

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 18, 2023

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

**Absent:** Carlson.

**Guests:** Paige Blain, Kalen Carlson, Andrew Erickson, Kurt Erkkila, Thomas Fournier, Jon Koskiniemi, Ian Lewis, Ian Raymond, Darian Reed, and Christina Verran.

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** with the addition of master plan update under unfinished business. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **minutes** of the March 21, 2023 regular meeting and the April 10, 2023 Statutory meeting. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Erickson to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$108,549.05 and payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$77,793.34. Carried 6-0.

### **Communications to the Council**

Christina Verran from Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital is very pleased with the **helicopter landings**. There have been 10 so far. Aspirus is grateful to the Laurium Fire Department for their assistance in this process.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** The committee will be setting up a meeting with the manager.

**Recreation/Parks:** The DPW will be preparing the ball fields as soon as weather allows. The George Gipp Arena is closed for the season, the ice is out and the powder from the lines will be cleaned. Discussions are being held with the hockey association to get more volunteers.

**Public Safety-Police/Fire:** The committee and Manager Lewis will be meeting with the fire department and touring the fire hall.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** One full time employee has resigned. As a cost savings measure, the full-time position will not be filled until fall. A part time employee will be used until then. A maintenance schedule is in the works. The Caterpillar grader made it through another winter but will be fixed this summer. The priorities for the DPW Equipment Fund purchases are a loader, dump truck and sidewalk machine, but not all now as \$25,000 will be left in the fund yearly. Alternate side parking will be tried for spring and fall sweeping.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** The committee will meet with the DPW regarding the Sanitation ordinance.

**Beautification:** Donations are being accepted for flowers, planters, soil etc., and can be dropped off at the village office.

**Community Relations:** No report.

### **Manager Report**

The new **police recruit** is Jena Dostaler. She will be completing the police academy and will be done in August, starting at the village shortly thereafter. A \$2500 grant from the **Keweenaw Area Community Foundation** was approved for sprinklers at Daniell Park. Pictures were taken for the **website**. Access has been granted from pasty.net for the domain. There are still grants that we can apply so the project list has to be current. The **CEDAM fellow** offered the position has accepted. With a degree in Technical Writing from MTU, the committee felt that would be an asset to the village. The fellow will be on site mid-May and besides the donated \$10,000 for the application, there will be no cost to the village.

### **Unfinished Business**

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplender and seconded by Hrebec to pay the village manager a \$50/month **phone** stipend. Carried 6-0. Former village administrator Ed Vertin's cell phone was tabled until the May meeting. Kalen Carlson gave a brief overview on the status of the **master plan**. All received a copy of the second draft and should get all edits to her asap. The revisions will be sent to Beckett & Rader by April 24<sup>th</sup>. In early May, the village council will need to release the plan to other municipalities.

### **New Business**

Details regarding a **seasonal/summer DPW employee** to start mid-May will be forthcoming. Clarity for the **sidewalk replacement** program needs to be made. DPW has a list of residents that would like to have this done. Discussions with DPW and the ordinance committee will be held.

### **Old Business**

**Rental registration** forms are being returned. Both long- and short-term rentals are required to submit a form. Increasing **business garbage rates** will be discussed at the May meeting. An informational pamphlet regarding the **Headless Override** millage on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot has been printed and is available on Facebook, the website, at the office and local businesses.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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