

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

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

**Absent:** Hrebec.

**Guests:** Kurt Erkkila, Thomas Fournier, Chris Holmes, Jeff Kalcich, Ian Lewis, and Dale Ninko.

The meeting was called to order by President Sullivan at 6:00PM in the village council chambers.

The **public hearing** on Ordinance No. 2023-01: Registration of Rental Dwelling Units was opened for public comment. President Sullivan did a brief overview of the ordinance, what it will accomplish and the procedure that will need to be followed. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to approve Ordinance No. 2023-01: Registration of Rental Dwelling Units with the addition of "spouse" added in Section 1. Definitions, paragraph 5. Carried 6-0.

**Public Comment:** Dale Ninko asked what the procedure is to be appointed to the council. Village residents should send a letter of interest and if possible, attend the meeting for a brief interview. The council will vote to decide who should be appointed. This was the procedure followed last month for the vacant council seat.

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

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Galbraith to approve the **minutes** from the December 20, 2022 regular council meeting. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$98,455.55 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$39,207.22. Carried 6-0.

### **Communications to the Council**

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to approve the **manager contract** for Ian Lewis. Carried 6-0.

Chris Holmes from UPEA provided more information about the EGLE grant for the inventory of **water lines**. There is a scoring process to select recipients for the grant. The village would need to pay out about \$30,000 for preliminary work with no guarantee of being selected, although some of that cost could be reimbursed. Upper Michigan Water Company will be contacted to see what information they have regarding the village water lines. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.

A **CEDAM fellow** has been approved for the Village of Laurium. The position will begin in May 2023 – December 2024. This person will assist the manager and planning commission with projects. The cost to the village is \$10,000, due in March. Fundraising is in progress. If the funding is not met, we will not get the fellowship.

## **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** The committee will meet with Manager Lewis in the near future.

**Recreation/Parks:** The mite tournament will be taking place during the first weekend in February. Houghton County has been contacted to do some cleaning prior to that event. Mats will be obtained for the floor between the rink area and the lobby to minimize slipping. More walkers for children are needed. The CHS student senate would like to have a “powder puck” fundraiser at the arena. Availability and rates will be determined.

**Public Safety – Police/Fire:** The police will no longer be able to take advantage of the recruiting grant due to time limitations for sending an officer to the academy. The annual fire report and officer appointments were read. The department will apply for a FEMA grant for turnout gear. They have received 501C(3) status.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** Information regarding a dump truck and blower attachment were discussed. The DPW will look into the pricing and transportation for getting the blower attachment as it is more of a priority.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** No report.

**Beautification:** Amy Schneiderhan has volunteered to assist with the hanging baskets.

**Community Relations:** Updates need to be done on the website so information is current.

## **Unfinished Business**

A sample draft of the millage **ballot** was presented which was worded for a 2-mill general operating increase. Erickson would like to see wording for a general fund operating Headlee rollback. The matter will be researched and decided upon at a special meeting before the February 7, 2023 deadline to file.

## **New Business**

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Jenich-Laplender to donate the **ballroom rental** fee for BHK’s “Family Prom” on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplender to approve the Electronic Transactions and Automated Clearing House policy. Carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium