

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

February 9,

2026

Attendees: Mayor: Glen McSparran, Council Members: Angi Deere, Jess McSparran, Chris Foster, Absent- Jackie Knight, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present- Robert Presley, Dee Jones.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. No Report.

Citizens Comments: 1. None

Solicitors Report: 1. Mr. Johnston sent a letter to the Board of Elections with the list of new Village Officials.

2. Zoning Board. Robert Presley asked about the Zoning Committee, how many members need to be on the Board. Mr. Johnston noted the Board could have 5 members, but didn't have to have that many to function, there just needs to be more than fifty percent of the members present to have a quorum and hold a vote at a meeting. The committee is usually comprised of the mayor, a council member and three others. Mr. Presley acts as the Zoning Inspector, he goes to properties to make sure things are in compliance with our zoning rules and that the property owner complied with they said they would do. Mr. Presley asked if the members of the Board could be paid. Mr. Johnston stated they could be paid. Our Zoning Board doesn't get paid. Mrs. Deere said she would be the Council representative on the Zoning Board. Mr. Foster made a motion to have Mrs. Deere serve on the Zoning Board, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. Mr. Presley asked that if Council sees someone building a shed, addition, fence, etc. on a property, to let him know.

3. Facebook Page. Council has discussed starting a Facebook page for the Village. Mr. Johnston stated it was his opinion that there were more cons than pros to having a Village page. There are no blocks the Village can impose, anyone can say anything, and anything goes on it. He would recommend things like our website, texts or messaging technology, something where we can control some of the content on the site.

BOPA: 1. Water Tower. The Board is continuing to work with Choice One Engineering to try to get a grant for a new water tower and aerator at the water plant. New water and sewer lines were run to 503 Ludlow Street, a new house by the water plant.

Old Business. 1. Rumpke: Ms. Slagle noted having the same problem as last year with Rumpke not picking up the port-a-john at the end of October, and then continue to bill us for the port-a-john. Mrs. Deere noted she also had the same problem when she arranged for the port-a-john. Ms. Slagle stated she spoke with a representative about Rumpke wanting to charge us after October 31, the rep wasn't too receptive to our problem. Ms. Slagle stated she would pay the bill, but didn't like that the representative was so dismissive. Ms. Slagle will try to talk to someone again.

2. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. No Report.

New Business. 1. Rock Salt. Mr. Foster stated he used most of the rock salt at the Village building, we might want to get another bag.

2. Crooked Stop Signs. Mr. Foster also noted the stop sign by his house at the corner of Main and Pike, must have gotten hit, it's twisted. The stop sign in the alley alongside the Village building and South Main has also been hit. We will take a look at these to see if we can fix them or they require more attention.

3. Mrs. Deere asked if the Fire Dept. could have a key for the Dumpster. They pick up trash and help try to keep things looking nice up at the park, a key would be nice for them to have.

4. Zoning Board Pay. Council is interested in making the Zoning Board seats paid positions. Council discussed the pay of Council and BOPA being \$40 per attended meeting and agreed the Zoning Board should be paid that also. Mrs. Deere made a motion to come up with an ordinance to establish a Zoning Board, pay the Zoning Board members to attend meetings, and that the Board take minutes and meet the requirements of any established board for the Village. Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. The pay for each member was agreed upon to be \$40.00 per attended meeting. They also wanted to make pay retro-active to January 2026.

5. Mr. Foster wanted Council to consider raising the pay of the BOPA members, they do an awful lot in overseeing the running of the water and sewer plants. With the new tower costs and other costs at the water plants, it looks like we need to consider raising water rates also.

6. Sidewalks. Mrs. Deere would like Council to consider looking at and acting on our ordinance for maintaining sidewalks in town. There are many uneven sidewalks that could cause trip issues for anyone walking on our sidewalks. When we redid South Main Street, all the big trees were removed and all new sidewalks were put in with the smaller pear trees to hopefully prevent the roots from causing the sidewalks to buckle. Mrs. McSparran noted the cost for the repairs would fall to the property owner, many of our residents are on a tight budget.

7. Speed Bumps. Mrs. Deere asked Council to consider flattening the speed bumps on Pike Street. It is hard for the Fire Dept and Ambulance to get across these.

8. Signs. We have some faded signs around town. We need to take a look at which ones we may need to replace.

9. 2026 Committees. Ms. Knight will decide which committees she will be on next meeting.

Building: Mrs. Deere

Park: Ms. McSparran,

BOPA :

Records Retention: All, Mr. McSparran

Finance: Mrs. Deere, Mr. Foster

Street: Mr. Foster

Zoning: Mrs. Deere

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

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$2477.66
Gretchen Slagle	444.87	Glen McSparran	106.91
Amy Elmore	90.00	Shipman Dixon	321.00
M & T Excavating	3240.00	M & T Excavating	3480.00

Mrs. Deere made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk