

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2023

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

Guests: Kurt Erkkila, Ian Lewis and Ian Raymond.

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

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **agenda**. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **minutes** of the October 17, 2023 regular meeting. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Pietila to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$52,583.86 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$35,106.65. Carried 7-0.

Committee Reports

Finance: The committee will set up a time to review the audit with the manager and make a report to the council.

Recreation/Parks: 150 hot dogs were served at the Halloween party. The leftover candy will be used at the Skate with Santa event on December 16th. The Houghton County work crew has thoroughly cleaned the arena. Bassett Mechanical has done a preliminary review of the ice plant. The compressor is obsolete and parts are hard to find. There are only 3-5 years that we will be able to get freon. The compressor will be turned on tomorrow and the ice will go down next week. Training from Bassett Mechanical will be done as to how everything works. The hockey association is willing to help with ice resurfacing for their rentals but we will have to hire for open skating and pick up rentals. The rink will open on November 25th. There is a possibility that a summer inline skating league will start.

Public Safety – Police: No report.

Public Safety – Fire: The FEMA equipment has been ordered and we have a state grant that we can use to pay our portion. With the hoses and nozzles being ordered, the fire department will be done with its portion of the FDCVT grant. Treasury indicated that the money can be reallocated from the DPW roof to the Fire Department roof since the DPW bid came in lower than what was approved.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: The new hub was ordered and has been installed on the grader. The core has been returned. The land behind Isle Royale Street that has been used as a snow dump has been sold. We can still use up to Fifth St. Gates will be installed by the new owner that we will have to lock after use. A long-range plan will need to address the possibility

that this snow dump may not be available at some point. The unofficial trail in this area is now private property and access is no longer available.

Property/Building/Ordinance: Hrebec is almost done reviewing the existing marijuana ordinance. Jenich-Laplander and Manager Lewis will also review before presenting it to the council.

Beautification: The DPW has started putting up the snowflakes .

Community Relations: Information will go on social media to state the opening of the arena and public skating hours, Skate with Santa and trail access is no longer available.

Manager Report

Manager Lewis presented the annual **pension report** that needs to be submitted to MERS. **Grants** are being applied for new park equipment and a pavilion. The new front doors for the village hall will be replaced by the end of the month and possibly the front window too. The new boiler has been installed. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to authorize up to 8 hours for the police heating zone to be fixed. Carried 7-0. Regarding the **audit**, Manager Lewis reviewed the items that the auditor mentioned that need to be addressed: segregation of duties, timely bank reconciliations, lack of monitoring, failure to file state reports, budgeting procedures and excess expenditures, and preparation of financial statements. The corrective action plans were discussed and are being implemented.

Unfinished Business

The **garbage ordinance** was discussed. The best can size would be 32 gallon for single family homes. A multi-family home needs to have a can for every unit. Businesses will need to have one 96-gallon village cart at a minimum. The transfer station tipping charges should be covered by the quarterly billing and the tax millage should provide for garbage trunk replacement funding. This is not happening. A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Carlson to increase the garbage billing rate to \$18.00/month effective for the January 1, 2024 quarterly billing. Carried 7-0.

New Business

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to increase all **ice rental rates** by \$10.00/hour and **public skating** to \$3.00/person. Carried 7-0. The concession stand will not be open during the week, only on weekends. There will be at least pop vending machines during the week. No hot food (hot dogs, nachos, pretzels & cappuccino) will be served. The possibility of having public skating passes was discussed. There is an opening for a full time **DPW equipment operator**. Applications are being accepted with hiring by the first week of December. No seasonal DPW drivers have been hired yet. Possibly someone from the pool of applicants would be willing. A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Galbraith to increase the 2023-24 **snow contract** rates to .70/sq ft for plowing and .50/sq ft for hauling and the **sidewalk plowing ordinance #135** to \$2.50 /lineal ft. Carried 7-0. Increasing the village parking lot from \$15.00/month was tabled until next season.

At 7:58PM, a motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Pietila to go into **executive session** to discuss the DPW union contract negotiations.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:29PM.

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

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to authorize Manager Lewis to negotiate with Aramark for the uniform and rag cleaning/rental charges. Carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium