

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Present for Roll Call: Carlson (6:40), Erickson, Galbraith, Hrebec, Pietila and Sullivan.

Absent: Jenich-Laplander.

Guests: Kurt Erkkila, Erik Lee, Ian Lewis, Ian Raymond and Jeff Twardzik.

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 Erickson to approve the **agenda** as presented. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Hrebec to approve the **minutes** of the January 16, 2024 regular meeting. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Galbraith to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$519,829.49 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$42,849.89. Carried 5-0.

Committee Reports

Finance: Hrebec has review the audit report and will meet with Village Manager Lewis regarding his responses to the audit findings and how to avoid these findings in the future.

Recreation/Parks: The mite tournament went well. A walk through of the arena needs to be done to assess what repairs/maintenance are necessary, i.e. soap & towel dispensers replaced, etc. Discussion at the end of the season will be held to see the interest in advertising on the boards. The hockey association will possibly help with board replacements. An inline hockey league may be a possibility for this summer. Hopefully with an early spring, more work can be done on the ballfields before the season starts.

Public Safety - Fire: The annual meeting of the fire department took place and the year-end report and election of officers were presented to the council. A motion was made by Galbraith and seconded by Pietila to approve the reports as presented by the fire department. Carried 5-0.

Public Safety – Police: Funding will determine what additional work can be done besides the windows and new entrance in the police department.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: The lack of snow is having an effect on the streets and general fund. The DPW can go through the arena and take care of some of the repair & maintenance items identified. With the light winter, the equipment is not getting much use so we are in a good place from that aspect. In a couple of years, we will probably need to start looking for a garbage truck.

Property/Building/Ordinance: The marijuana ordinance is still being reviewed.

Beautification: No report.

Community Relations: Those donating for free public skating admissions are being recognized on social media.

Manager Report

A grant through the Michigan Township Par Plan for tasers and body cam updates for the police department is being prepared. A \$50,000 grant from Copper Shores for ice plant updates is moving forward. We would need to fund the additional amount over two years for the balance of the approximate \$200,000 for the new plant. The fire department rescue van grant has moved to the next phase as have the water inventory project grants. The fire department also received the updated hoses and nozzles through the FEMA grant. The new police entrance and office service window have been installed. Most of the new windows are on sight and some of the smaller ones may be installed before spring, weather permitting. There will be ramifications in the street funds next fiscal year due to the lack of snow this year.

Unfinished Business

Jeff Twardzik from QModo answered questions regarding his proposal for software for fleet management. It can also be used for buildings and personnel training. Customer service will be readily available. There will be an initial cost of \$5000 to implement and then \$3000/year maintenance. The council will review the contract and decide at the February 28, 2024 special meeting on the course of action. The council will also review the updated Council Member Appointment Application and Village Council Bylaws for the RRC requirement for approval at the special meeting.

New Business

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Galbraith to sell the old **Zamboni** to Joel Keranen for \$300. He will remove it from village property. Carried 6-0. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Carlson to purchase the Wackard **blacktop roller** from Scott Lampinen between \$3000-3500. Carried 6-0. A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Erickson to hold a **public hearing** on the USDA Rural Development police car purchase on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:00PM at the regular March council meeting. Carried 6-0.

Old Business

The Daniell Park sprinkler system and layout for the recreation area need to be discussed for grant and planning commission purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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