Village *of* Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday September 8, 2026
MINUTES

I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the September 8th 2026, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Peterson, E. Dudek, G. Dudek, Raber, Turner, Tanis *Absent: Also Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Garvison, Police Chief Cordes, Library Director Tone, and seven guests.

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

IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the September 8th Council Agenda, the August 11th, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes, and disbursements in the amount of $185,097.10. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with support from Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.

V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**

VI. **Citizen Comments:** None.

VII. **Public Hearings/Appointments:**

- **A.** President Appleby called the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to order at 7:02PM.
- **B.** President Appleby opened the public hearing for Fence Height Variance for 423 E 2nd ST.
- **C.** The owner of the home provided information, stating the elevation of his home is high, and a higher fence would help provide privacy for both he and his neighbors.
- **D.** President Appleby opened the floor for public comment in regards to the Variance request. David Dudek, and Mark Cichos, residents of the community, both spoke to express support.
- **E.** Following discussion, E. Dudek made a motion to allow for the fence height variance for 423 E 2nd ST with support from Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- **F.** President Appleby closed the public hearing at 7:08PM.
- **G.** The ZBA Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

VIII. Regular Council meeting was reconvened at 7:09 PM.

IX. **Old Business:** None.

X. **New Business:**

- **A.** President Appleby brought a quote from Corey Price to clean the water tower in the amount of $24,250.00. After discussion Peterson made a motion, seconded by G. Dudek

to approve the quote. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.

B. President Appleby brought a quote from Outdoor Titans to purchase ten picnic tables for Reid's Corner to the floor for discussion. After discussion, Turner made a motion, seconded by E. Dudek to approve the quote from Outdoor Titans in the amount of $8,085.60, to be paid with Village funding. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

C. President Appleby brought 72nd Avenue chip seal to the floor for discussion. Hackenberg stated Antwerp Township and Van Buren County Road Commission want to chip seal their portion of 72nd Street, leaving a portion undone in between them. The Village Section is behind Honee bear Canning and the end of the road. If the village does nothing, there will be a gravel section in between to paved sections. This is currently the only gravel road left in Antwerp Township. President Appleby wanted to know how paving this road would benefit the Village taxpayers. Council would like to have more information on this prior to making a decision.

XI. Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:

A. Village Manager Hackenberg presented his manager's report. Hackenberg provided an update on the lift station, and stated the DPW is down an employee, and they will be posting for that position soon.

B. Clerk Garvison introduced herself to Village Council, as the new Village Clerk.

C. Police Chief Cordes stated he started back full time as the Lawton Chief on August 17th, he provided updates to council on police complaints and assists taken by village officers over the summer. Cordes also discussed the difference between E-Bike laws and Electric Dirt Bikes/Motorcycles.

D. Peterson reported the Planning Commission met they discussed a cell tower site plan. It would be 198 ft tall, which is under the 200ft limit. It will not need a light due to height, it will not have guidewires, and Planning Commission had a lot of questions. The site plan was not approved due to the amount of questions, and no one from the company being present. At the next Planning Commission meeting, there will be a public hearing, and a representative from Vertical Bridge will be present to answer questions. Peterson also provided updates on two other recently approved site plans.

E. G. Dudek reported that the DDA got the keys to the old Boy scout building at the park, and it hasn't been used in a long, long time. The DDA will be putting up Fall decorations in the Village September 19-20.

F. E. Dudek reported Fireboard met, and has nothing new to report.

G. Library Director Tone reported the tile work is done, and it looks amazing. Storytime will re-open this week.

XII. Council Comments:

A. Tanis asked for an update on the D. Coy Duck demolition. Hackenberg stated the demolition permit ends at the end of this month.

B. Tanis asked for an update on the Washington Street demolition.

XIII. **XII: Adjournment:** Turner with support from Tanis made a motion to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 7:59PM. Next regular council meeting to take place on September 22nd, 2026 at 7PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk