

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, May 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order in the Village council chambers by President Bausano at 5:30PM.

**Present for Roll Call:** Bausano, Jeff Erickson, Robert Erickson, Hodges, Junot, Lanctot and Miller.

**Guests:** Paul Baroni and Edward Vertin.

A **public hearing** on the USDA Rural Development Police vehicle grant was held. There were no comments from the public, since none were in attendance.

A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Junot to approve the **agenda** with the addition of the Laurium Housing Commission under Communications to the Council. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Jeff Erickson and seconded by Junot to approve the **minutes** of the April 18, 2017 regular council meeting. Yes – Bausano, Jeff Erickson, Robert Erickson, Junot, Lanctot and Miller. Abstain – Hodges. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Junot and seconded by Lanctot to approve the **prepaid bills** for April/May in the amount of \$121,918.87 and approve the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$26,076.73. Carried 7-0.

### **Communications to the Council**

The **Houghton County** Treasurer submitted a letter with parcels in the village that will be foreclosed. The village has the option to purchase these properties. A motion was made by Junot and seconded by Miller to refuse the purchase of the foreclosed properties. Carried 7-0.

The **Copper Country Horseshoe League** approached the village to make improvements to the horseshoe pits at the George Gipp Recreation Area. The village would remove the existing pits, save the pegs and level the ground. At their own expense, the league would rebuild the pits to regulation. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Jeff Erickson to give permission for this work. Carried 7-0.

A letter was received from the **Laurium Housing Commission** indicating that the term of Thomas Sturos will expire at the end of the month. He is willing to serve again for a five year term. A motion was made by Jeff Erickson and seconded by Lanctot to reappoint Thomas Sturos as a commissioner to the Laurium Housing Commission for a five year term. Carried 7-0.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** No report.

**Recreation/Parks/Community Relations:** Baseball season is underway.

**Public Safety – Police:** No report.

**Public Safety – Fire:** The department had two fire calls in April. An assist to pump water in a driveway while the snow was melting for a resident was also performed.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** The DPW will be doing sidewalk replacements in the village during the next few months. Residents can sign up for this by contacting the village office. A notice will be placed on the website and on the front door of the hall and an article will be put in the paper. The property owner will be responsible for the cost of the materials. The DPW crew will provide the labor and equipment to remove the old sidewalk and prepare and pour the new sidewalk.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** Most of the collapsed roofs over the winter have been addressed. Village Administrator Vertin is following up with those who have not yet complied with the unsafe building ordinance. The police department is working on the yard maintenance ordinance infractions.

### **Unfinished Business**

A motion was made by Jeff Erickson and seconded by Junot to approve the **Resolution Authorizing Publication of Notice of Intent to Issue Capital Improvement Bonds and Declaring Intent to Reimburse**. This was prepared by the bond attorney for the equipment to be purchased from the millage over the next few years. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Junot that all **capital expenditures**, whether they be big price items or equipment purchases or large repairs, should be monitored by Village Administrator Vertin. If necessary, a special meeting will be called for the council to approve these types of purchases. Carried 7-0.

Four bids were received for the labor and equipment to replace the **roof** of the George Gipp Arena. A motion was made by Junot and seconded by Lanctot to accept the bid of Paul Hyrkas for \$33,900.00. The material quantities are to be approved by and paid for by the village per the lowest direct price quote. Carried 7-0.

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Robert Erickson and seconded by Lanctot to authorize Ryan Wetelainen to be a **compensated member** of the fire department since he has completed fire school. Carried 7-0.

Two bids were received for a new **pavement marker** for the DPW. A motion was made by Jeff Erickson and seconded by Junot to purchase a pavement marker from Sherwin Williams in the amount of \$5715.00, with funds coming from the Public Improvement Fund. Carried 7-0.

There is a **garage** that sits adjacent to the Gipp Memorial, which is considered an easement. Due to potential liability issues, Paul Tomasi, village attorney recommends that this garage be fully deeded to the neighbor of the Gipp Memorial, John Sullivan. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Junot to proceed with the attorney's recommendation. John Sullivan is to pay for a survey, deed and attorney fees. Possibly an easement can be made to the village for the water main. Carried 7-0.

### **Announcements**

The **Michigan Municipal League** will not be making a presentation locally regarding the broken municipal financing system in Michigan. The council did not wish to pursue any other avenues to hear this information at this time.

The Vairo Law Offices will be dissolving and closing at the end of the year. Attempts to retain an **attorney** to practice municipal law are being pursued. In the event that one isn't found, the village will need to find another attorney.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium