

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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

**Guests:** Jeff Kalcich, Jeff McMahon, Robert Kyllonen, Edward Vertin and Daniel Zubiena.

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

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Djerf to approve the **agenda** with the addition of approving the minutes of the December 14, 2020 special council meeting and adding to New Business electing a President ProTem and Houghton Douglass Falls as a new state scenic park. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Laplander to approve the **minutes** of the December 14, 2020 special meeting, December 15, 2020 regular council meeting and the December 30, 2020 special meeting. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Djerf to approve the **prepaid bills** for December 2020/January 2021 in the amount of \$124,252.97 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** for January 2021 in the amount of \$25,927.14. Carried 7-0.

### **Communications to the Council**

**Jeff McMahon** was present to discuss his desire to open a marihuana business in Laurium. He gave some background information about himself and his other businesses in this field. He feels his company would generate revenue for the village through licensing and taxes because of the quality products he sells, in addition to providing jobs. He would either renovate an existing building or construct a new facility. The council indicated they would like to survey the village residents for their opinion on having a business like this in Laurium and will need some time to get that information.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** The committee will be meeting later this month.

**Recreation/Parks/Community Relations:** Jenich-Laplander would like to write some grants for new playground equipment. Depending on how that progresses, possibly just painting what we already have will be done. They would like to see an overall sprucing up of the Gipp Recreation area with new picnic tables, trees, a gazebo and fill for the various courts. Looking into what interest there would be in roller skating at the George Gipp Arena in the summer. They are going to get plans for a dog park and would like to hold a pancake breakfast at some point to fundraise for it.

**Public Safety – Police/Fire:** As of last week, the old police car has been posted on Craigs List.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** The committee said it will probably cost about \$200,000 for a new garbage truck but is still waiting for another quote. They are working on a priority list of equipment.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** The topic of mandating village garbage cans was discussed. They would be available in a couple of sizes and picked up by the garbage truck. Cost might be a factor for some residents, which could be another survey question.

**Beautification:** The committee would like to have the decorations left up later in the future and will work out the details with the street committee. They would also like to see other art projects incorporated throughout the village.

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Jenich-Laplender to appoint Erickson as the **President Pro-Tem**. Yes – Carlson, Djerf, Jenich-Laplender, Salani, Schneiderhan and Sullivan. Abstain – Erickson. Carried 6-0.

The fire department received a **FEMA grant** to replace air tanks and masks. The village share is 5% or \$5370. The bids have been received. For an additional \$3895, they can replace 15 air tanks with a 30-year life span, thereby staggering replacement so the cost will not be so much at one time in the future. A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Erickson to approve the additional amount for the air tanks. Carried 7-0.

The Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce, Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau and KEDA are looking for support to encourage the DNR to develop the **Houghton Douglass Falls** as a new state scenic park. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplender to write a letter of support for this effort. Carried 7-0.

Erickson would like to schedule another **long-term planning** meeting soon. A virtual meeting for the RRC will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> and President Sullivan will send to information to the council.

At 6:50PM, a motion was made by Salani and seconded by Schneiderhan to enter executive session to discuss **DPW union negotiations**. Carried 7-0.

The meeting returned to regular session at 6:58PM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:59PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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