

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

August 10,

2026

Attendees: Mayor: Glen McSparran, Council Members: Angi Deere, Jess McSparran, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitor-~~None-Kyler Palmer~~. Others Present- Evan James-Skymesh, Dee Jones, Brad Ingle-BOPA. Steve Van Horn. Mr. Foster comes in at 7:08.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the July 13, 2026 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections- Attendees- Solicitor- Mr. Palmer was at the meeting. Citizens Comments #1- Mrs. Deere noted that Fire Chief Deere was to meet with Mr. James, the fire department provides the electric to the equipment on the water tower. Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. None

Citizens Comments: 1. Skymesh/Evan James. Mr. James noted he spoke with Mr. Palmer as he came in to tonight's meeting, Mr. James has everything he needs from Mr. Palmer. Mr. James met with Ms. Slagle after last month's meeting, the cameras are working now, he replaced a monitor and everything is ready to go. Mr. Palmer stated he has a draft ordinance he is working on. He wanted to know the length of time we wanted to retain the footage; a common length of time is 30 days. That length was acceptable.

2. Steve Van Horn/108 North Main Street. Mr. Van Horn owns the property at 108 N. Main, his daughter owns the property next to him at 112 N. Main. Mr. Van Horn had a survey done on his property and found that part of his neighbor's shed, fence and driveway of 112 N. Main St. are on his property. He would like to know what he needs to do to have this issue resolved, so when he sells his property there isn't a problem with this. Mr. Palmer stated Mr. Van Horn has a couple of options, he can grant the neighbor an easement, or go through the process of correcting the issue. Mr. Palmer asked Mr. Van Horn for his email and phone number. He will have to do a little research on this and will contact Mr. Van Horn when he has some information. Mr. Van Horn may have to come to a zoning meeting.

Solicitors Report: 1. Skymesh Contract. See Citizens Comments #1.

2. Utility Workers Contracts. Mr. Palmer stated he is working on these contracts; they are currently going through the chain of command at his office.

3. Bee Street/Randolph Property. Mr. Palmer noted sending a letter to Mr. Randolph to remove the foliage on his property along Bee Street so it does not hit the garbage trucks and cars that use the street. Mrs. Deere noted that he has done about half of the bushes/trees, there is more that needs to be removed.

4. 104 N. Main St./Egner Property. Mr. Palmer sent letters to the residence and LLC of this property to clean up the property. There was no response from the owner.

5. Accident/St. Rt. 571 and Main Street. Mr. Palmer noted the accident on June 6 that caused damage to the fire hydrant, street signs and utility pole was caused by James Moore. The court date was held July 8th. We would have had to have information ready to present at the time of the court date, but didn't have this information. Mr. Palmer stated we could file a civil suit against Mr. Moore for the cost of repairs of the fire hydrant and signs. We have a bill from D.A.C. Excavating for \$1300 to repair the fire hydrant, we need to get the costs to replace the street signs and a new pole. Mr. Palmer estimated his time and costs for the suit would be around \$700-750, along with the Village costs, the amount that we would be seeking would be around \$2000.00. Mrs. Deere made a motion to file a civil suit against

Old Business. 1. 9 School Street. Done

2. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. Ordered, should be here next week.

3. Mulch /Park. Done.

4. Town Clean Up. Mrs. Deere would like to set up quadrants for Council members to check for properties that need attention. We'll table this until next meeting.

5. Meeting Room Table Floor. No Report.

6. Water Tower Grant. Mrs. Deere stated we need make a decision about funding for a new water tower. We are slated to present our water tower proposal at the SCEIG meeting in October, the docket was full for August. We need to decide if we are going to pursue an OPWC grant this year, the deadline for applying is August 17. Mrs. Deere spoke with Dan Barker last Tuesday, the BOPA meeting had to be postponed, so Mr. Barker was the only member at their regular meeting. Mr. Barker would like to go ahead and pursue a new tower as opposed to doing a restoration of our existing tower. Ms. Slagle handed out a financial information sheet from Choice One Engineering, it gave us two scenarios for payment obligations for a new \$2.2 million water tower, detailing loan amounts, grant amounts and other possible options. Both scenarios call for an additional increase between \$39-43 per month in our water bill rates. This increase would cover just the water tower, not day to day operations/maintenance costs. The BOPA has been discussing increasing both sewer and water rates, we are waiting to work with RCAP to come up with figures to help secure adequate increases in the utility bills to sustain costs of running the plants Ms. Slagle noted the Board is discussing ways to increase revenue for the water fund and may be interested in selling water. Ms. Slagle wanted to know if this would be part of our water ordinance or a separate ordinance. Mr. Palmer has worked on this some, he thinks it might be better to be a separate ordinance, but will look into it. Mr. Ingle noted discussion by the board as to if or how to charge Wagner Paving, can we have meters on businesses, and other questions. The need to increase business and out of town residence rates were discussed.

Council was concerned about the jump in utility rates that residents would incur. Discussion of painting the tower at a cost of \$425,000 to \$450,00, having a week to decide to commit to one of the scenarios from Choice One, and other questions on the impact this would have on the village. Council thought it was best if we do not apply for a grant this year, giving us time to get some help to develop a plan of action for applying next year for a grant.

7. America 250 Celebration. Mrs. Deere has the banner out for the Sept. 20 picnic. She has donated a few yard signs and placed them around town. The Laura Diner has offered to donate some food, the fire department will participate, some old cars, she might try some food trucks, etc. She has asked that anyone who wants to set up a table/sell their wares, etc. would be welcome. We could have a table with information about the water tower, need for Council and BOPA members, etc. She would like to make this a committee event to meet your neighbors and friends, see some Laura history and be able to inform people of things happening in town.

11. Street Repair/104 Chestnut Street. Mr. McSparran has a quote from Wagner Paving for \$1500 to fill a hole on the edge of 104 Chestnut Street. There is a hole that needs filled at the corner of Fifth Street and Chestnut Street. Council discussed an additional cost to fill the hole at fifth and Chestnut Streets. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve up to \$2500 to have Wagner Paving repair the two holes on Chestnut Street, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

8. Town Clean Up. We received a letter from someone asking us to look at the property at 406 South Main Street. There is a lot of overgrown vegetation on this property. Mrs. Deere noted the bushes, limbs, etc. are growing into the alleys.

9. Sheriff Patrolling Rates. Mrs. Deere noted an hourly cost of \$61.74 for the Sheriff's office to patrol in town. There is also the Miami County Deputy Association, this is a group of Deputy Sheriffs that use the County cars and patrol outside of the hours they work for the County. Their rate is \$40-some dollars per hour. Mrs. Deere noted that we don't need them now, but if we see increased incidents occurring in town, we could target certain times or events and have extra patrolling in town.

10. Kids Climbing Water Tower. We have a picture of a kid climbing our water tower. Mrs. Deere spoke with Sheriff Duchak concerning this, Sheriff Duchak said we could post "no trespassing" signs, put up a fence around the tower, talk to the kids, parents, etc. anything to deter people from climbing our tower. Mrs. Deere would like to purchase "no Trespassing signs". We use the Miami County Engineers Office to purchase signs. We need to replace the signs/post that was hit at Main and St. Rt. 571, there is a speed limit sign at the 4-way stop that needs replaced. We will check around town to see if there are other stop signs or street signs that need replaced. Mr. McSparran will get a cost from the Engineer's office.

11. TruGreen/Spray weeds in street/curbs. We have a quote for spraying weeds in the streets and in the curbs from TruGreen for \$1565.73. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve this quote, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran - Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

12. Street Sweeping. Mr. McSparran has a quote from Katsam Property Services to sweep the town streets for \$295.00 per hour and \$95 per ton of debris. Mr. McSparran tried to contact West Milton to see if they would be interested in doing this again this year. They have not responded. He will try to contact Ben Herron at West Milton again.

13. Village porch/Flag Lights. Mrs. McSparran got a quote to replace the switch for the dawn to dusk outside porch and flag light. The cost was around \$400.00. Mr. McSparran would be willing to purchase a timer for the lights and install it. He has a village credit card and will get the switch.

New Business. 1. Curb Painting. Mrs. Deere would like to get some quotes for painting curbs.

2. Snow Plowing. Mrs. Deere would like to take bids for snow plowing. She asked Ms. Slagle to advertise for this.

3. Resolution 8-26/ Assess Delinquent Utility Payment Residents. This resolution was reviewed by Council. Mrs. Deere made a motion to assess the properties with delinquent utility bills. Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

4. Sept 12 Memorial Wall. There will be a ceremony recognizing those lost in the Sept 11 attack in New York, at the Union Township Building. There is a time capsule that will be opened at the fire house here in Laura.

5. Minutes. Mrs. Deere asked if Ms. Slagle would type up the minutes and send them out the week after Council meeting. Ms. Slagle said no.

6. Air Conditioner. We called back Design Heating and Cooling because the air conditioner quit working a week or so after Design came and worked on it the first time. They replaced something and added freon. There might be a freon leak. They gave us a quote of \$5200 for a new air conditioner. We have time to get some quotes and see what we want to do.

We would be looking for a 2 ½ ton AC, new coils and lines.

Mr. Ingle suggested we put notices on our website when we advertise for bids or quotes, maybe people will see them and respond.

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	\$3739.21
Gretchen Slagle	440.28	Glen McSparran	106.91
Amy Elmore	90.00	Shipman Dixon	336.25
Rumpke	123.06	Park Credit Card	636.12
Design Heating and Cooling	325.00	Laura Post Office	1277.50
Flawless	1 92.60	Wolf Property Serv.	1500.00
Design Heating & Cooling	219.00	Twillio	2.81
Wolf Property Serv.	810.00	Namecheap	18.68
Internal Revenue	449.70	Ohio Dept of Taxation	191.74
Treasurer of State-School Tax	174.38	Treasure of State UAN	762.00

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

Glen McSparran, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk