

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Present for Roll Call: Bausano, Fish, Junot, Lanctot, Miller, and Ninko.

Absent: Harju.

Guests: Paul Baroni, Jeff Cole, Barbara Flanigan, Josh Kocjan, Amy Schneiderhan, Edward Sever and Edward Vertin.

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

A **public hearing** was held regarding the USDA Rural Development police vehicle grant/loan. 40% of the cost of a new vehicle would be paid by the grant. This program has not yet been funded and no definite time frame has been given as to when it will be. At this time, the village will submit paperwork so if and when funding is available, we will be in a position to receive a grant.

A motion was made by Junot and seconded by Ninko to approve the **agenda** as presented. Carried 6-0.

Minutes

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ninko to approve the minutes of the **February 15, 2011** regular council meeting. Yes – Bausano, Fish, Lanctot, Miller and Ninko. Abstain – Junot. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lanctot to approve the minutes of the **February 25, 2011** Budget Hearing/Special meeting. Yes – Bausano, Fish, Lanctot, Miller and Ninko. Abstain – Junot. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Junot and seconded by Ninko to approve the **prepaid bills** for February/March in the amount of \$412,414.64 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** for March in the amount of \$19,375.92. Carried 6-0.

Communications to the Council

Jeff Cole, owner of the New Yooper Workshop on Third Street, expressed concern over the bank of snow between the sidewalk and street in front of businesses along the highway in the village. This pile of snow makes it very difficult for customers to get in and out of their vehicles while trying to patronize stores. A solution needs to be found to alleviate this problem. Village Administrator Vertin will work with the Street committee and the business owners on this issue. Mr. Cole also stated that an informal Laurium Business

Association has been established. They would like to become more proactive in promoting the businesses in the village.

Committee Reports

Finance: A proposal to cut revenues sharing has been made but no definite cuts have been made at this time.

Recreation/Parks/Community Relations: More teams were involved with the mite tournament last month but overall attendance was still down. A decrease in attendance at public skating was also noticed this year. The committee will look at doing some additional advertising for next season.

Public Safety – Police: No report.

Public Safety – Fire: No report.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: No report.

Property/Building/Ordinance: The meeting for downtown businesses interested in the MHSDA grants will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at 5:00PM in the council chambers. Since the Seniors Center is now closed, discussion was held on the removal of the handicap parking places around the building. The police department will work with the committee on this issue.

Unfinished Business

The **Baseball League** has still not paid last year's bill for their usage of the George Gipp Arena. This year's usage of the arena will be contingent upon last year's bill being paid and also this year's bill being paid.

New Business

The Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission is offering **Keweenaw Heritage grants**. The village may qualify to receive a grant for repairing the roof of the village hall. A rough estimate for these repairs is \$35,000-\$40,000. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Fish to have Village Administrator submit the application by the April 11, 2011 deadline for an Advisory commission grant. Carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia M. Golus, Clerk
Village of Laurium