

Village of Laurium  
Statutory Meeting  
Monday, April 8, 2024

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

**Absent:** Erickson.

**Guests:** Kurt Erkkila, Ian Lewis and Riley Powers.

The meeting was called to order in the village council chambers and on the GoToMeeting site/phone conference by President Sullivan at 6:00PM.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Carlson to appoint Dale Ninko to fill the **vacant council position**. Carried 5-0. The clerk swore in Ninko and he took his seat at the table.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Galbraith to authorize Village Manager Lewis to sign the EGLE **grant** when awarded for the lead pipe water inventory that needs to be completed. Carried 6-0. Approximately \$123,000.00 (reimbursable) can be used for wages, and repairs and maintenance associated with sampling. QModo will be used to document and keep records. The project is expected to start in June-September 2024. Notice will need to be given to residents prior to the start of work. By the end of the week, we should hear if a grant through the State of Michigan Treasury for a water project or fire truck is approved.

**Budget amendments** will need to be made in the Water Fund to reflect the changes in revenues and expenses from the EGLE grant. These will be presented at the April regular council meeting next week.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to appoint Charles Miller, Attorney at Law as **village attorney**. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Ninko to appoint Susan Sanford as village **auditor** for 2024-25. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Galbraith and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve Clerk Patricia Golus, Treasurer Jon Koskiniemi, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Sharon Turovaara as **check signatories**. Carried 6-0. The clerk will clarify whether Turovaara wants to retain her position and get clarification on what Manager Lewis is authorized to do with banking.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Ninko to authorize the following as **depositories** of village funds: Incredible Bank, Range Bank, Superior National Bank. Investments are to be in accordance with the Village of Laurium Investment Policy as per PA 20 of 1943, as amended. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Galbraith to appoint Dan Zubiena as **Fire Chief**. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Ninko to appoint Jeff Kalcich as **DPW Group Leader**. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Galbraith and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to appoint Todd La Roux, Houghton County Building Inspector as the **Dangerous Buildings Ordinance #145 Designee**. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Galbraith and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to appoint Steve Wright as the **Dangerous Buildings Ordinance #145 Hearing Officer**. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Carlson to increase the **clerk salary** from \$87.65 biweekly to \$135.00 biweekly. Additional duties will be specified by the manager for an additional hour or two each pay period. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Galbraith to increase the **treasurer salary** from \$203.85 biweekly to \$230.00 biweekly. Additional time will be needed to learn a new tax program and process tax payments. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Ninko to appoint Gregg Saxton as **part time janitor** with an hourly rate of \$10.65/hour, maximum of 14 hours/week. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Ninko to appoint Gregg Saxton as **part time sanitation** with an hourly rate of \$15.00/ hr. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Galbraith and seconded by Jenich-Laplander for **Gregg Saxton benefits** to include holiday pay: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, day after Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Vacation pay after 1 year 1 week, after 2 years 2 weeks, after 7 years 3 weeks and after 12 years 4 weeks. Sick pay: ½ day earned each completed month of employment. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Galbraith to appoint Paige Blain as **Accounts Clerk** with an hourly rate of \$18.50/hour with a maximum of 40 hours/week. Benefits include holiday pay: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Vacation pay after 1 year 1 week, after 2 years 2 weeks, after 7 years 3 weeks and after 12 years 4 weeks. Sick pay: 1 day earned each completed month of employment. Personal days: 3 not chargeable to sick time. Pension B-2, FAC 3 employee contribution 6%. Health insurance plans Aetna, Delta Dental, MetLife, and Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance Group plans. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **committee appointments** (\*denotes chair):

Finance: Carlson\*, Jenich-Laplander.

Recreation/Parks/Beautification: Erickson\*, Pietila.

Public Safety – Police/Fire: Carlson\*, Galbraith.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: Erickson\*, Galbraith.

Property/Ordinance/Building: Ninko\*, Jenich-Laplander.

Community Relations: Jenich-Laplander\*.

Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Carlson to appoint Erickson as **President Pro-Tem**. Carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium