

## LaRue Village Council Meeting March 2, 2026

The LaRue Village Council met in regular session on March 2, 2026 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Maintenance Supervisor Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Connie Kendall, Andrew Trihaft, Maria Ford, David Stallsmith, and John Hickman. **Guests present:** Craig Mescher, Tom Ford, and Dillion Wyatt (representing Makeever & Associates)

**Opening:** President Maria Ford opened the meeting with a pledge to the American flag.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved with a motion by Connie Kendall and a second by John Hickman, motion passed.

**The financial report** was presented and a motion was made by John Hickman to approve the bills with a second by Andrew Trihaft, motion passed.

**Mayor** – None

**Maintenance** – Tyler Howell reported the house that burnt on High Street is going to be torn down. The Village is currently holding part of the insurance money until the property is completely cleaned up.

Tyler Howell received another quote for the trailer on the Monk property for demo @\$2,300. A motion was made by Connie Kendall to hire the contractor to tear down the Monk trailer for \$2,300 with a second by John Hickman, motion passed.

**Street and Alley** – Dustin Ford was asked to close St Rt 37 for the Oorang Bang this coming year.

**Park** – Tyler Howell reported that Baseball for Youth will be getting new uniforms.

**Buildings & Grounds** – X

**BPA** – X

**Budget** – X

**Tree** – X

**Commission** – X

**Zoning** – X

**Sheriff** - X

**Fire & Safety** – Andre Trihaft reported they will be increasing the fire department membership and they have been applying for grants this coming year.

### **Old Business:**

Tyler Howell reported that the south bridge project should start the end of June or the beginning July 2026.

Tyler Howell reported on the burnt building up town and the bids were opened. It was discovered that the JCs pizza had more damage in the rafters than previously discovered so further investigation needs to be conducted by JCs Pizza's insurance company.

### **New Business:**

Craig Mescher was present to talk with Council about all the final numbers that were provided for the St Rt 37 project. Reports are attached. The Board is going to be responsible for a 0% loan with OPWC loan with an amount at \$95,693.35. The override amount is caused because of the undercutting increased cost. The Board expressed their concern with lack of communication for the overage and what ended up turning into a loan. The Board is going to contact Samantha Hobbs about the project and if the Village has any legal rights with all the mistakes that took place with the engineering. Mr. Mescher will be contacting ODOT to find out when they will be coming to complete the finish coat.

Dillion Wyatt (representing Makeever & Associates) was present to talk with Council about the engineering services his company offers. Their office is located in Bucyrus. A motion was made by John Hickman to retain Makeever &

Associates as an engineering firm with a second by Andrew Trihaft, motion passed. Dillion Wyatt is going to work with Tyler Howell on some upcoming projects and get a game plan what funding is available.

Tyler Howell reported that at the Oorang Bang the LaRue Fire Fighter Associate would like to have a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) instead of a beer garden. Residents can walk the permitted area for the Oorang Bang and the cups have to have something designated on them. Cups can't be larger than 16oz and the cups or stickers have to be supplied by the Village. Council would like to have the Marion County Licensing representative out to discuss all the rules that go along with holding a DORA.

Tyler Howell reported a meeting will be held March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm with FEMA.

Council reviewed Tyler Howell's annual review survey and he received positive scores in all areas. A motion was made by John Hickman to approve a \$750 clothing allowance for Tyler Howell with a second by Maria Ford, motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2026