Village *of* Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026
MINUTES

- **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the September 22, 2026, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

- **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Peterson, G. Dudek, Raber, Turner *Absent: E.* Dudek, Tanis *Also Present:* Clerk Garvison, and two guests.

- **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the September 22 Council Agenda, and the September 8, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with additions as presented with support from Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.

- **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
- **Citizen Comments:**
  - **A.** Mark Cichos inquired about the housing grant program through Market One.
- **Public Hearings/Appointments:** None.

- **Old Business:** None.
- **New Business:**
  - **A.** Van Buren County Road Commission Director, Bret Wiskowski was present to discuss the 72nd Ave paving project. Antwerp Township owns a portion of the roadway, while the village owns the remaining portion. Council discussed that there are currently no Village residents residing on this section of roadway and that the Village-owned portion has previously been determined to be undevelopable. Additional discussion took place regarding the condition and status of Van Buren County roads.
  - **B.** President Appleby discussed the AT&T lease and Todd's request to negotiate the proposed terms. Peterson made a motion with support from Turner to authorize Todd to negotiate with AT&T, provided that any negotiated amount is no less than the amount currently being offered to the Village. A voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
  - **C.** President Appleby presented the new Michigan Pool insurance rates to the council for approval for the 2027 insurance rates. The company is dropping the current plan that the Village employees currently have, and they have proposed an alternative plan that

has similar deductibles and slightly lower employee/employer costs. After discussion, Turner made a motion to approve the new insurance plan and rates with support from G. Dudek. A voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

D. President Appleby requested that the joint meeting of council and planning commission meeting be moved to the second meeting in November due to the Public Hearing that is set for October 6. Peterson made a motion to move the meeting to November 24, 2026 with support from Raber. A voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

E. A quote from Five Star Flags was presented by President Appleby in the amount of $4,375. This covers 25 streetscape flag mounting kits with the flags included. After discussion, Turner made a motion to approve the purchase of the 25 flag mounting kits with support from G. Dudek . A roll call vote with all in favor and none opposed was taken. Motion carried.

F. A quote from Asphalt Restoration was presented by President Appleby to repair various deteriorating sections of roadway on Railroad St. After discussion, Turner made a motion to approve the quote from Asphalt Restoration in the amount of $9,690 with support of Peterson. A roll call vote with all in favor and none opposed was taken. Motion carried.

G. A quote from JC and Sons Tree Service was presented by President Appleby for tree removal at the cemetery for two storm damaged trees. After discussion, Raber made a motion to approve the quote from JC and Sons Tree Service in the amount of $4,200 with support from Turner. A roll call vote with all in favor and none opposed was taken. Motion carried.

H. Council discussed increasing the Village's credit card limit from $5,000 to $15,000 due to the previously approved purchase of picnic tables in the amount of $8,085.60. President Appleby requested that the Village's credit card policy be presented at the next Council meeting for further review. After discussion, Peterson made a motion, with support from Turner, to authorize an increase in the credit card limit from $5,000 to $15,000 specifically for the purchase of the previously approved picnic tables. A roll call vote with all in favor and none opposed was taken. Motion carried.

- **Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:**

- **Council Comments:**

A. President Appleby reported that he and Todd have been working on an employee pay schedule, which will be presented to Council for review at a future meeting.

B. President Appleby stated that Council plans to meet with Lou Bender in the spring to discuss future priorities, including potential needs and committees Council may wish to establish.

C. President Appleby stated that additional information regarding the DPW facility will be presented at a future meeting.

D. G. Dudek reported receiving an email from Henry First regarding his interest in providing Christmas lights to the Village and that she was looking for feedback before she responds to him.
E. G. Dudek requested an update regarding the broken streetlight.
F. G. Dudek discussed the possibility of pursuing a grant for the playground structure. President Appleby also discussed the potential addition of trails in the future.
G. Council discussed the progress of the pickleball courts and the possibility of establishing a sign-up for residents interested in playing regularly.
H. Turner shared information regarding the potential demolition and reconstruction of the Consumers bank building due to reported structural concerns.

- **XII: Adjournment:** Turner made a motion, with support from G. Dudek, to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 8:09PM. Motion carried. The next regular council meeting will take place on October 13, 2026 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Rebekka Garvison
Village Clerk