

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Present for Roll Call: Carlson (6:58PM), Erickson, Hrebec, Jenich-Laplander and Sullivan.

Guests: Paige Blain, Deb Dlubala, Kurt Erkkila, John Jaehnig, John Koskiniemi, Erik Lee, Ian Raymond, Alicia Roundtree, Ben Schekle, George Thurner, and Christina Verran.

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

Public Comments: Erik Lee would like to see the village **alleys** maintained and cleaned so they are more walkable for residents. Alicia Roundtree spoke about purchasing the building at 77 Third St and opening an **adult use dispensary/retail marihuana business**. Financial information on the monetary benefits to the village was presented. The survey recently completed will be reviewed for the public consensus. An ordinance and zoning would need to be in place as well.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **minutes** of the August 16, 2022 regular council meeting, the September 12, 2022 and September 14, 2022 special council meetings. Carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Hrebec to approve the **prepaid bills** for August/September 2022 in the amount of \$427,290.95 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$29,804.64. Carried 4-0.

Communications to the Council

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Hrebec to approve the **resignation** of Amy Schneiderhan from the council. Carried 4-0.

With the resignation of Schneiderhan, there is an **open seat** on the council. Since the filing date for the November ballot has passed, the village will be advertising for letters of interest for qualified village residents to fill this vacancy.

Roger Reiter from the Matador Restaurant was not present.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Hrebec to approve the **MERS Adoption Addendum** for the two divisions. Carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Hrebec to appoint Clerk/Interim Manager Patricia Golus as the **Act 51 Street Administrator**.

Committee Reports

Finance: Erickson feels that all council members should review the bills for a month so they can get an idea for what is purchased. The committee will meet to discuss the budget, policies and procedures that need to be implemented moving forward to remedy the financial situation.

Recreation/Parks: Bassett Mechanical will be inspecting the ice plant at the arena next week. The hockey association is trying to find volunteer workers at the arena this winter. The Veteran's banners have been taken down. DPW Group Leader Kalcich is asking to store a personal sifter (screen) outside the DPW garage this winter. In exchange, it can be used at the leaf pile to get black dirt for filling various holes on village property. The village attorney will be consulted. Another point discussed is whether or not the mulch could be used in a sustainable garden. Roller skating will be held this weekend at the arena.

Public Safety – Police: The parking situation at the Kearsarge Street auto repair shop is being monitored.

Public Safety – Fire: UPPCo is scheduled to look at the Fire Department, Hall and DPW garage to change the lights from fluorescent to LEDs with an incentive program. Main Street Calumet is planning their "Trunk or Treat" event on the evening of October 29th. From 3:00-5:00PM, Laurium will hold its "Touch a Truck" and Halloween party at the fire hall. This is a good opportunity for the public to see the apparatus prior to the November election for the fire millage renewal.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: The Volvo grader will be needing to fix a hydraulic problem costing around \$10,000 plus the \$5000 core charge. The department is looking to find ways to cut costs.

Property/Building/Ordinance: The rental ordinance is still in progress. The committee is working on a garbage ordinance update for the October meeting.

Beautification: The hanging baskets and flower pots will need to be removed soon and put away for winter.

Community Relations: A press release will be put together for the Touch a Truck/Halloween event. The planning commission held a "community conversation" Monday night as part of the master plan process. About 30 village residents attended to voice their opinions on the direction that they would like to see for Laurium. A draft of the master plan will be available in the coming months.

Unfinished Business: Paige Blain provided a proposal for the **website** for \$4500.00. This will include a logo design, website design & consultation and training. It would take a couple of months to implement. The proposal was tabled until the financial situation is clearer. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplender to approve the **DNR gift** of a strip of land on Fulton Street between Seneca and Amygdaloid Street contingent upon the attorney's review of the deed. Carried 4-0. An **inspection** of the village hall was done today by UP Engineers and Architects. A report will be available in 2-3 weeks with the findings. Advertising for a **village manager** will begin next week once the final job description is completed.

New Business: A motion was made by Jenich-Laplender and seconded by Hrebec to use the **ARPA funds** for the \$100,000 due to the Water Fund, \$30,000 for the dump truck and the remaining approximate \$70,000.00 for operating expenses in the general fund. Clarification will be obtained regarding the dump truck purchase and the use of the DPW Equipment Bond millage money. Carried 4-0. Christina Verran from Aspirus Hospital was present to discuss the recent **helicopter** landings in the north parking lot of the hospital. This is going to become a more common practice. The police and fire departments have and will be needed for these

landings. Additional lights and signage will be installed and a community “meet and greet” will be held. Aspirus is excited to be able to bring this service to the village.

Announcement: A meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne’s at from 6-8:00PM. Hosted by Main Street Calumet, an update from agencies and industries focused on the future of Calumet and the surrounding area will be discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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