

Draft Minutes
Zoning Board of Appeals – Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2025
6:30 pm

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by William Shultz.

- Present: Phil Tarchala, William Schultz and Doug Cultra
- Absent: Daniel Seibert, Mark Lefkes,

2. Approval of Agenda.

Tarchala moved to approve the agenda, supported by Cultra. The motion passed 3-0.

Daniel Seibert arrived at 6:33 pm.

- Present: Phil Tarchala, William Schultz, Doug Cultra, Daniel Seibert
- Absent: Mark Lefkes

3. Approval of Minutes- June 26, 2025

Cultra moved to approve minutes from June 26, 2025, supported by Tarchala. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Communications/Announcements

None

5. New Business

A. Consideration of an Appeal. The Village of Lawton appeals the Zoning Administrator's determination that the operation of a police department practice shooting range is not permitted at the subject property. The property is located at 72nd Avenue, Lawton, MI 49065 (parcel # 80-02-031-011-00). *Please note that the public hearing on this matter will be rescheduled to a future date.*

Seibert read the following statement:

The ZBA will not hold the public hearing or take any action on the Village of Lawton's appeal tonight, because the Township's legal counsel is not able to attend this meeting. The Township's legal Counsel serves as general counsel for Antwerp Township and as special counsel for ordinance enforcement for the Village. Accordingly, until both municipalities execute of conflict waiver, the Township's legal counsel cannot attend this meeting. The Township has waived conflict, and it is understood that the Village Council will consider the waiver at its next available Council meeting. The ZBA will table the public hearing and consideration of the appeal to a future date and time.

The ZBA members discussed rescheduling the meeting to December 2, 2025.

Tarchala moved to table the public hearing and consideration of the appeal until December 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm, supported by Cultra. The motion passed 4-0.

6. Public Comments

Seibert opened the floor to general public comments.

- A neighbor expressed concern with the shooting range with regard to safety and nuisance impacts. However, he felt that concerns could be mitigated with less frequent usage and restrictions on public use.
- A neighbor asked a question concerning the usage of firearms by residents on private property.
- Village Manager Hackenberg disagreed with the Township's position on the police department shooting range.
- Village President Appleby explained the importance of the site for the Village and the greater community and stated that its usage as a training facility is necessary for law enforcement training.
- Village Attorney Ebberle thanked the Township officials for their communication on the appeal process and deferred his comments on the matter for December 2, 2025.
- A law enforcement officer expressed the increasing need for law enforcement training based on present-day threats.

Tarchala moved to close the public comment session, supported by Cultra. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Additional Comments and Communications

None

8. Adjourn

Tarchala moved adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm, supported by Cultra. The motion passed 4-0.