



## VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday October 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

*Village Hall* – 125 S. Main Street, Lawton MI 49065

[WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV](http://WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV) 269.624.6407

### MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** President Appleby called the October 26, 2021, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Present: President Appleby. Trustees: E. Dudek, N. Smith, G. Dudek, J. Peterson, and R. Turner. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Village Clerk Bell, and one other guest.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the October 26, 2021, Council Agenda, and the October 12, 2021, Council Meeting minutes. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, supported by Smith. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS:**
  - A. Jean Florian, Lawson Oil Company, has requested assistance from the Village on obtaining dependable Internet Service for the businesses within the Village. Discussion followed, Manager Imus has been in contact with Bloomingdale Communications, she will submit a request for Van Buren County ARPA funds to cover a feasibility study. This will be referred to the C&EDC committee.
  - B. Antwerp Township has informed the Village that they cannot separate a Senior Services dedicated millage between the Village and the Township, nor can it exclude the Village from the millage. Antwerp levies a .25 mil for Senior Services can no longer pass Village levied taxes back to the Village to pay to Van Buren Senior Services. It will, beginning immediately, be sent to the Antwerp Township Senior Services Program, which the Village of Lawton Seniors may participate in. Manager Imus will make sure this information will be shared with the Seniors that participate in the Van Buren Senior Services programs.
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** None.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS:** N. Smith made a motion to appoint Ryan Tanis to Village of Lawton Council for the unexpired term ending November 2022. Turner supported the motion. A

unanimous roll call vote was taken in support of the appointment. Tanis was then sworn in by Village Clerk Bell.

**VIII. EXISTING BUSINESS: None**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A.** E. Dudek made a motion to approve the Lawton Lions Club request to hold the annual Lion's Lighted Christmas Parade on Friday December 10, 2021, at 7:00 pm with support from Turner. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion.
- B.** N. Smith made a motion to approve a contract with Abonmarche LLC for a Facilities Analysis and Feasibility Study for the Lawton Village Hall Complex in the amount of \$14,925.00, with supported from G. Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote was taken to approve the motion.

**X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS**

**Village Manager Report** – The Summerfest Committee has volunteered to take over securing a tree, lights and decorating the Reid property for the holiday festivities.

Imus received notice from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) that the Village DPW petitioned to unionize. Imus has a conference call on Friday with MERC and the Union to hear more details.

The title has cleared, and the Village is scheduled to close on the Second Street House on Friday 10/30/21 at 9:00 am.

Imus shared that the Village is moving forward with a contract with Progressive A/E for the Master Plan.

Imus received an official letter from the Contractor for the Chip & Seal project stating they will not be able complete the project until spring, and Imus is working with MDOT to get the project carried over to spring of 2022.

Imus reports she has been contacted by an attorney representing White Oaks regarding their sale.

Imus also updated Council would like to have a public hearing on November 9<sup>th</sup> regarding an IFT (Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption) request. Welch's will not start the project until next year.

Imus gave an update regarding on water and sewer rates. DPW Superintendent Hackenberg and Imus met with Wightman and BakerTilly to review the updated CIP. Imus felt the water and sewer cost

included in the CIP were low and will worked with Paul Harvey from Wightman to get them updated. They will be meeting with BakerTilly soon to get a final estimate. A Water/Sewer Committee meeting will need to be scheduled to review this information.

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS: None**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Turner, supported by Smith, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. A voice vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is November 9, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk