

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 20, 2023

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

Absent: Hrebec and Sullivan.

Guests: Kurt Erkkila, Thomas Fournier, Ian Lewis and Darian Reed (online).

The meeting was called to order in the Village Council Chambers by Pro-Tem Erickson at 6:00pm.

There was a **public hearing** for the proposed millage rate for the 2023 tax billing. Village Manager Lewis answered questions and explained the information on the millage resolution. A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Galbraith to adopt the **millage rate** of 19.2489 for 2023. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **agenda** as presented. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Galbraith to approve the **minutes** of the May 16, 2023 meeting. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **prepaid bills** for May-June in the amount of \$130,017.79 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$56,437.07. Carried 5-0.

Communications to the Council

Darian Reed of Keweenaw Solutions gave an update and showed some of the details on the progress of the **website**. There are still a few more items to add before it is ready to go live. Manager Lewis will send a link and password for the council to review.

Committee Reports

Finance: Manager Lewis is caught up with all of the items that were on the corrective action plan. The village will be in a better position with the millage increase. A part time DPW worker was hired and this position will become full time in the fall.

Recreation/Parks: Baseball will be done at the end of the month. Through a Portage Health Foundation grant for \$2500, new playground equipment with a musical emphasis will be arriving. The DPW will install and their equipment and wages will also be covered by the grant. The DPW will clean up/fix up the tennis courts. A meeting was held with the men's softball league. Improvements will be made on a yearly basis. This year the old fence was removed and within the next few years, dugout upgrades will be done. The application for a Spark Grant is due next week for playground equipment replacement, a pavilion, and pickleball and tennis courts. Public skating rates will go up next season but the amount is yet to be determined.

Public Safety – Police: Equipment has already been purchased for the new recruit since it is needed at the academy. Following graduation, the starting date is August 21st. Training will last until November.

Public Safety – Fire: The department should hear soon whether the FEMA grant for turnout gear has been approved.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: Spring cleanup has been completed. The DPW employees did evaluations on each other. They were reviewed by the committee. Bids that have been submitted at auctions have not been successful. They are still looking for a loader or a dump truck and sidewalk machine.

Property/Building/Ordinance: The commercial garbage rates need to be reviewed.

Beautification: Thanks for all of the donations that were received for the flowers. A donation was also received for potting soil. The hanging baskets and planters have been put out. The DPW has taken down the artwork to stabilize them so they rest in the ground better.

Community Relations: No report.

Manager Report

There are some matching grants available for fire equipment, not including hose but in case the FEMA grant isn't received, turnout gear will be included. The CEDAM fellow is onboard and has been working on grants and the RRC requirements. Progress has been hindered by the CEDAM supervisor being on maternity leave.

Unfinished Business

Erickson came across some **light fixtures** that are discontinued and therefore cheaper for the fire department. An incentive from UPPCo will be available. A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Carlson to approve the purchase of the lights in the amount of \$1623.92 from Standard Electric/Witlock Supply for the fire department. Carried 5-0.

New Business

The current **Rules of Procedure** for council meetings was distributed to the council. The last revision was in 2007. At the July meeting, necessary changes will be discussed.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Carlson to reappoint Marilyn Langley to the Laurium Housing Commission. Carried 5-0.

Old Business

By January 2025, the **lead pipe inventory** should be completed. Based on so many unknowns regarding how to document the findings, who is qualified to do the inspections, who is liable for damage, etc., discussion will continue at the July meeting and hopefully more details will be clarified as to how to conduct this survey.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk