

Village of Laurium

Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Present for Roll Call: Bausano, Carlson, Erickson, Lanctot, Miller, and Schneiderhan.

Guests: Debra Dlubala, Robert Heltunen, Jeff Kalcich, Robert Kyllonen, John Sullivan, Jeff Twardzik, Edward Vertin and Betty Zei.

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

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Schneiderhan to approve the **agenda** with a change in the order of Communications to the Council to put Jeff Twardzik at the beginning since he has another commitment to attend. Carried 6-0. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Erickson to add two items to New Business-Michigan Regulation and Taxation Marijuana Act and a personnel issue. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Lanctot to approve the **minutes** from the November 20, 2018 regular council meeting. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lanctot to approve the **prepaid bills** for November/December 2018 in the amount of \$158,213.61 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$48,321.86. Carried 6-0.

Communications to the Council

Jeff Twardzik from Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital was present to discuss garbage and snow removal service at the hospital. Both the village and the hospital agree that the garbage situation is not working properly for either party. Within the next 2-3 years, the hospital will be building another addition. Within that space, there will be an area designated for garbage with a self-contained compactor unit. Ideally, there will be a larger container(s) that can be removed with a truck. This will eliminate multiple pickups during the week and physically having to handle the bags to put them in the garbage truck. The village could also use this truck and containers for snow removal, extra garbage pickup, etc. As plans become more definite for the hospital addition, the village and the hospital will work out a plan for the cost of the container(s) and truck to haul them. Twardzik was also concerned regarding the cost of the hospital's snow removal. He would like to see a monthly billing based on actual time of plowing and hauling rather than an annual lump sum. It is possible for the DPW to keep track of this time for the rest of this winter so that when Twardzik has to submit his budget in June, he will have a better idea of actual cost.

Debra Dlubala, Robert Heltunen and John Sullivan submitted letters of interest for the **open trustee seat** on the council. Since all applicants were qualified, their names were put in a hat and President Bausano pulled John Sullivan's name to be appointed. A motion was made by

Schneiderhan and seconded by Carlson to appoint John Sullivan to the vacant seat on the council. Carried 6-0. The clerk swore in Sullivan and he took his seat at the table.

The **crossing guard** at the CLK Schools is currently being paid by Calumet Township. The legal opinion is that the municipality where the school district is located should cover the cost of the crossing guard.

A letter from the Michigan Historic Commission was received regarding the **sign for Daniell Park**. The commission decided that the information available was not adequate to establish historical significance for the site and therefore a sign will not be authorized. Antonia Burich did express an interest in following up on this decision.

Committee Reports

Finance: No report.

Recreation/Parks/Community Relations: The George Gipp Arena is open for the season. The new lights and base under the ice are great improvements. Final paperwork for the LED lighting project will be filed later this week. The "4th Line" will be donating a new water fountain and filling station for the Arena. The Skate with Santa Christmas party was well attended and received. This will most likely become a new tradition.

Public Safety – Police: There have been 205 more complaints in 2018 than 2017.

Public Safety – Fire: No report.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: No report.

Property/Building/Ordinance: No report.

Unfinished Business

Now that all seats on the council have been filled, the committee appointments will be made at the January 2019 meeting. Any preferences should be made to President Bausano.

New Business

A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Erickson to opt out of **PA 152** for 2019. Carried 7-0.

At the November election, recreational marijuana was made legal in Michigan. A motion was made by Lanctot but later withdrawn to opt out of the **Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act**. Since this topic was added to the agenda tonight, and there was no opportunity for discussion or research, the matter was tabled until the January 2019 meeting.

An employee was hired in the police department in October. At that time, benefits were not discussed. Per the police union contract, only the employee is to be covered by health insurance, not the entire family for one year. However, the whole family was enrolled. The employee felt she was misled after finding out that only she should be covered and would have

to pay for the difference between the single and family coverage, should she decide to keep family coverage. The matter went to the village attorney for review and discussions of options were held between the village and the employee. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Miller to:

- Have the village pay for the employee's family coverage through the end of 2018 (roughly 3 months) with no reimbursement required.
- The employee agrees to reimburse the village for the difference between single and family coverage for the remainder of her first year of employment.
- The employee agrees to sign any documentation required to drop coverage for her spouse after six months.
- Reimbursement payments to be made monthly and to start at the end of her first year of employment.
- Monthly reimbursements to be based on the monthly "opt out" amount provided for in the union contract.
- Village entitled to retain any opt out payments owed to employee until the reimbursement requirement is satisfied.

Bausano – Yes, Carlson – Yes, Erickson – No, Lanctot – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schneiderhan – Abstain, Sullivan – No. Carried 4-2-1.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium