

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

April 13,

2026

Attendees: Mayor: Glen McSparran, Council Members: Angi Deere, Jess McSparran, Jackie Knight, Chris Foster, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present- Robert Presley, Dee Jones, Doug Baker-Ambulance Board, Matt Wolf-Wolf Property Services.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the March 9, 2026 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. Deere noted a correction in New Business, #2-We had a quote from Martin Monhollen, not Matt Mulholland. Mrs. Knight made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes, Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. No Report. Mr. Presley asked the Deputy if it was legal to carry a fully automatic hand gun. The deputy replied the person would need to have special licenses to carry that gun.

Citizens Comments: 1. Wolf Property Services. Mat Wolf was present to answer questions about mowing/clearing various areas around town. Mrs. Deere wanted to know if he could spray at the park around the playground equipment and mulch, Mr. Wolf said yes, they could spray for weed control. Ms. Deere asked if we could get a quote for spraying the whole park for weeds, she would like to see more grass there. We also would like to see if Mr. Wolf can spray or take out the small trees/vegetation that are growing along curbs around South Main Street, School Street and Pike Street. Mr. Wolf will prepare a quote for these items.
2. Southwest Ambulance Board. Doug Baker was present to introduce himself as a member of the ambulance Board. He noted that their job is to handle complaints that may arise about the Ambulance Board.

Solicitors Report:

1. 111 Pike Street. We asked Mr. Johnston what options we had concerning this property. Mr. Johnston stated we don't own the property, if it isn't maintained, we could do things to try to maintain the property, we could assess their property taxes if the property owner wouldn't pay to maintain it.
2. Public Records Request. We received a public records request from Maniraj Patha, asking for Copies of all Request Solicitations (**RFPs, RFIs, RFBs**). Ms. Slagle isn't sure what to do with this and ask Mr. Johnston to take a look at it. He will look into it.
3. Skymesh Contract. We have an unsigned copy of the SkyMesh contract. Brad Ingle stopped at the water tower when he saw someone from SkyMesh there and spoke with Trent Boone about issues noted during the water tower evaluation. Mr. Ingle noted there was an antenna that was higher than the light on top of the tower, we don't think this is allowed.
4. Fiber Optic Cable. Mr. McSparran asked if a permit would be needed for a company to come through town installing fiber optic cables. Mr. Johnston said PUCO has easements, no permits are needed. Mr. McSparran may ask them to come to a meeting to clarify what they want.
5. Letters to State Representatives. Mrs. Deere is working on sending letters to our State Representatives, asking them for help in obtaining funding for a new water tower and options we may have available for funding other projects that would help benefit the residents in town. She will be sending them to Representative Newman and Senator Huffman.
6. Resignation. Mr. Johnston stated that he has accepted a new job, and will be leaving Shipman, Dixon and Livingston. His last meeting will be the June meeting. He stated he has enjoyed working for the Village, Laura was the first town he represented when he first started working at Shipman, Dixon and Livingston, and he has enjoyed being our Solicitor the whole time. He noted that we should continue to have good representation with the next person taking over, Kyler Palmer. Mr. Johnston asked how Council would like to proceed, He could continue through the June meeting, Mr. Palmer could start attending meetings, or he could maybe see if Mr. Palmer would come with him and ease into the transition. The Village appreciates Mr. Johnston's guidance over the past years.

BOPA: 1.

- Old Business.** 1. Town Clean Up/Doug Randolph/Bee Street. Ms. Slagle stated the letter she sent to Mr. Randolph gave him until the end of April to trim the vegetation away from Bee Street so the trash trucks would have clear passage down the street.
2. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. We have been turned down for a higher limit on our credit card. Ms. Knight asked if we could buy one sign at a time instead of all at once. Ms. Slagle will try to contact the Mayor or Clerk of Pittsburg to see where they got their speed limit signs.
3. Speed Bumps. Mr. McSparran stated it would cost around \$5000 to have the speedbumps modified or removed. Council discussed possibly putting a speed bump/hump at the south end of Main Street, at or around the hill as you go out of town, or at the 4-way stop at the church. Mr. McSparran will see if he could get a price for a speed hump.
4. Sidewalks. No Report.
6. Zoning Board Pay. The second reading of the ordinance to pay Zoning Board members was read.
7. Village Clean-Up Dumpster. Mrs. Deere noted that an agreement is on the way, it's a 40-yard dumpster, scheduled for June 8-12. The cost is \$643.00.

- New Business.** 1. Park. Council discussed the need for more mulch around the playground equipment at the park. We have an opportunity for a \$1000 grant from our insurance, if the money is used for "safety" things. Mulch provides a "safety" net, and qualifies us for the grant. We need to see how much mulch we need. Mrs. Deere thought the Fire Department might be willing to spread the mulch for us. Council also discussed possible holding different events at the park.
2. 250th Year Anniversary. Mrs. Deere would like to suggest trying to do something for the country's 250th celebration around July 1st. Maybe we could try something like a house decorating contest, encouraging residents to decorate their house or yard, a community scavenger hunt, etc. as a way to engage community activity.
3. Meeting Room Table Floor. Some of the floor around the meeting table is crumbling. We need to see if we can get some quotes to repair or replace the floor around the table.
4. Port-a-john Mr. Foster made a motion to approve getting a handicap port-a-john at the park, if the cost is within 20 percent of last year's cost. Mrs. Knight seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes, Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.
5. 2026 Appropriations. The 2026 appropriations were reviewed. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the appropriations, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes, Ms. Knight -Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.
6. New Solicitor. Council would like Mr. Johnston to invite Mr. Palmer to come to the next meeting with Mr. Johnston.

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

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$2088.71
Gretchen Slagle	444.87	Glen McSparran	106.91
Amy Elmore	90.00	Shipman Dixon	547.50
M & T Excavating	2360.00	M & T Excavating	960.00
Jim Stubbs	355.66	Sedgwick	215.00
Twilio	2.72	RD Holder	686.45

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

