

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Present for Roll Call: Bausano, Jeff Erickson, Robert Erickson, Junot, Lanctot, Miller and Schneiderhan.

Guests: Robert Kyllonen, Jim Pakkala, Michelle Pakkala, Dylan Ruotsala, Jason Ruotsala, Joan Ruotsala, Wyatt Ruotsala and Edward Vertin.

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

There was nobody present for the **public hearing** to discuss the property at 415 Iroquois Street. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Miller to have the village enforcement officer send a letter to the property owners to begin the process for Ordinance #145 – Unsafe Buildings compliance. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Junot and seconded by Schneiderhan to approve the **agenda** as presented. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Junot to approve the **minutes** from the April 17, 2018 regular council meeting. Yes – Bausano, Robert Erickson, Junot, Lanctot, Miller and Schneiderhan. Abstain – Jeff Erickson. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Junot and seconded by Lanctot to approve the **prepaid bills** for April-May 2018 in the amount of \$150,069.80 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$19,742.37. Carried 7-0.

Communications to the Council

Andrew Lahti Contracting submitted a letter of thanks to the village for the cooperation in the MSHDA grant process for the property at 100 North Pewabic Street. The grant is complete and the residential portion of the building is finished and occupied.

Michigan American Water Company will be increasing **water** rates by 3.21% effective May 14, 2018. Currently, the village pays for the fire hydrant rental each month. For the June meeting, Village Administrator Vertin will see what needs to be done to pass this cost on to the customers.

The City of Escanaba has incurred significant legal bills to fight the property valuation for a large big box store in the city. The **Michigan Municipal League** is asking members to support the Legal Defense Fund, which has helped the City of Escanaba with this litigation. Since the outcome of this lawsuit will probably not impact Laurium and we have our own financial issues, a motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Junot not to contribute monetary support to the MML Legal Defense Fund. Carried 7-0.

The Michigan Municipal League will be hosting the **UP Education Summit** in Houghton June 6-8, 2018. All council members are invited to attend.

The **Village of Calumet** has decided to end its service to residential customers for weekly garbage pickup. The Village of Laurium will not be contracting this service.

American Forest Management, on behalf of their client TRG Threshold Timber Michigan, sent a letter to the village indicating the village has encroached over the property line area at the far end of the burn pile and snow dump. Village Administrator Vertin will find the deed to the village property and send a copy of this letter to the village attorney for further investigation on purchasing property if necessary.

Six properties have been **foreclosed** in the village by Houghton County. The village has first Right of Refusal to purchase these properties. There is no governmental use for any of these properties. A motion was made by Jeff Erickson and seconded by Schneiderhan to decline purchase and complete the form for the village's Notice of Election to Refuse Purchase of Foreclosed Property. Carried 7-0.

In 2016, the village made a 3 year pledge of \$5000/year to the **PH Foundation's UPSET team**. While this is a worthwhile effort, due to the village's financial position, a motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Junot to renew our 3 year pledge in the amount of \$2500/year. Carried 7-0.

A proposal has been received to order **Croxice rink divider panels** for the George Gipp Arena. Until clarification can be obtained as to whether the village is expected to pay all of the cost or if it will be divided with the Hockey Association, no action will be taken.

Committee Reports

Finance: The annual audit will be the third week in July.

Recreation/Parks/Community Relations: Miller is planning to put together a newsletter to be mailed with the tax bills. Keweenaw Little League will be hosting the District 11 Minor Baseball Tournament at Gipp 1 and 2 July 14-22. 8 teams will be participating. The KLL would like to use the George Gipp Arena for bathrooms. The committee will discuss the possibility of opening the gate to allow access closer to the fields to accommodate the extra parking necessary.

Public Safety – Police: Lt. Paul Baroni has stepped down as acting chief due to health issues. He will still be carried on our books until September. Lt. Robert Kyllonen will be acting chief during the interim.

Public Safety – Fire: During the last month, the department was called out for a possible gas leak.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: Spring cleanup will be taking place the next two weeks. If leaves are raked into bags, the bags must be biodegradable. Vertin will discuss options for roof repairs to the DPW garage with Junot. Village decals need to be on all village heavy equipment and trucks.

Property/Building/Ordinance: Miller received notification from Waste Management that we are not under contract with them since the recycling bin did not fit in the garage at the village hall. We can still bring recycled items to Waste Management and pay as a commercial entity. Jeff Erickson's trailer will be delivered to the village hall by the end of the week. Advertising for recycling will start next week.

Unfinished Business: Jeff Erickson will be sending information regarding the lighting and pictures of the George Gipp Arena this week. A computer rendition will determine what will be needed. Efficiency United will notify us of the incentives for delamping. The lamps at the DPW garage will be swapped light for light but should be submitted as a single project when replacing.

New Business: A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Jeff Erickson to purchase 3 **soft body armor protective vests** for police department everyday use for \$682 each. Carried 7-0. A motion was made by Lanctot and seconded by Junot to purchase 3 **ballistic vests** for the police department to be used during tactical combat (active shooter) for protection against high powered rifles. These would be kept in the cars and worn over the soft body vests. The cost of each is \$299. Carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium