

# Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

July 13,

2026

**Attendees:** Mayor: Glen McSparran, Council Members: Angi Deere, Jess McSparran, Chris Foster, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitor-None. Absent- Jackie Knight, Others Present- Evan James-Skymesh.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: May minutes, Old Business #8, the statement should read-Someone from West Milton heard they could put stuff in our dumpster, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

**Sheriff's Report:** 1. There was a car stolen from the south end of Main Street, also a suspicious person walking down Chestnut Street checking cars.  
2. Mrs. Deere will be checking rates for Sheriff patrolling.

**Citizens Comments:** 1. Skymesh-Evan James. Mr. James was present to check on the status of our contract with them and that everything met the terms of the contract. As an oversight, the contract had not been signed and returned to Skymesh. When we had the water tower evaluated, we found there were issues with the way some of apparatus was attached and the antenna that was above the light on the tower. Mr. James stated they were working on correcting these items, they were going to install a cabinet at the base of the tower, and rework things that were not done correctly by the previous company. Skymesh is asking us for a 5-year contract, they have been awarded some grant money and one of the terms of this would be an extended contract. Mr. James asked about the cameras, there are a couple that are not working. He would like to check these to make sure everything is working correctly. Ms. Slagle will meet Mr. James July 14 at 7:00 pm, to check the cameras. We do not use the cameras; we have not passed an ordinance to use them. Mr. Kyler will look into getting an ordinance for this, and also reviewing the Skymesh contract.

**Solicitors Report:** 1. Mr. Palmer noted that Mr. Johnston has left. He stated that there would be no bill prior to tonight since there was a little confusion with last month's meeting. He will work on the contracts for the Licensed Operators and Utility workers.  
2. Review of May and June Meetings. There were only two Council members present at the May meeting and part of the June meeting. Due to an inadvertent oversight, Council needs to approve business decisions made at the May and June Council meetings.  
2A. May and June Meeting- Ordinance to increase the salaries of the Licensed Operators and Utility Employees, first and second readings. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve this readings, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.  
2B. June Meeting - New Electric Kilowatt Rates.  
2C. May Meeting Brush at 8 School, 111 Pike, South end of South Main Street. Spray weeds at park, playground equipment. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve these two previous actions, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

**3. Ordinance 7-26 /Ordinance to increase the salaries of the Licensed Operators and Utility Employees.** The third reading of this proposed ordinance was read. Mr. Foster made

**Old Business.** 1. 9 School Street. There are limbs growing in front of the stop sign at the corner of School and St. Rt. 571. Ms. Slagle will send a letter to the owner to trim the limbs.

2. 4 North Main. Mrs. Deere noted there has been some things done to clean up the property, but there are still things lined up next to the building. Mr. Palmer will send a letter asking them to finish cleaning up the property.

3. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. The cost of 3 signs is \$9800 total. Mrs. Deere made a motion to use State Highway Fund money to purchase these. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

4. Mulch Quote. We have a quote for \$1535 from Wolf Property Service for mulch. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the mulch purchase for the playground, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

5. Town Clean Up. Mrs. Deere would like to set up quadrants in town for Council members to check for areas that need cleaned up on properties. We'll table this until next meeting.

6. Meeting Room Table Floor. No Report.

7. Water Tower Grant. We will plan to have a presentation via Zoom, at a meeting August 11 at 1:00.

8. Accident at St. Rt. 571 and Main Street/Fire Hydrant. There was an accident in June that damaged to two street signs and a fire hydrant. Mr. Palmer will see if there have been any charges filed and we can start to see about collecting for damages. We can start with a letter, then a civil complaint if needed. If the case is closed, there isn't anything we can do about this. Ms. Slagle will get some quotes for fire hydrants and signs.

9. New Zoning Manual. Mrs. Deere noted the Zoning Board has finished reviewing and updating our zoning manual. She noted the updates/changes that were made. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the new manual, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

10. America 250 Celebration. Mrs. Deere would like to consider having some type of activity to celebrate the America 250 celebration. She asked about a picnic or something sometime in September. She would like to include the church, fire department, businesses, etc., maybe some food trucks, as part of the community event. Council agreed this would be a good community event. She would like to purchase a banner for \$180.00. Mrs. Deere made a motion to purchase a banner from Flawless Signs for \$180.00, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. We will schedule this for Sunday, Sept 20 at the park.

11. Street Repair / Chestnut Street. Mr. McSparran has a quote from Wagner Paving for \$1500 to fill a hole on the edge of Chestnut Street at the Dunn resident. We should look around town to see if there are other areas that need repaired. The edge of School Street is breaking down, but we need to look into widening it since there is an increased amount of traffic now that people are avoiding the speed bumps on Pike Street.

**Resignation.** Mrs. Knight comes in to the meeting, notes she will be resigning her seat. She

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

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|--------------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| PERS                     | \$852.11 | AES                  | \$3739.21 |
| Gretchen Slagle          | 440.28   | Glen McSparran       | 106.91    |
| Amy Elmore               | 90.00    | Shipman Dixon        | 336.25    |
| Rumpke                   | 591.75   | Park Credit Card     | 636.12    |
| Brandy Monholland        | 50.00    | Laura Post Office    | 78.00     |
| Arcanum Post Office      | 234.00   | Wolfe Property Serv. | 1125.00   |
| Design Heating & Cooling | 219.00   | Rumpke               | 128.48    |
| Wolf Property Serv.      | 910.00   | Wolfe Property Serv. | 1240.00   |
| Menards                  | 18.75    | Menards              | 17.41     |
| Twillio                  | 2.76     |                      |           |

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

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Glen McSparran, Mayor

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Gretchen Slagle, Clerk