

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting

June 18, 2019

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

Absent: Erickson.

Guests: Kurt Erkkila, Ruth Ann Gipp, Scott Gipp, Jeff Kalcich, Jon Koskiniemi, Sam Stonelake, Edward Vertin and Daniel Zubiena.

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

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

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Miller to approve the **minutes** of the **May 21, 2019** regular council meeting. Carried 6-0. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Sullivan to approve the minutes from the **May 22, 2019** special council meeting. Yes – Bausano, Carlson, Lanctot, Schneiderhan and Sullivan. Abstain – Miller. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lanctot to approve the **prepaid bills** for May/June 2019 in the amount of \$146,519.45 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$29,494.71. Carried 6-0.

Communications to the Council

Sam Stonelake from KEDA was present to go over the village's progress for the MEDC's Redevelopment Ready Communities engagement process. The required self-evaluation and online training have not yet been completed but will be done this month.

As of May 1, 2019, **Michigan-American Water Company** increased rates by 5.4%.

The information given at the May meeting regarding the **Old Colony Road grant** was incorrect. The village did receive the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B grant for 2020. Village Administrator Vertin has contacted the bond attorney and Rural Development for funding for our share of this project and also for work on First Street. More information will be available at the July meeting.

A letter was received from the Houghton County Treasurer regarding properties within the village that are being auctioned for **tax foreclosure**. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lanctot that we did not wish to exercise our right to purchase available tax foreclosed property. Yes – Bausano, Lanctot, Miller, Schneiderhan and Sullivan. Abstain – Carlson. Carried 5-0.

In the near future, **UPPCo** will be updating the street lights to LEDs and all residential and business electric meters to smart meters for remote readings.

Committee Reports

Finance: No report.

Recreation/Parks/Community Relations: Miller has a draft of a newsletter that will be inserted in the tax bill mailing. She would like everyone to review it and let her know of any corrections, additions or deletions that are needed. Thus far, there have been no major issues with the gate being left open to the ballfields.

Public Safety – Police/Fire: No report.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: The village Christmas tree on the corner of Hecla and Lake Linden Avenue is dead and needs to be removed.

Property/Building/Ordinance: No report.

Beautification: The flower planters have been put out on the main streets. The committee has talked to the Keweenaw National Historical Park regarding replacement and additional trees along the village streets. More information as to cost, type of trees and planting will be coming. The new sidewalk at Daniell Park has been installed and looks great. The committee would like to use some of the money raised for the flower planters for signs for the baseball fields which were named after veterans. Research will need to be done to find the names of the persons before these signs can be put in place.

Unfinished Business

The businesses with **smaller plowing contracts** were notified that the village may not be plowing for them next year due to time and cost restraints. Hauling snow would still be possible. Village Administrator Vertin will meet with these businesses to see if an equitable solution can be reached.

New Business

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Sullivan to approve the **proposed millage resolution**. A public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 5:00PM to take comment on the millage rates. A special meeting will follow at 5:15PM to approve the millage rate for 2019. Carried 6-0.

Discussion took place about replacing the retiring DPW employee. A winter employee has been coming in to work part time. A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Sullivan to post internally the **open DPW position**. Carried 6-0. A hiring decision will be made at the July meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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