

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2021

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

Absent: Carlson.

Guests: John Heikkila, Jeff Kalcich, Robert Kyllonen, Jeff McMahon, Jerry Simpkins, Cooper Twardzik and 3 other unidentified web guests.

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

John Heikkila, from the Peterbilt dealership in Negaunee was present to give the council information on a **new garbage truck**. Financing is available and the old truck could possibly be sold for \$140,000-\$150,000. A new truck would most likely be ready in early 2022 if ordered in the next month or two.

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **agenda** with the addition of Village Administrator position, sidewalks, banners and flags, rental ordinance, and Planning Commission. Carried 6-0.

The DPW crew will be putting up the Veterans banners as soon as they get the right bands for the poles. Flags will also be going up soon and staying up until Labor Day. DPW Group Leader Kalcich will check with the fire department to see the condition of the flagpole on top of the village hall could fly a Garrison flag.

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Salani to approve the **minutes** of the April 20, 2021 regular council meeting and the April 27, 2021 work session. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Salani to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$317,161.60 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$39,042.80.

A letter was received from the **Laurium Housing Commission** regarding the reappointment of Debbie Berryman. A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Djerf to reappoint Debbie Berryman for a five-year term on the Laurium Housing Commission. Carried 6-0.

Committee Reports

Finance: No report.

Parks/Recreation/Community Relations: The dog park is being put on hold for now due to the cost involved to make it and the survey results. The ATC easement needed will still move forward. If the arena floor has been adequately cleaned, the committee will be having roller blading at the George Gipp Arena this Saturday night from 5:00-8:00PM. A press release will be done, and information will go out on the website and Facebook page. Waivers will need to be signed by all participating. Admission will be \$2.00. New accounts will be set up in the Multi-Rec fund for roller blading. Proceeds will be used for Beautification projects. Laurium Marathon will be donating pre-packaged items for sale at the concession stand. The cost of putting a concrete

pad under the picnic tables at the recreation area is \$300 each. The DPW will add sand under the swings. The tennis court will be resealed as best as can be done without replacing it.

Public Safety – Police: The body cameras have been received. Laurium officers are still being called out of the village as backup on medical cases. Contact needs to be made with the other municipalities regarding this issue.

Public Safety – Fire: The fire vehicles need to have routine maintenance as well as all other village vehicles. Some of the older gear needs to be replaced. The department is willing to fundraise to help offset the cost.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: The garbage truck has been repaired since last month's breakdown but still is not working quite right. An operator position will be opening in August due to retirement. The village mechanic would possibly want to take this position and therefore, a new mechanic would be needed. Erickson felt that the village needs to make a decision about mandating village residents to buy village containers for garbage with the purchase of the new truck. He will see that displays of the various sizes are available for inspection as the process for amending the ordinance is discussed.

Property/Building/Ordinance: The committee has been identifying buildings in the village that are in violation of the unsafe building ordinance. They are also working on a draft of a rental ordinance for the June meeting.

Beautification: There are not as many sponsors for senior planters this year so they will be placed around town rather than on the corner of Hecla and Lake Linden Avenue. Schneiderhan said that approximately \$1500 has been donated for beautification projects this summer. The flowers will be here soon from Sleeman's Greenhouse. Thank you to John & Carey Sullivan for the plants the donated to the Gipp Memorial. The clean up at Daniell Park was productive. The DPW will be getting the benches and artwork out soon.

Unfinished Business

The village attorney's review of the **Hamer Enterprises** service agreement for credit card payments was not available. Questions were raised is we need this service or something similar or is online bill payment through banking an adequate option. The council would like a survey of local municipalities to see what they offer for online payments.

With the purchase of the police body cameras, new policies need to be adopted for **risk management**. The council will read the information over the next month and address this at the June meeting.

After discussion, a motion was made by Djerf and seconded by Schneiderhan to appoint Susan Sandford, CPA as **village auditor**. Yes – Djerf, Jenich-Laplander, Salani, Schneiderhan and Sullivan. No – Erickson. Carried 5-1.

Djerf compiled the **survey results** in a Google Document. Overall residents are satisfied with village services. The need for a neighborhood watch program was 41 yes, 16 no and 40 maybe or no opinion. Marijuana businesses in the village had 35 yes, 49 no and 13 maybe, neutral or no opinion. Djerf recommended the council review the details of the survey. He noted that contact should be made with the people who wanted to be contacted or were willing to volunteer.

A job description has almost been completed for the **Village Administrator position**. Once this is done in the next two weeks or so, the job will be posted. The MML can help with this process.

Sidewalk replacements need to be addressed this summer. Kalcich and Vertin need to combine their "lists" to begin work. The sidewalk broken by the village loader on the 200 block of Hecla Street needs to be fixed soon.

President Sullivan will be meeting with Bill Dunston who has experience with **planning commissions**. He is willing to help get the village started on a five-year plan. A few other people have expressed an interest to help with this and they will be contacted to move forward on the plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium