hour, full benefits and retirement.
- MEC called and is looking for Community Service Day projects. Recommended Tiger's Den and Village Park for potential project sites.
- Housing Committee moving forward with McKenna Grant-second round; Did not get 1st round because they were missing the Redevelopment Ready. 3rd round should be done by October 1st.
- Senior Lunches are holding steady. Lots of activities still planned for this fall.
- Joint Meeting on September 17th at 6:00 pm at the Township Hall.

Lawrence Public Schools: Ryan Williamson, Superintendent

- Already essentially on an external lockdown as doors are locked and you need to be buzzed in by staff. Classroom doors are locked. All staff are trained yearly, safety doors added to elementary and Jr high.
- Ok to Say: App that allows students to anonymously report potential threats, utilize Go Guardian-software program on computers that helps monitor and filter content being accessed.
- Re-evaluation of pick-up/drop-off process. Hoping to get Mr. Kirk from the ISD, Chief Bianco, LPD, Brian, or a representative from Council, and representative from the school together to re-evaluate the process.
- Requesting Police or EMT at fall home events in light of issues from last year with certain schools.
- Received a phone call from Officer Suarez from Sheriff's Department inquiring about an SRO. Would be interested if they could partner with the Tech Center as there are budget constraints.
- Enrollment Data: Had approximately 40 students exit the school district this year; 32 of the 40 families that left physically left Lawrence. Had approximately 30 families move into the district.
- Removal of crossing guard shack. Ordered a 4' x 6' container to store Ron's items that will be housed up by the building. Gave Ron an ID card for the school so he has access during certain times.

Van Buren Conservation District: Emily Hickmott

- Last Recycle Roundup will be at the ISD Saturday, October 19th 9 am-2 pm.
- Out treating invasive plant species in right of ways and drains. Can investigate options to treat invasive plants by Crandall Business Park.
- Macro-sampling on Sunday, October 6th; volunteers fish insects out of local rivers and inventory; tells how healthy streams and rivers are looking.



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- Future Farming-On Conservation District's website

Lawrence Township Emergency Services:

- Not Present

Reports:

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President's Report:

- Removal of John Wellehan from Planning Commission due to lack of attendance.
- Removal of Chris Siriano from Downtown Development Committee due to lack of attendance and poor standing with Village.

Clerk's Report:

- No Report

Village Manager:

- Financial Update: Column in data base that BS&A is working on; a fund is off \$80 and they're trying to fix the error; auditors will do a one-sided journal entry while error is being corrected.
- Blight Update: 312 E. James is not compliant; 120 Blackman has not responded to any notices to fix his porch; 322 Blackman has partially cleared but not completed so will be moving forward with process; 1000 Crandall Parkway was sent a notice regarding pallets in drive, removed pallets and no further action necessary; 3050 Crandall Parkway to move items out of right of way, no further action necessary; 265 Crandall Parkway sent final notice to move campers off their property; 301 Main to be posted as condemned 9/11/24; filed show cause for 110 W St. Joseph for not taking care of permits as directed.
- Resolution for Liquor License for Fruit Street Kitchen
Motion by Crandall, 2nd by Glennie.
All Aye. Motions Carried.
- Resident that fell in Village Park has submitted medical bills that she is requesting that the Village pay for. Have requested copy of EMS report, timeline of events, and other related documentation and not heard back yet. Notified attorney.
- Contacted Attorney regarding storefront retention pond in front of Dollar General that is not being maintained.
- Council Packets will now be going on Thursdays to ensure delivery prior to Council Meetings.

Police Department:

- Wrote 25 LPD incident reports during August including Fraud/Bad Checks, Driving Law Violation, Ordinance Violation, Civil Issues/Matter, EMS incidents, Sex Offense, Suspicious Situation, Damage to Property, Stolen Moped, Assist Other Department and General Assistance.



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- Assisted Ox Roast by providing police coverage on August 30th and 31st along with supplementation from the VBCS Reserve Deputies.
- Met the new Lawrence Fire Chief, Steve Richardson during Ox Roast.
- During August, LPD responded to 26 calls for service that originated from the Van Buren County 911 Dispatch Center. 18 police calls, 3 medical and 5 fire/rescue calls. MSP was dispatched to 5 calls (4 primary & 1 as back up to Lawrence PD or VBCS) and the VBCS was dispatched to 15 calls (10 primary and 5 as back up to Lawrence PD or MSP). Note: all calls that VBCS & MSP were primary are when LPD did not have an officer on duty (nights/weekends).
- Next Citizens Police Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

Community Development:

- Allocating funds to assist Fruit Street on purchasing a new AC unit; looking into options to protect investment via a potential deed restriction.
- Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday before Halloween, Saturday, October 26th; Trick or Treating will be held on Wednesday, October 31st.
- Christmas tree options-New Tree from Badger or an artificial tree that is put up and removed yearly. Purchasing a purple tiger ornament.
- Will not be using the Christmas cards in the park this year

DDA:

- No Meeting-Did not have a quorum; Next meeting Wednesday, September 25th at 5:30 PM.

Joint Parks & Recreation:

- No Meeting

LDFA:

- No Report

Personnel:

- No Report

Planning Commission:

- Reviewing general ordinance on keeping of animals at next meeting. Focus will be on general ordinances vs master plan for the time being.

Public Services/DPW:

- John brought up concerns about lights at railroad crossing on S. Paw Paw for school bus traffic.
- Brian had the tree removed from the park that was struck by lightning.
- Still looking for ways to get generators for the wells.
- Service line grant only had one company bid on it; bid came in under projected amount. Motion to award bid to Duke's Root Control.



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Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Crandall.

All Aye. Motions Carried.

- Mailed out notices to 55 residents so we can make appointments to go inside to take pictures of the water line coming into the house.
- Paw Paw St. Project is essentially done with sewer manhole covers and gravel left to do. We have a couple of areas that our engineers are looking at to fix.
- Storm drain project for Exchange St is just about finalized. We had a few problems with buried water, sewer, and electric at the park. Locations and some structures will be ordered. The maple tree in the southwest corner of the park will need to be taken down. Once all the roots are cut for the pipe it will kill the tree.

Motion by Glennie, 2nd by Deloach.

All Aye. Motions Carried.

- Brian is meeting with Greg Brooks in October to discuss what trucks they have and what our best options would be. They plan on having 6 trucks for sale.

Citizen Police Committee:

- Next meeting is Tuesday, November 19th at 6:30 PM.

ZBA:

- No Meeting Held.

New Business:

- Renewal for employee insurance. Cost is going up significantly (\$22, 659.12 between this year and next) but if we change plans, we lose coverage.

Motion to Approve Health Insurance Policy Renewal.

Motion by Lorenzo, 2nd by Crandall.

All Aye. Motions Carried.

Old Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- Hudson Neer, Resident-Update on progress eliminating beaver problem on E St. Joseph by bridge. Still working to schedule trapper to come on. Have reached out and not heard back.

Council Comment:

- None

Motion to go into Closed Session.

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Crandall.

All Aye. Motions Carried.



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Motion to Close Closed Session.
Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Rowlee.
All Aye. Motions Carried.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Deloach, 2nd by Glennie.
All Aye, Motion Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Theresa Stroud, Village Manager


John Gritter, Village President