

**The Village of Lexington Common Council held a Special Council Meeting Wednesday June 4, 2025 in the Village Council Chambers, 7227 Huron Avenue, Lexington, MI 48450**

**Call to Order Special Council Meeting at:** 7:00 p.m. by President Dost

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by President Dost

**Roll call taken by** Deputy Clerk Beth Grohman

**Present:** Ehardt, Adams, Muoio, Cole, DeCoster, Dost

**Absent:**

**Others present:** L. Fisher, C. Heiden, and 4 citizens

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None**  
**BUSINESS**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Interviews and Appointment of Council Trustee –  
Jim Gresock**

Ehardt- What do you think is the highest priority and how would you address?

Response – Harbor biggest issue and always been and issue. Need improvements and need to work together as a team.

Adams – How do you feel about the community as a whole and bringing tourist spending money?

Response Feels the Village is successful in doing that. Music in the park is a big success, and if you look at the Music in the Harbor on Saturday nights Lexington has a bigger crowd. Lexington does a great job.

Muoio – How would you approach working with surrounding entities in regards to water sewer, police and fire.

Response – Basically water and waste are under contract, I do know we have some issues with the volunteer fire department, needs to be addressed. Work fairly well together I believe, but some issues just need to be addressed appropriately.

Dost- While serving on council, how do feel you could have improved communications with the Village Manager and Council

Response – I believe I am very open and do discuss issues with Village Manager and do attend every meeting I can, I don't have an agenda and here to gives facts, weigh things out and can't be bought. I do the best I can.

Cole – What does Lexington need to do to bring in more revenue? With the new subdivision going in, that will bring in more revenue and the Mobile Home Park needs some promotional ideas, too many empty sites and needs to filled up. Also taxes and cost are going up and they will have to.

Cole – Basically you are saying one thing is to fill up those open spots -

Response – ideally having it filled to 90% Free rent was offered and believe we need to promote differently.

DeCoster – Why do you feel you could be effective?

Response - Been on Council multiple times and served on the DDA, LBA, original President, own three businesses, have my real estate license. Sat on the board at the RV Resort, I have served multiple functions in the Village that I can bring to the table.

**Will Morris**

Ehardt- Highest priority and how would you address?

Response – Balanced budget, current projects, long term liability problem. Hard choices community would not be happy with, such as raising taxes, budget cuts.

Adams – This is a resort town and how do you make more inviting to everyone including residents, keeping everyone happy.

Response – reach out to your community, keep your work, be respectful, no one is above or below anyone. Come together to fulfil your obligations and be transparent and keep your promises.

Muoio- What approach would you use to address neighboring communities.

Response - Attend other entity meetings with other boards outside of our community and listen to their concerns, find solutions together.

Dost- How would you improve council and village manager communications?

Response - Straight to the point person, truthful and transparent, timely on texting, pretty sure everyone knows where I stand.

Cole -Best way to bring in more revenue to the Village.

Response – When the Village tried for the Headlee override, also discussed was another way was to do tax adjusting without a vote not sure would want to do that. Suggest community outreach more conversations what we could do get another millage going and look at assets versus liabilities, may need to restructure how we do different departments, coordinate with other townships or Croswell, so we have more centralized services to reduce costs. A big concern is OPEB and meeting obligations we current staff let alone future staff. Focus on filling obligations already made.

DeCoster – How do we address the blight; how do we get serious about it.

Response – Part of the issue with blight is that legal issues in general are cumbersome and costly.

Honestly, I don't really know how to deal with blight without dealing with the financial issue first. As the council try to earmark \$20,000 to deal with the blight, just not in the budget right now. Suggest killing people with kindness and try to get them to do something and accept the little wins. The garage that needed a new roof, walked by yesterday and the grass was cut looks way better than it did.

Prioritize where we want to go and deal with the property next door. Hard to complain about others when we have some blight of our own.

Members requested roll call –

Ehardt – Morris

Adams – Morris

Muoio- Morris

Cole – Gresock

DeCoster – Morris

Dost – Morris

Motion by Ehardt, seconded by Adams, to appoint Will Morris as Village Trustee

Roll Call

Ayes- Ehardt, Adams, Muoio, Cole, DeCoster, Dost

Nays- None

Motion carried

Deputy Clerk Beth Grohman administered the oath of office.

- B. **Budget Study Session** –Review of the budget before approval. Fisher stated that she is trying to balance the budget without relying heavily on the MHP fund. Tax revenues are up some, approximately 4 to 5%. More revenues interest up. State revenue sharing may be decreasing some. Review of revenues, total revenues expected are approximately \$1.4 million. Fisher presented adjustments and amendments to expenses;

- Trustee expenses
- Education
- Administrative Staff
- Attorney
- Police Department – Police Chief wage increase
- Fire Department – Township contracts undecided

- DPW – Due to new allocations, decrease in cost and bumped up wages.
- Rubbish fees increase due contract obligations.
- Health and Welfare – EMS fees 10% increase from Croswell
- Environmental – Decrease, other areas to fund tree replacement.
- Community and Economic Development - \$15,000 wages added, if we can find an enforcement person. Some may go to offset cost for assistant.
- Parks and Recreation - \$15,000 in capital outlay for the upcoming year.  
Discussion on surplus funds. Fisher stated some surplus and using it to pay extra payments to the pension fund.
- Major Street Funds – Funded by the State no MHP funds transferred.
- Local Street Funds – Funded by the state no MHP funds transferred.
- Capital Outlay - \$229,000 paving projects.
- Municipal Street – Millage for Municipal approximately 2.5 mills. \$4000 for bike path
- Cemetery – No changes
- County Roads - \$652,000 coming out of contracted services to help pay for paving project.
- DDA –Unexpected bump from the DDA taxes from the township. DDA voted to put \$200,000 into capital outlay for project on Cole Alley boardwalk. Also \$15,000 entered for Assistant wages.
- ARPA Funds- May be dedicated to building upgrades.
- Capital Equipment Funds- Streetsweeper in need of repairs or replacement – \$150,000 to replace. Heiden to get quotes.
- Harbor Development -Reported what is left in the fund. Balance of the fund, which is the \$8 Million minus what has been spent on engineering with Edgewater at this point.
- Sewer Fund – No major changes. 10% is allowed to take grant money for administrative charges, allowed to hire a program manager.
- USDA Grant- Sewer- Estimate of what it is going to take to finish up the project on the USDA side. Most of the expenses are already paid for, just expect a little more that will go into the next fiscal year. Principal payment now has to pay on the loans, 40 year loans, estimate of the what the payments may be. Wage increases and insurance increases.
- Rural Water – Presentation for the sewer and water changes. Looking for the meeting date.
- Water- Port Sanilac – \$1.1 Million dollar buy in received.
- Water Processing – Increase due to buy in from Port Sanilac
- Water Distribution – No major changes
- MHP Funds- Rent increases- Not a lot of changes in the expenses. \$22,000 capital outlay.  
Issues with bluff need to be reinforced.

A public hearing will be held to approve the budget.

Motion by Muoio, seconded by Morris, to authorize Village Manager to move forward with budget.

Roll call

Ayes- Muoio, Morris, Ehardt, Adams, Cole, DeCoster, Dost.

Nays- None

Motion carried

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Joanne Adams -7311 Lake Street- Questions regarding walkway in Tierney Park, heard some talk that it may does not get done. Suggested fund raising like the library.
- Robert Dost – Village President – Want to thank the board members, Lori, Chris, and Beth. It is my humble opinion the Village has one of the strongest and best governing bodies that they have had in a long time. I see a lot of good things happening in the future and am proud to be in charge. Thank you all for what you do.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Dost adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Beth Grohman

I, Beth Grohman (Village Deputy Clerk), do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of the draft minutes of the Village of Lexington Village Council at a special meeting held on the 4th day of June, 2025.

Deputy Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved