

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

June 9,

2025

Attendees: Mayor: Ken James, Council: Eric Stein, Monte Evans, Mark May, Glen McSparran, Chris Foster, Jackie Knight comes at 7:18pm. Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present: Julie Dunn, Lonnie Robinson.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the May 12, 2025 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran - Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. Lonnie Robinson asked if anyone has heard gun shots coming from what he thinks would be around Laura Circle, he hears them usually in the afternoon.

Citizens Comments: 1. Julie Dunn of 104 Chestnut Street was present to let Council know of a hole in the street at her house, it appears the street is falling apart along the edge. Mr. James will look at it.

2. Lonnie Robinson of 302 Chestnut Street was present to ask Council for reimbursement for damage to his landscaping, caused by flushing the fire hydrants. Mr. Robinson went to the BOPA meeting to discuss this with the Board. They asked if he could get a quote for the replacement of the soil and mulch. Mr. Robinson has a quote for \$350.00 to repair the landscaping. Council discussed with Mr. Johnston our responsibilities and duties, Mr. Johnston noted if there was a way to resolve the problem, do it, He noted Council should ask themselves if Council doing the right thing, and is it the most cost efficient.

Mr. May asked where the right of way is on residents' properties. Mr. Johnston noted property owners usually own to the center of the road, but didn't think the right of way would go into the yard. Mr. Foster made a motion to pay Mr. Robinson \$350.00 for repairing the landscaping on his property, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Ms. Knight-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

3. Graden Filburn/ New House 505 Ludlow Street. Mr. James noted receiving a request from AES to bore an electric line through the Village property at the sewer plant, along the creek. Their easement would put a 5-7-foot lifetime easement on our property, running back to Mr. Filburn's property, nothing could be built on this easement. We have an outgoing drain pipe that dumps into the creek, which cannot be moved, the bore would have to go over or under this drain pipe. Council discussed, it would be hard to allow an easement that would prevent expansion or prevent us from doing what we need to do at the sewer plant. Mr. May noted that properties sometimes share strips of land, can we share the boring easement area with AES. Mr. Johnston said that would be something to discuss with AES. He can write a letter to AES, if we wish.

The BOPA had a question pertaining to where new sewer and water lines are placed for the construction of a new house. Mr. Johnston noted we were responsible to provide a sewer line and a water line to the edge of the new owner's property, not to where the house is being built. The Board had a question about possible further development around this new house being built and the possibility of sharing some of the future costs to provide services to other possible properties in the same area. Mr. Johnston state there are incentive agreements that can be formed to share the costs of providing new service to the area.

4. Choice One Engineering/Andy Shuman. Mr. Shuman was present to introduce himself and offer some information about Choice one and their ability to help with the engineering and grant aid for a new water tower. The following items were noted.

- It would take about 3-5 years to secure a grant for a new tower
- Currently a rough estimate of \$2,000,000 would be the cost of a new tower.
- The cost would include removing the current tower.
- Available grant opportunities, CDBG money would require an income survey or census data.
- EPA likes regionalization.

Mr. James asked about the costs for getting an estimate for a new tower, Mr. Shuman noted it would take a few hours to do. Ms. Slagle will send Mr. Shuman information about the size, location, etc. for a new water tower.

Solicitors Report: 1. 111 Pike Street/Burned House. No Report, the house should be scheduled for demolition this month.

2. 8 School Street. The house has been condemned.

3. Skymesh Contract. The contract has been agreed upon, with the minor changes suggested by Mr. Johnston.
4. 205 South Main Street. Ms. Slagle had sent a letter earlier requesting the property be cleaned up. Mr. James noted the property owner came into the Village building right before last Council meeting and told Mr. James the property was cleaned up. Mr. James said he looked at the property after the meeting, and it still had things that needed to be cleaned up and removed. Mr. James asked Mr. Johnston to send a letter to the property owner asking him to finish cleaning up the property, there were fence sections that were in the yard, a couch along the fence, and other items. Council discussed and decided to table sending a letter until after the town dumpster was here, giving the owner a chance to get rid of the items in the yard.

BOPA: Mr. May reported:

1. Back Up Generator. The Board is not opposed to Council asking Mote & Associates for a cost to date for their charges for a water tower. Mr. May made a motion to ask Mote for charges to date for work on a new water tower, Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Ms. Knight-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.
2. The Board would like to be able to have a credit card. Currently the Mayor and Clerk are the only ones with a card.

Old Business. 1. Porta-John. It is at the park
2. Speed Indicator Sign. No Report.

New Business. 1. Resignation/Eric Stein. Mr. Stein told Council he had a new job that was requiring more of his time. He is resigning from Council, and will send a letter of resignation.
2. Cat Population/ South end of Chestnut St. Ms. Knight noted there were a lot of stray/feral cats around her house. She asked if there was anything we could do about it. There isn't a good solution, take them to the Miami County Animal Shelter, or maybe contact the county to see if they have any suggestions.

Bills. Mr. May made a motion to pay the following bills, Mr. Stein seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$1423.76
Gretchen Slagle	444.87	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	90.00	Shipman Dixon	703.78
Twillio	6.57	Twillio	5.39
Wolf Property Services	670.00	Wolf Property Services	1090.00
Treasure of State UAN	762.00	Rumpke	145.65
Wertz	59.98	Wertz	5.98
Eric Stein	72.88	Monte Evans	109.32
Chris Foster	108.72	Jackie Knight	72.48
Mark May	109.32	Glen McSparran	108.72

Mr. Stein made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

