

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Present for Roll Call: Carlson, Erickson, Galbraith, Jenich-Laplander, Pietila and Sullivan.

Guests: Kurt Erkkila, Michael Kopp, Ian Lewis, Riley Powers, and Ian Raymond.

The meeting was called to order in the village council chambers by President Sullivan at 6:00PM.

A **Public Hearing** was held regarding the USDA Police grant for a new vehicle. The grant is 75/25%. The village's share will come from the sale of the 2017 police car, although this may fall short of our 25% mark. The potential difference has been budgeted. Village Fellow, Riley Powers has submitted the pre application.

Public Comments Michael Kopp of 227 Hecla St was present to complain/express concern about the sidewalk at 232 Hecla St being broken. Pieces of the sidewalk have got caught in his snowblower and broken it several times. He was informed of the sidewalk replacement program for this property. The village will take care of the sidewalk adjacent to the village parking lot.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **agenda** as presented. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Erickson to approve the **minutes** of the February 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes, the 02/28/24 Budget Hearing, the 02/28/24 special meeting and the March 10, 2024 special meeting. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$147,267.27 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$74,624.85. Carried 6-0.

Communications to the Council

Fellow Powers indicated that she will be preparing a recap of the Laurium Planning Commission Vision session, surveys and comments. These will be emailed to the council.

Committee Reports

Finance: No report.

Recreation/Parks: The George Gipp Arena is closed for the winter. Bassett Mechanical has been contacted to see about our options for the use of glycol in the lines. Due to the light winter, work has started on the dugouts for the ball fields. Hopefully more work will be able to be done on field improvements this year. Tim Lyons will donate manure that can be used with mulch from the composted leaves for the flower planters and ball fields. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to allow Jeff Kalcich to store his sifter on village property and use it for sifting the manure and mulch. Carried 6-0.

Public Safety – Police: No report.

Public Safety – Fire: A grant for ropes and harnesses has been written to Copper Shores. There is a \$2000 match which has been budgeted. The new turnout gear through the FEMA grant should arrive by the end of the week. Approval was given from the FDCTV grant program to transfer the remaining balance from the DPW roof to the fire department roof. There is also an energy efficiency portion of the FDCVT grants to convert the current electric heat at the fire department to gas heat. Erickson will work on the Semco rebate.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: A new sidewalk machine will be purchased for \$28,000. The purchase of a roll off truck is being investigated. We would need to buy the containers which could be used for snow removal, recycling and extra garbage pickups. A roller was obtained for better hot patching for \$4000.00. A trailer was included in the package. Changing the timeframe for parking on the streets was discussed. It was decided to keep it the same so that the street sweeping can possibly be done before the end of April. There are now five full time DPW employees.

Property/Building/Ordinance: No report.

Beautification: Amy Schneiderhan has agreed to organize the hanging plants throughout the village. Donations and will be sought for the purchase of flowers in the parks. A cleanup will be scheduled as well.

Community Relations: Hrebec will be removed from the social media outlets for the village.

Manager's Report

An application has been submitted to EGLE for the water inventory. The **grant** would be about \$110,000.00. \$31,000 would be for materials to restore yards to their previous condition, the balance for DPW salaries. Our auditor indicated that if we have more than \$750,000 in grants, we will be subject to a federal audit. It may be possible to receive a FDCVT grant for the fire department equipment van and water inventory. We should hear if this can happen soon. Manager Lewis will review the edits of **ordinances** that Hrebec was doing. He and the village fellow will look for ordinance samples from the MML that will be closer to what will work for blight, dangerous buildings and fences.

New Business

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to accept the **resignation** of Trustee Jessica Hrebec. Carried 6-0. The vacancy will be posted with applications due by April 2nd so a decision can be made at the April 8th Statutory meeting. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **appointments** of Andrew Erickson and William Ward to the Laurium Planning Commission. Carried 6-0. A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Galbraith to remove Village Manager Lewis from the **Laurium Planning Commission**. He will be a temporary member regarding zoning and on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Carried 6-0. The planning commission will be starting to work on **zoning** soon. It is very important to get input so businesses will be contacted to take part in this process. Ideas for a **community event** during the summer were discussed. Having a movie night and the return of rollerblading were mentioned as possibilities. Doing artwork on the side of the George Gipp Arena facing the playground working with an artist but having community members to do the painting was also considered. A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to amend the **budget** to reflect the use of QModo. The \$10,000 startup

cost and annual fee will be split between the General fund (\$5000), Sanitation fund (\$3500) and Arena (\$1500). Yes – Carlson, Galbraith, Jenich-Laplander, Pietila and Sullivan. Abstain – Erickson. Carried 5-0. The \$15,000 dues for the BSA accounting program will be split between funds at a later date. The **Statutory meeting** will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00PM in the council chambers. With the sale of the Tomasi property east of Isle Royale Street, a new address is needed for the new property owner. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to approve the **new property address** of 75 Fifth Street. Carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus

Clerk