

Darwin McClary

From: George Dandalides
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 9:58 PM
To: Darwin McClary; Michael Lamb; Eric Papacek; Stan Ford; motorcitydirect@gmail.com; robert@printyourfile.com
Cc: Teresa Rutt; Sonja Stout; cannatech360@gmail.com
Subject: Request to include this email in the meeting packet for Tuesday's (4/26) regular council meeting
Attachments: 2026-05-18 Minutes - Village Disincorporation Study Committee 2026.pdf; Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - Estabilsh the Committee - 4-27-2026.pdf; Meeting Minutes - Special Meeting Goals - 4-13-2026.pdf

TO: Village Disincorporation Study Committee
FROM: Councilman George Dandalides

It is my understanding (based on the meeting minutes from the committee's May 18, 2026 meeting) that the committee has met once, concluded to take no action, and plans to make that recommendation at the upcoming regular council meeting on Tuesday May 26, 2026. **After reading the minutes, it is clear to me that the committee did not fulfill the direction nor intent of the committee as stated by council and should reconvene to complete the task.**

Per the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Village Council held April 13, 2026 to Finalize FY 2026-27 Goals and Objectives:

"Objective 1.3 – Form a committee to investigate and report on Cityhood/Township consolidation. Council Member Comparoni, Jr. expressed concern that the topic could present an ethical issue. **President Rutt and Council Member Dandalides clarified that the intent was to evaluate the potential benefits and drawbacks of consolidation for taxpayers.** President Rutt suggested establishing a timeframe for the work, and Council Member Dandalides indicated that the review could be completed through a subcommittee. Chief Amundson emphasized the importance of addressing the matter promptly, noting concerns that ongoing rumors could negatively affect staffing and morale. **Council Member Dandalides also requested obtaining a legal opinion.** Council Member Lamb discussed the general process for consolidating the Village with the Township. Council modified the objective to read: Form a committee to investigate and report on Village/Township consolidation by June 30, 2026."

Per the discussion of council at the April 13 meeting, the committee has not evaluated the potential benefits and drawbacks of consolidation for taxpayers, nor was a legal opinion obtained.

Per the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village Council held April 27, 2026 where the Committee was established:

"D. Establish Ad Hoc Village/Township Consolidation Study Committee (requested by Dandalides)

Council Member Dandalides introduced the item as a follow-up to the Council's Annual Goal Setting, noted a desire to move the process forward in a timely manner, and proposed establishing an ad hoc subcommittee.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Papacek, to establish a Council subcommittee to investigate and report on Village/Township consolidation by June 30th in support of 2026-2027 Village Council Objective 1.3. The subcommittee would include three Council Members and the Village Manager.

Council Member Lamb suggested amending the proposed subcommittee to include two Village residents, noting that a prior committee on Cityhood benefited from resident participation and diverse perspectives, which contributed to a successful process.

President Pro Tem Ford and Council Member Papacek supported exploring the issue, noting public interest and the value of reaching a clear, informed conclusion, while Ford also expressed a personal preference for maintaining the Village. Council Member Comparoni Jr. opposed the effort, viewing it as unnecessary and counter to preserving the Village, while Council Member Moshier questioned revisiting the topic and raised concerns about cost and redundancy.

Harry Stephens suggested that meaningful analysis would require participation from both Township and Village representatives, while DDA Executive Director Gibb recommended focusing on potential shared services or cost-saving collaborations rather than full consolidation. Rosemary Ford cautioned that residents may underestimate financial implications, particularly regarding existing Village debt.

Council Member Dandalides clarified that the subcommittee's role would be limited to evaluating the process, pros, and cons, not making a final decision, before determining whether further study involving the Township is warranted.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb, to amend the previous motion and to establish a Council subcommittee to investigate and report on Village/Township consolidation by June 30th in support of 2026-2027 Village Council Objective 1.3. The subcommittee would include three Council Members, Village Manager, and two Village residents. VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek VOTING NAY: Comparoni Jr ABSENT: Rutt MOTION: Carried

President Pro Tem Ford noted the need to select three Council members for the subcommittee. Council Members Lamb, Papacek, and Dandalides volunteered, and Council Member Dandalides noted that President Rutt had also expressed interest but was willing to defer. Council Member Lamb initially moved to appoint himself, Council Members Papacek, and Dandalides. However, the motion did not receive a second. Council Member Dandalides recommended President Pro Tem Ford for broader perspectives.

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni, to recommend Council Members Lamb, Papacek and President Pro Tem Ford to be the three Council Members for the Ad Hoc Village/Township Consolidation Study Committee. VOTING YEA: Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Papacek VOTING NAY: Ford ABSENT: Rutt MOTION: Carried

Council discussed the process for selecting two citizen members for the subcommittee. Council Member Lamb suggested soliciting volunteers, and President Pro Tem Ford agreed, recommending outreach to the public with a set deadline for interest. Council Member Papacek noted that interested residents could also submit their names electronically. Village Manager McClary recommended directing applicants to the Clerk's Office and posting the opportunity on the Village website with an application process. Council Member Lamb then moved to have the Village Manager solicit citizen applications through the website. However, the motion did not receive a second.

Council agreed in discussion to set a timeline aligned with the next Council meeting for selecting citizen members. During discussion, Justin Yurgens volunteered to serve, and Council agreed to seek an additional interested resident."

Per the discussion of council at the April 27 meeting, the committee has not evaluated the process beyond the opinions of some of the committee members, nor evaluated the pros and cons of consolidation. Furthermore, after the recommendation of one of the committee members with full support of council, it was agreed to include two village residents, who were selected by application and a vote of council, and later excluded from the one and only meeting of the committee. Per the minutes of the Committee Meeting on May 18, 2026, those committee members in attendance rationalized the residents being excluded with:

"The Committee discussed the absence from the meeting of the two citizen members of the Committee and whether a second meeting should be held for them prior to submitting the Committee's recommendation to Council. McClary stated that the Council set a deadline of June 30 to complete its work and report to Council. The second Council meeting in June is scheduled for June 22. The Committee would need to have its work done and a recommendation prepared the week prior. McClary also questioned whether the recommendation of the Committee would be any different after a second meeting given the clear, specific language of State law relating to the disincorporation process and Council's role or options. The consensus of the Committee was to provide the absent members with the meeting minutes and materials distributed at this meeting but not to hold a second meeting."

Again, per the discussion of council at their April 13 and April 27, 2026 meetings, the residents' input that was highly valued in the discussion, was rationalized away by timing constraints that were self-imposed by council (and easily revised if needed to obtain the resident's input and fully complete the task), and based on the committee's interpretation of the process without obtaining legal opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

George Dandalides, Councilman

VILLAGE DISINCORPORATION STUDY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Village Manager McClary called the meeting to order at 5:00 Pm

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

PRESENT: Ford, Lamb, McClary, Papacek

ABSENT: Reighard, Yurgens

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Amundson, Chief of Police
Harry Stephen, resident

It was determined that a quorum of the Committee was present for the conduct of business.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No comments were received from the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY FORD, SECOND BY LAMB, TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

McClary asked for nominations for Chairperson.

Lamb nominated Papacek for the position of Chairperson. No other nominations were made.

Committee Member Papacek was elected Chairperson by unanimous consent of the Committee. Papacek assumed the Chair.

DISCUSSION ON VILLAGE DISINCORPORATION

The Committee reviewed and discussed at length the relevant provisions of the General Law Village Act regarding the process for disincorporating a village. The consensus of the

Committee is that state law provides two procedural options for Council if a certified petition is submitted to it for consideration: (1) take no action, in which case the question of whether the Village should be disincorporated would be placed on the next special or general election ballot for approval by 2/3 vote of Village electors voting on the question; or (2) adopt a resolution electing to proceed with disincorporation under Section 23 of the Act, in which case a disincorporation commission would be created, a disincorporation plan developed, and election on approval of the disincorporation plan held. Under option 2, a simply majority vote on the disincorporation plan is required. The consensus of the Committee is that Council would need legal counsel to advise it of its options prior to deciding on the process to be followed.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the charge of the Committee as contained in the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Council held on April 27, 2026. The charge of the Committee is “to investigate and report on Village/Township consolidation by June 30th in support of 2026-2027 Village Council Objective 1.3”. McClary noted that Council Goals and Objectives #1.3 refers to investigating the imbalance between water volume purchased from the Township and sanitary sewerage volume discharged to the COSDS collection and treatment system. The objective does not appear to be relevant to the issue of Village disincorporation. The Committee concurred.

The Committee discussed concerns of some members about the role of the Village in disseminating information to the public should the matter of disincorporation be scheduled for a vote. The Committee concurred that the Village Council and Administration may be able to disseminate neutral, factual information relating to the matter but cannot advocate in favor or against the proposal. Individual Village Council members, however, may be able to take a position provided it is in their personal capacity and not as a Council Member.

MOTION BY MCCLARY, SECOND BY LAMB, TO RECOMMEND TO VILLAGE COUNCIL THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN BY COUNCIL REGARDING DISINCORPORATION UNLESS OR UNTIL A CERTIFIED PETITION ON DISINCORPORATION IS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

The Committee discussed the absence from the meeting of the two citizen members of the Committee and whether a second meeting should be held for them prior to submitting the Committee’s recommendation to Council. McClary stated that the Council set a deadline of June 30 to complete its work and report to Council. The second Council meeting in June is scheduled for June 22. The Committee would need to have its work done and a recommendation prepared the week prior. McClary also questioned whether the

recommendation of the Committee would be any different after a second meeting given the clear, specific language of State law relating to the disincorporation process and Council's role or options. The consensus of the Committee was to provide the absent members with the meeting minutes and materials distributed at this meeting but not to hold a second meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY FORD, SECOND BY PAPACEK, TO ADJOURN THE COMMITTEE MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion; Carried

The meeting of the Village Disincorporation Study Committee was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Darwin McClary



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Monday, April 27, 2026

6:30 PM

Village Hall – 21 East Church Street, Lake Orion, MI 48362

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

1. Call to Order

The April 27, 2026 Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Pro Tem Ford.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT

President Pro Tem Stan Ford
Council Member Nancy Moshier
Council Member Michael Lamb
Council Member George Dandalides
Council Member Alex Comparoni Jr
Council Member Eric Papacek

ABSENT

President Teresa Rutt

STAFF PRESENT

Village Manager Darwin McClary
Police Chief Mark Amundson
DPW Director Wes Sanchez
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lynsey Blough
DDA Executive Director Matthew Gibb

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni Jr., to excuse President Rutt from the April 27, 2026, Village Council Regular Meeting.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

4. Presentations

None.

5. Call to the Public

None.

6. Approval of Agenda

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni Jr., to approve the agenda for April 27, 2026, Village Council Regular Meeting with the following change:

- Addition of item 10E Brief Discussion of Additional CIP Funding

Council Member Dandalides questioned the need for further discussion, noting that four prior lengthy budget work sessions had already been held. Council Member Lamb responded that the Council would briefly address a few remaining outstanding topics in order to finalize them.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

7. Consent Agenda

All items on the Consent Agenda are approved by one vote.

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to approve the April 27, 2026 Village Council Regular Meeting Consent Agenda, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

A. Receive and File the Planning Commission 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to receive and file the Planning Commission 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

B. Receive and File of Orion Township Building Permit Report from March 15, 2026 to April 15, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to receive and file the Orion Township Building Permit Report from March 15, 2026 to April 15, 2026, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

C. Acceptance of Donation – (2) Electric Bicycles

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to accept the donation of two electric bicycles valued at \$9,200 from Lake Orion Bike Shop along with in-kind signage services from Wildfire Signs.

Voting Yea: President Pro Tem Ford, Council Member Moshier, Council Member Lamb, Council Member Dandalides, Council Member Comparoni Jr, Council Member Papacek

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

D. Acceptance of Donated Funds from LOLA to support attendance of the Michigan Sheriffs Association (MSA) Marine Training for LOPD

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to accept a \$1,300 donation from the Lake Orion Lake Association (LOLA) to support Marine Training Academy attendance for Lake Orion Police Department personnel and to approve Budget Amendment BA-2026-207-003 increasing 207-000-694-000 (Miscellaneous Revenue) by \$1,300, 207301-957-000 (Education and Training) by \$400, and 207-301-863-000 (Travel Expense) by \$900.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

E. Approval of Special Event – Downtown Lake Orion Cornhole League

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-013 to approve Downtown Lake Orion Cornhole League Special Event Application and the License Agreement between the Village of Lake Orion and Lloyd Coe of the American Legion and the Sons of American Legion for the use of various Village properties scheduled every Thursday night, beginning June 4, 2026, until September 10, 2026, between 6:45PM and 9:30PM, and to authorize the Village Council President and Village Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the Village.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

F. Approval of Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes April 13, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to approve the Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2026, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

G. Approval of Village Council Special Meeting Minutes April 13, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to approve the Village Council Special Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2026, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

H. Approval of Village Council Special Meeting Minutes April 15, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to approve the Village Council Special Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2026, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

I. Approval of Village Council Special Meeting Minutes April 20, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to approve the Village Council Special Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2026, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

J. Receive and File of DDA Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to receive and file the March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Downtown Development Authority Board, as presented.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

K. Budget Amendment – Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant (Can-Am Defender)

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to approve Budget Amendment BA-2026-207-004, increasing revenue account 207-000-528000 (Grants – Other) and expenditure account 207-301-977-000 (Capital Outlay) in the amount of \$24,750, to recognize grant funding and appropriate funds for the purchase of a Can-Am Defender utility vehicle for public safety use.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

L. Receive and File of Invoice Distribution Report for April 28, 2026

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Dandalides, to receive and file the bills in the amount of \$195,305.30 of which \$16,931.62 are DDA bills for a net total of \$176,373.68 and to receive and file the DDA bills.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek
VOTING NAY: None
ABSENT: Rutt
MOTION: Carried

8. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Other Items

A. Revised Policy Assessing a Reasonable Fee for the Handling and Auditing of DDA Funds

DDA Executive Director Gibb stated for the record that the administrative fee, historically set by mutual agreement, was changed last year by Village policy with limited DDA input and now encompasses broad operational costs, including a new tax collection charge. He emphasized that while the DDA does not levy taxes, the revised fee structure significantly increases costs, approaching \$78,000 when including tax collection, which has required internal budget reductions, including staffing impacts.

Village Manager McClary clarified that the base fee increase is from \$62,000 to \$69,000, consistent with the policy adopted after prior negotiations, and noted that similar fees existed historically. He explained that although the DDA does not levy taxes, it receives a substantial

share of collected taxes and should pay a proportional share of collection costs. He also stated that the Village cannot subsidize DDA operations and that the fee is reasonable under state law.

President Pro Tem Ford summarized that both the Village and DDA are working to manage limited resources, acknowledging the financial impact on both sides and expressing support for the DDA's contributions to the downtown while recognizing the difficulty in balancing these interests.

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni Jr, to adopt the revised Resolution Assessing a Reasonable Pro Rata Share of the Funds of the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority for the Cost of Handling and Auditing the Funds of the DDA Against the Funds of the Authority Pursuant to MCL 125.4228(2).

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

B. Police Services Special Assessment Proposal

Village Manager Darwin McClary presented the Police Services Special Assessment proposal. He provided background on current police millages, funding structure, and the impact of DDA capture on police revenues. He explained that transitioning to a special assessment under Public Act 33 would eliminate DDA capture of police funds, fully fund police operations and capital needs, and reduce overall costs to taxpayers. He reviewed the proposed millage reductions, special assessment structure, and associated financial impacts, including effects on the DDA and long-term funding sustainability.

Council Member Alex Comparoni Jr. inquired about the impact on DDA-funded infrastructure. Village Manager McClary responded that certain funding would decrease, but alternative funding sources such as grants, utility funds, and special assessments could be utilized depending on the type of project.

Council Member Eric Papacek asked whether the projected cost savings to taxpayers would be sustainable in future years. Village Manager McClary stated that special assessments would generally remain less costly than millages, though future rates would be subject to Council determination.

Council Member Michael Lamb confirmed that the proposal would reduce overall costs to taxpayers and provide full funding for police services, and he expressed support for the proposed approach.

Council Member George Dandalides sought clarification on the calculation of taxpayer savings. Village Manager McClary clarified the distinction between comparisons to the current year and the proposed budget year, noting that while savings are shown against the proposed millage rates, the reduction compared to the prior year would be smaller.

Council Member Dandalides further distributed a comparative analysis of the proposed police special assessment and the existing millage structure. He reviewed projected taxpayer savings, impacts to the Village Infrastructure Fund (75/25), and long-term revenue implications, noting that the proposal would reduce 75/25 contributions from approximately \$247,000 to \$1,026 for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 and decrease cumulative 75/25 funding through 2039. He expressed concern that the proposal would provide Council greater authority to adjust funding levels without voter approval and stated he could not support the change.

Council Member Comparoni Jr. stated that while he supported the concept of fully funding police services, he shared concerns regarding the flexibility of future special assessment increases and the absence of fixed limitations. Council Member Papacek stated support for the proposal, noting the potential taxpayer savings and suggesting that safeguards or limitations could be adopted to prevent excessive future increases.

Council Member Michael Lamb voiced support for the proposal, stating that it would fully fund police services, reduce taxpayer costs, and eliminate DDA capture of police-related revenues. He characterized the annual approval process as an adequate safeguard. President Pro Tem Ford noted concerns regarding long-term infrastructure funding needs, particularly related to future water main improvements within the DDA district and questioned whether short-term taxpayer savings would outweigh future funding impacts. Village Manager Darwin McClary responded that water and sewer infrastructure improvements would continue to be funded through utility rates and advised that estimated future water main improvements could cost between \$7 million and \$7.5 million.

Additional Council discussion focused on balancing taxpayer savings, police funding stability, DDA infrastructure impacts, and future fiscal flexibility.

Steve Samet expressed opposition to the proposal, citing concerns that it would reduce DDA infrastructure funding, create future opportunities for increased assessments, and circumvent Headlee limitations. Harry Stevens recommended additional study of the proposal and suggested that any such change should be presented to voters as a ballot question. Rosemary Ford expressed concern regarding the increasing use of special assessments, uncertainty surrounding future increases, and the potential loss of long-term funding stability. Justin Yurgens opposed the proposal, citing concerns regarding long-term financial planning, reliance on special assessments, and transferring future rate-setting authority from voters to Council. Steve Samet reiterated that the residents present opposed the proposed change and urged Council to consider that feedback in its decision-making.

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Papacek, to direct the Village Manager to prepare the final Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget reflecting the levy of special assessments for police services and capital needs rather than tax levies in accordance with the Village Manager's presentation.

VOTING YEA: Moshier, Lamb, Papacek

VOTING NAY: Ford, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Failed

Village Manager Darwin McClary acknowledged Council's direction and stated that administration would proceed accordingly.

C. Council Training on Meeting Decorum (requested by Dandalides)

Council Member Dandalides introduced the idea of training on meeting decorum, procedures, and Robert's Rules of Order, noting uncertainty around proper practices and expressing that such training would benefit the Council.

Council Member Papacek and Council Member Comparoni Jr. agreed that training would be beneficial, particularly for newer members, but both raised concerns about potential costs. President Pro Tem Ford supported the concept and suggested first exploring costs and possibly creating a resource for future Council members. Council Member Moshier acknowledged the value of training but emphasized budget constraints and suggested considering lower-cost or internal options.

Council Member Lamb supported additional training and advocated reinstating an orientation binder or educational materials for new members. Village Manager McClary noted that training is available through the Michigan Municipal League and that approximately \$2,800 remains in the Council's training budget. Overall, Council expressed general support for training, with consensus to evaluate costs and available resources before moving forward.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb, to direct the Village Manager to investigate training possibilities for council and make a recommendation back to Council with cost consideration.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

D. Establish Ad Hoc Village/Township Consolidation Study Committee (requested by Dandalides)

Council Member Dandalides introduced the item as a follow-up to the Council's Annual Goal Setting, noted a desire to move the process forward in a timely manner, and proposed establishing an ad hoc subcommittee.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Papacek, to establish a Council subcommittee to investigate and report on Village/Township consolidation by June 30th in support of 2026-2027 Village Council Objective 1.3. The subcommittee would include three Council Members and the Village Manager.

Council Member Lamb suggested amending the proposed subcommittee to include two Village residents, noting that a prior committee on Cityhood benefited from resident participation and diverse perspectives, which contributed to a successful process.

President Pro Tem Ford and Council Member Papacek supported exploring the issue, noting public interest and the value of reaching a clear, informed conclusion, while Ford also

expressed a personal preference for maintaining the Village. Council Member Comparoni Jr. opposed the effort, viewing it as unnecessary and counter to preserving the Village, while Council Member Moshier questioned revisiting the topic and raised concerns about cost and redundancy.

Harry Stephens suggested that meaningful analysis would require participation from both Township and Village representatives, while DDA Executive Director Gibb recommended focusing on potential shared services or cost-saving collaborations rather than full consolidation. Rosemary Ford cautioned that residents may underestimate financial implications, particularly regarding existing Village debt.

Council Member Dandalides clarified that the subcommittee's role would be limited to evaluating the process, pros, and cons, not making a final decision, before determining whether further study involving the Township is warranted.

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb, to amend the previous motion and to establish a Council subcommittee to investigate and report on Village/Township consolidation by June 30th in support of 2026-2027 Village Council Objective 1.3. The subcommittee would include three Council Members, Village Manager, and two Village residents.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: Comparoni Jr

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

President Pro Tem Ford noted the need to select three Council members for the subcommittee. Council Members Lamb, Papacek, and Dandalides volunteered, and Council Member Dandalides noted that President Rutt had also expressed interest but was willing to defer. Council Member Lamb initially moved to appoint himself, Council Members Papacek, and Dandalides. However, the motion did not receive a second. Council Member Dandalides recommended President Pro Tem Ford for broader perspectives.

MOTION made by Council Member Lamb, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni, to recommend Council Members Lamb, Papacek and President Pro Tem Ford to be the three Council Members for the Ad Hoc Village/Township Consolidation Study Committee.

VOTING YEA: Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Papacek

VOTING NAY: Ford

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

Council discussed the process for selecting two citizen members for the subcommittee. Council Member Lamb suggested soliciting volunteers, and President Pro Tem Ford agreed, recommending outreach to the public with a set deadline for interest. Council Member Papacek noted that interested residents could also submit their names electronically. Village Manager McClary recommended directing applicants to the Clerk's Office and posting the opportunity on the Village website with an application process. Council Member Lamb then moved to have the

Village Manager solicit citizen applications through the website. However, the motion did not receive a second.

Council agreed in discussion to set a timeline aligned with the next Council meeting for selecting citizen members. During discussion, Justin Yurgens volunteered to serve, and Council agreed to seek an additional interested resident.

E. Brief Discussion of Additional CIP Funding

Council Member Lamb discussed potential approaches to funding additional CIP needs, stating that prior budget sessions revealed no surplus without service reductions. He suggested exploring revenue generation instead of staffing cuts, focusing on economic development and future tax base growth from properties coming off tax abatements or previously underutilized, including several large redevelopment sites, like the Ehman Center. He proposed reviewing whether certain properties could be removed from the TIF to increase Village tax revenue and noted prior legal opinions he believes support that approach. He also emphasized this as an alternative to budget cuts affecting personnel or services and encouraged Council consideration of these revenue strategies.

11. Call to the Public

None.

12. DDA Executive Director Comments

DDA Executive Director Gibb announced an upcoming Downtown Cleanup Day on May 9, encouraging public participation and noting strong volunteer turnout in the prior year. He also provided updates on DDA activities, including support for the upcoming Flower Fair, appreciation for Council attendance at a recent DDA meeting, and progress on the Lumberyard development project, which is moving toward planning commission review. He added that the DDA is on track to finalize its budget with the Village earlier than usual and encouraged community involvement in upcoming events.

13. Council Comments

Council Member Lamb thanked Village Manager McClary for his cost-saving efforts, emphasized that Council decisions are made in residents' best interests despite disagreements, and noted the budget process went smoothly while highlighting the need for adequate funding to sustain services, staffing and infrastructure.

Council Member Comparoni Jr. said that the evening's decision was difficult and preferred broader public input, potentially through a ballot measure. He thanked the DDA for the basketball court, noted that infrastructure upgrades can raise property values, and praised the Village's character and safety, while expressing concern that rapid growth is becoming overwhelming.

Council Member Dandalides highlighted the basketball court as a strong example of effective collaboration between the Village and DDA, noting that previously unavailable funding became feasible through DDA infrastructure funds and expressing appreciation for the DDA's support.

Council Member Moshier thanked attendees and staff, shared feedback from residents regarding toddler-friendly features at Atwater Park and concerns about pump station noise and infrastructure projects, and encouraged greater public participation in meetings. She also expressed appreciation for Village Manager McClary's presentation and acknowledged Village staff for their work.

Council Member Papacek noted the value of the evening's balanced discussion and public input, highlighted the contribution of Lake Orion Lake Association (LOLA) and Lake Orion Bike & Adventure to local developments approved in the consent agenda, and expressed enthusiasm for local businesses, community events, and increased activity in the downtown area.

President Pro Tem Ford provided updates on Paint Creek Trail operations, including bike patrol staffing, maintenance activities, and upcoming infrastructure improvements and art installations along the trail system. He also noted increasing trail usage and rising concerns related to e-bike speed and enforcement challenges, and discussed potential education and signage efforts in partnership with local businesses. Ford supported the use of DDA and Village funds for the basketball court and emphasized continued investment across the Village while balancing multiple ongoing projects.

14. Village Manager Comments

Village Manager McClary reported on ongoing Public Works operations, including the gradual raising of Lake Orion, completion of water system flushing, and the finalization of engineering and contract documents for the Atwater Park basketball court project. He also provided updates on upcoming budget steps, the start of police collective bargaining negotiations, and noted that Council goals and objectives have been posted publicly.

DPW Director Sanchez announced that the final week of village-wide leaf pickup is underway, with a focus on Section 3 and a final pass through the entire Village, urging residents to have remaining leaves out for collection.

15. Closed Session Items

16. Business From Closed Session

17. Adjournment

MOTION made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Comparoni Jr., to adjourn the April 27, 2026, Village Council Regular Meeting.

VOTING YEA: Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: Rutt

MOTION: Carried

The April 27, 2026, Village Council Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Teresa Rutt
President

Lynsey Blough, CMC
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Sonja Stout
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented on May 11, 2026



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Monday, April 13, 2026

5:30 PM

Village Hall – 21 East Church Street, Lake Orion, MI 48362

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

1. Call to Order

The April 13, 2026 Village Council Special Meeting was called to order by President Rutt at 5:30 PM.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

PRESENT

President Teresa Rutt

President Pro Tem Stan Ford

Council Member Nancy Moshier

Council Member Michael Lamb

Council Member George Dandalides

Council Member Alex Comparoni Jr

Council Member Eric Papacek

STAFF PRESENT

Village Manager Darwin McClary

Police Chief Mark Amundson

Clerk/Treasurer Sonja Stout

DPW Director Wes Sanchez

3. Call to the Public

Frank Komendera shared his support for the Village of Lake Orion.

4. Other Items

A. Finalize FY 2026-27 Village Council Goals and Objectives

President Rutt stated that Council should review the items flagged by the Village Manager, which included the following objectives requiring additional clarity: Objectives 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.1 through 4.3, and 4.6. President Rutt noted that Council could review any other goals or objectives as desired but should prioritize the items identified.

Objective 1.2 – Establish a revised process for budget development, including pre-set expenditure targets.

Council decided to eliminate this objective.

Objective 1.3 – Form a committee to investigate and report on Cityhood/Township consolidation.

Council Member Comparoni, Jr. expressed concern that the topic could present an ethical issue. President Rutt and Council Member Dandalides clarified that the intent was to evaluate the potential benefits and drawbacks of consolidation for taxpayers. President Rutt suggested establishing a timeframe for the work, and Council Member Dandalides indicated that the review could be completed through a subcommittee. Chief Amundson emphasized the importance of addressing the matter promptly, noting concerns that ongoing rumors could negatively affect staffing and morale. Council Member Dandalides also requested obtaining a legal opinion. Council Member Lamb discussed the general process for consolidating the Village with the Township.

Council modified the objective to read: *Form a committee to investigate and report on Village/Township consolidation by June 30, 2026.*

Objective 1.4 – Water Usage and Sewer Discharge Analysis.

Council modified the objective to read: *Investigate the imbalance between purchased water usage and sewer discharge and determine and quantify sources of discrepancy by December 31, 2026.*

Objective 2.1 – Analyze 75/25 Infrastructure Funding by June 30, 2026.

The Village Manager inquired whether the goal was to determine how the funds should be spent. President Rutt clarified that the intent was to identify potential projects and align them with the CIP Plan. Council Member Dandalides stated that revenues should be matched with the CIP Plan for the fiscal year. Council Member Dandalides also raised the question of timing relative to CIP planning meetings. The Village Manager explained that CIP discussions typically occur in May or June, and that discussions regarding 75/25 infrastructure funding should occur prior to those meetings.

Objective 2.2 – Investigate Alternative Funding Strategies.

Council discussed whether this objective should remain, noting that evaluating funding strategies is typically an annual process and could potentially fall under the mission, core values, or vision. Council ultimately determined to leave the objective as written.

Objective 3.1 – Children’s Park Bridge and Bank Stabilization.

Council determined that these should be separated into two objectives. Objective 3.1 was modified to *Replace Children’s Park Bridge.*

Objective 3.2 was modified to *Bank stabilization, prioritizing the most critical areas and identifying the most efficient method to address them.*

Objective 3.3 – Investigate and Plan for the Water Drawdown Structure Repair.

Council discussed revising the wording. The modified objective will read: *Investigate and plan for the Lake drawdown structure repair, including the development of a formal policy and implementation plan.*

Frank Komendera inquired whether sewage infrastructure was related to the drawdown structure. Council responded that sewage infrastructure is not related to this objective.

Objective 3.4 – Promote and Support Increased Funding for Parks and Recreation Programs.

Council discussed various funding opportunities, including pursuing grant funding. Council agreed to retain the objective and modify it to read: *Promote and support increased funding for Parks and Recreation programs, consider Parks and Recreation funding requests during budget sessions, and explore grant funding opportunities*

Objective 4.1 – Positive Collaborative Relationships with the DDA and Township.

Council Member Lamb stated that this matter was primarily an administrative concern rather than a Village Council responsibility, though it also reflects a political relationship. President Rutt explained that, in the past, the Village President, Village Manager, DDA Chairperson, and DDA Executive Director met monthly to maintain communication and coordination. She acknowledged past concerns regarding Council members not being included but stated that participation by the President and DDA Chairperson allowed both organizations to remain aligned. She indicated that she wanted to ensure Council supported continuing that practice.

Council Member Dandalides stated that the relationship requires improvement and suggested designating a Village Council representative to attend Township meetings to strengthen collaboration. He volunteered to serve in that capacity. Council Member Comparoni, Jr., and Pro Tem Ford expressed support for the idea.

Frank Komendera also commented on the importance of collaboration between the Village and Township.

Council agreed to leave the objective unchanged.

Objective 4.2 – Approachability and Transparency.

Council Member Lamb suggested establishing clearer rules during Council meetings regarding requests from the public for responses during public comment, noting that other municipalities handle this differently. President Rutt stated that procedures already exist and that she attempts to explain them during public comment periods. Council Member Dandalides described how the Township handles public comment. Council noted that the Village Manager often addresses questions during Village Manager comments, and Council Members may respond during Council comments.

Council Member Dandalides further suggested establishing a policy requiring all meetings to be held in Council Chambers, recorded, and live streamed, or alternatively outfitting the conference room with similar capabilities. He also suggested that the Village create a Facebook page similar to the Police Department's page. President Rutt noted potential legal and administrative concerns, including the resources required to monitor social media. Police Chief Amundson added that maintaining the Police Department's page is time-consuming.

MOTION was made by Council Member Dandalides, Seconded by Council Member Lamb, to adopt a policy requiring all Village Council meetings, both regular and special, to be held in a venue capable of being live streamed, recorded, and documented on the Village website.

President Rutt expressed concern about voting on the motion without first consulting with ONTV regarding feasibility. Council Member Dandalides stated that he had previously spoken with ONTV but requested that the item be placed on the next agenda, indicating that he would make the motion again at that time.

Council Member Lamb also requested that an agenda item be added to allow Village Council comments directed to the public. Frank Komendera suggested adjusting meeting times and expressed support for live streaming special meetings.

The *motion was withdrawn* with the intent to place the matter on a future agenda.

Objective 4.3 – Enhance and Support DPW, Police, and DDA.

Council eliminated this objective.

Objective 4.4 – Complete Ordinance Codification.

Council retained this item and renumbered it as *Objective 4.3 – Complete Ordinance Codification*.

Objective 4.5 – Finalize Engineering Standards, Ordinance Revisions, and Operations Protocol by June 30, 2026.

Council Member Lamb inquired about the timeline. The Village Manager stated that he is awaiting two additional ordinances from the attorney and believes the timeframe is attainable. The objective was renumbered to *Objective 4.4*.

Objective 4.6 – Continue to Enhance Code Enforcement Efforts.

Council eliminated this objective.

Objective 4.7 – Finish Identifying, Classifying, and Determining Use of All Village-Owned Properties.

Council renumbered this objective to *Objective 4.6* and discussed establishing a completion date. Council suggested completing the task by the first meeting in May 2026. The Village Manager noted that the final report from the planners is required before completion. President Rutt asked whether the planners could provide the report by the second meeting in May. The Village Manager responded that he would attempt to obtain the report by that time.

5. Call to the Public

6. Adjournment

MOTION made by Council Member Comparoni Jr, Seconded by President Rutt to adjourn the April 13, 2026, Village Council Special Meeting.

VOTING YEA: Rutt, Ford, Moshier, Lamb, Dandalides, Comparoni Jr, Papacek

VOTING NAY: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION: Carried

The April 13, 2026, Village Council Special Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Teresa Rutt
President

Sonja Stout
Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: as presented April 27, 2026