

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

August 14,

2025

Attendees: Mayor: Ken James, Council Members: Glen McSparran Jackie Knight, Chris Foster, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Absent- Monte Evans, Mark May. Others Present- Robert Presley, Dee Jones

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the July 14, 2025 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Knight seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. Mr. Presley asked the Deputy about a strong ether smell that he noticed as he turned onto Laura Circle from St. Rt. 571. He asked if some of the farming chemicals would produce that smell. The Deputy wasn't familiar with what odors were associated with farming equipment/chemicals.

2. Mr. James noted speed was an issue on St. Rt. 571 around the park. The Deputy stated he would check on the availability of the speed wagon.

Citizens Comments: 1. None.

Solicitors Report: 1. 111 Pike Street/Burned House. The remains of the house have been razed. Council discussed options for getting the rest of the property cleaned up, i.e., brush, tall weeds, etc. Mr. Johnston noted that the sister of the owner wasn't responsible for doing anything about the property, she was the executor of the will, not the owner. Mr. James will contact her to see what she had planned for the property.

2. 7 Pike Street. We have been contacted by a business who is looking for a place to manufacture ammunition. The owner wanted to know if the Village would be willing to change the zoning of this property to heavy industrial. We would have to look into what would need to be done to change the zoning, we don't have any heavy industrial listing. Mr. Johnston stated we would have to create a new category. Laura doesn't have an income tax, so there wouldn't be any additional revenue from any business, if they were to buy or rent the property. Council wouldn't mind hearing more about this business, we could invite them to come to Council meeting.

3. 205 South Main Street. Mr. Johnston sent a letter to the property owner, giving him 10 days to reply or clean up the property. That time frame hasn't been met yet. We'll look at the progress of the yard next meeting.

BOPA:

1. Back Up Generator. The generator hasn't been inspected yet. Calvin Electric is working on that. Pay App #2 has been sent to us.
2. Choice One. No Report
3. Potsdam Water/Joint Water Project. Council discussed the joint water district study and the option that Laura could possibly provide water to Potsdam. We don't know a lot about this, but Council would be willing to more discussion with Potsdam about their water problems. Ms. Knight made a motion to agree be open to further discussion with Potsdam, concerning providing water to them. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed.

Old Business. 1. Joint Water Regionalization Study/Project. Ms. Slagle sent email and hard copy letters to West Milton, Miami County Commissioners, and Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, saying Laura wasn't interested in the study or project. Jeff Sheridan replied to our email, noting they have not committed to anything. Council discussed whether another email should be sent to Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Foster asked if there would be anything gained by sending another letter, he wasn't sure there would be. Mr. James stated he thought our statement would show where we stood. Mr. McSparran thought we could reply with a final statement in response to Mr. Sheridan's email. Mr. James stated if Mr. McSparran wanted to write a letter and have Council review it next meeting, Council could decide then, if we would send the letter. Council discussed sending a letter to our state representatives, maybe invite them to our meeting.

2. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. Mr. James had various quotes for solar, electronic speed limit signs. Ms. Knight made a motion to purchase 3 signs, for \$1299.88 each, two for St. Rt. 571 and one for St. Rt. 721. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed. There is also a twelve percent discount for ordering 3 signs. This purchase will be paid from the State Highway Fund. The money in this fund can only be used on our state highways.

New Business. 1. Credit Card Limit. Our credit card has a \$2000.00 limit. The cost for the speed limit signs will exceed the card limit. Mr. Foster made a motion to increase our card limit to \$7000.00 Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed.

2.Resolution 8-25/Depository Agreement/Park National Bank. The state requires a depository agreement with whoever holds our money, every 5 years. Ms. Knight made a motion to enter into a 5-year agreement with Park National Bank. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed.

3. 2024/2025Assessments: Resolution 8-25A was presented and reviewed. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve this resolution. Ms. Knight seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster -Yes. The motion passed.

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

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$1771.98
Gretchen Slagle	444.87	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	90.00	Shipman Dixon	395.50
Twilio	2.55	Wolf Property Services	670.00
Rumpke	116.06	Park Credit Card	1 40.93
Ohio Dept of Tax	55.16	School Tax	100.36
Internal Revenue	366.74	TruGreen	1 506.96

Mr. Foster made a motion to close the meeting, Ms. Knight seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk