

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Present for Roll Call: Carlson, Djerf, Erickson, Jenich-Laplander, Salani, Schneiderhan and Sullivan.

Guests: Thomas Bouwkamp, Ed Jenich, Robert Kyllonen, and Edward Vertin.

The meeting was called to order in the village council chambers and the GoToMeeting website by President Sullivan at 5:30PM.

Two concerns by residents were brought up for discussion during **public comment**. Would it be possible for the graders to plow some days on the east side of the street first and other days on the west side of the street first? The side getting plowed first gets the bulk of the snow from the street. Looking for a more equitable distribution of snow. The DPW will be contacted to see if this is possible. Residents would like to have their garbage cans put back where they were picked up from after the garbage has been dumped. They should not be left in the street. The DPW will also be contacted regarding this issue.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Salani to approve the **agenda** with the addition of marijuana ordinance information and MML work session under Unfinished Business and MML redistricting presentation under new business. Carried 7-0. The deadline for getting business on the agenda is Thursday prior to the meeting at 5:00PM. The agenda will be posted on the front door and website Friday at noon.

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **minutes** of the January 19, 2021 regular council meeting and the January 28, 2021 special council meeting. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Schneiderhan to approve the **prepaid bills** for January/February 2021 in the amount of \$223,832.05 and approve the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$22,897.02. Carried 7-0.

Communications to the Council

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to accept the letter of **resignation** of the village auditor Jackie Aalto. Village Administrator Vertin will work with the finance committee to draft a solicitation letter to search for a new auditor.

Committee Reports

Finance: The committee has been reviewing last years audit and working toward the fire department becoming a 501C organization and procedures for applying for federal grants. Vertin is working on the budgets. Financial statements for the end of September 2020 and December 2020 were distributed to the council.

Recreation/Parks/Community Relations: Vertin will check the state guidelines to see if the Zumba rental can start again in the ballroom. Jenich-Laplander submitted a letter of intent for a grant to the Portage Health Foundation but needed more detailed budget information. This is something that needs to be solidified for future grant applications. The Facebook survey got 275 participants. Most wanted to see updates to the playground equipment, tennis and basketball courts and sprucing up the bocce ball area and horseshoe pits. A dog park and walking trail were also on the wish list as was bringing back an event like Lazy Days. Roller blading at the

arena was also mentioned. The committee will need to prioritize this information. The committee would like to have a "Community Day" where the residents could tour the village buildings, see the equipment, etc.

Public Safety – Police: Lately the police department has found itself the only agency at some calls both inside and outside of the village. Calls outside of the village are for medical emergencies or accidents only. Some of these have been quite dangerous. A discussion will be held with Calumet Village to see what their long-term plans are for police coverage.

Public Safety – Fire: The committee toured the fire hall and was impressed it and with how much time the department donates. The department is part of a regional FEMA grant application for PPE. Jenich-Laplander will do a press release noting the Firefighter I & II designations withing the department. Carlson read into the minutes the annual report and election of officers.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: The street department is busy catching up on the 50+ inches of snow we have gotten in the last couple weeks. Still looking into new garbage trucks and selling the old one. There is interest in having credit card or online garbage bill payments. The committee will discuss a potential increase in the monthly garbage rates.

Property/Building/Ordinance: There is a rough draft of a rental ordinance. Should the village purchase a new garbage truck, they may change the garbage ordinance to mandate cans that can be picked up by the truck. President Sullivan contacted the village attorney regarding all the ordinances that have been retyped. Our attorney indicated that if the content was not changed, they can be reposted on the website. Sullivan will take care of it. The committee will meet next week.

Beautification: No report.

Unfinished Business

To know how to proceed with the marijuana ordinance and based on the village attorney's recommendation, the council would like to do a **survey** of village residents as to what kind of marijuana businesses they would like and not like to see in the village. Other topics relating to planning will be discussed as well. A work session will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30PM to work on this survey.

New Business

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to hold a **Budget Hearing** at 5:15PM on Thursday, February 25, 2021 followed by a **special meeting** to adopt the 2021-22 budgets at 5:30PM. Carried 7-0. President Sullivan indicated the MML has a presentation on redistricting that can be viewed at the March meeting if the council is interested.

Announcements

Erickson reported that **Wi-Fi** has been installed and is working in all the village buildings. Vertin was contacted by the township clerk that there will not be a November election this year so the **DPW Equipment Bond millage renewal** will have to go on the August ballot. Wording will be approved at the March meeting.

At 6:53PM. a motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Carlson to enter **executive session** to discuss DPW union negotiations.

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:10PM.

Present for Roll Call: Carlson, Djerf, Erickson, Salani, Schneiderhan and Sullivan.

Absent: Jenich-Laplander.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Salani to approve the DPW union tentative agreement stating: All applicable dates will be changed. 15 full years shall be entitled to one additional vacation day per year until they reach a maximum of five weeks vacation. The employer shall pay the full cost per year for uniform maintenance and upkeep, not \$150.00 per year. The contract will be for three years with a 2.5% raise in all three years. Yes – Carlson, Erickson, Salani, Schneiderhan and Sullivan. Abstain – Djerf. Carried 5-1.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium