

**Laurium Village Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 16th, 2025**

**Meeting called to Order by President Sullivan 6:00 pm/Recite Pledge**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:**

**John Galbraith**

**Andrew Erickson**

**Jen Jenich-Laplander**

**John Sullivan**

**Jeff Erickson**

**Absent:**

**Krista Carlson**

**Wesley Pietila**

**Also Present:**

**Ian Lewis, Village Manager**

**Mary Pat Crampton, Village Clerk**

**Kurt Erkkila , LVPD chief**

**Approval of Regular Agenda**

Motion JERickson Second by AERickson

Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting August 19th**

Motion by AERickson to approve 08/19/25 Minutes Second by Galbraith

Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried

## **Submission of Bills**

John Galbraith reported merchant account bills of \$40,142.50 and Prepaid bills of \$111,330.46

Motion by Jenich-Laplander, Second by A. Erickson

Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried

## **Communications to the Council - None**

## **Public Comments**

Mike Harri of Northern Glow Technologies introduced himself to council and gave some background on his previous experience. He and his son, Tyler Harri have started Northern Glow which features a state of the art mobile tech center. They have used the mobile tech center to supply internet access at Copper Harbor Trial Fest and most recently at Calumet Village's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. They provide infrastructure, install IT, data backup, etc. Also installed complete new sound system at Calumet Colosseum. They are a new, local company and wanted to share what they offer to council.

J Erickson talked briefly about the need to install cameras next summer on the main street as well as near the Splash Pad.

Information was left with council.

## **Reports from Council Committees**

### **Finance - No Report**

**Recreation/Parks/Beautification** – J Erickson reported that the summer concert series in Daniell Park was successful. We had two extra weeks of music, and it was well attended. Final numbers showed revenues of \$3212.61 and expenses of \$3760 for a loss of \$547.39

J Sullivan asked if the contract has been received from Tamarack for the trimming of the cedars at Gipp Memorial. I Lewis reported that they have not. The work will start mid-October. JS noted to announce on fb to avoid too many calls regarding tree trimming.

J Erickson said Men's League baseball still very interested in the 3<sup>rd</sup> field and asked about the status of the fencing. Marquette Fence quote is over \$30,000.

J Sullivan will follow up. Ian stated that Delta Fence has reached out and will provide quotes for measurement of a standard baseball field. MF contracting is the third company that will provide quote.

JErickson stated that the Men's League would like a firm commitment that it will be done for next season. Marquette Fence has already stated that they won't do any fencing until May. I Lewis stated that one quote was \$30,000 just for the two dugouts and could range in the 40-45k range just for fencing. He is looking into a grant to help but that won't be until November or December.

JErickson asked what the DPW's workload is between now and when the snow flies. I Lewis reported they are booked into mid-October. They need to build the shelter and the temporary garage is a mess. JErickson will call the Men's league to get the details of what need to be done to the fields and to ask if they would volunteer some time to help.

Gipp Arena – the plant is all set, piped and being wired this week. We received donations of 2 – 10 horsepower frequency drives. RC mechanical is currently testing the lines for leakage. They have 30 of 100 tested so far and there are no leaks.

JE stated that the next step is to build the structure with 4 ft of block on the West and South of the new plant with a metal pitched roof. DPW will do that after the start up in two weeks – weather permitting. Youth hockey would use the facility if we can start October 1, but the temps have to be low to make ice. JErickson talked to the school and they are not interested in doing their Halloween event as it conflicts with the Senior Play. Suggested that the Village do a Halloween party. Jenich-Laplander suggested after trick or treating we could do a Halloween Skate. Celotex has donated 500 ceiling tiles so the lobby of the arena is much improved.

Sullivan asked about taking down the flower pots. DPW will take them down and Sleeman's will pick them up. Discussion on replacing torn flags. Lewis reported that the Village generally replaces 10 or more flags a year – last year they purchased 30. Direct all flag complaints to J Sullivan.

### **Public Safety/Fire Department**

J Galbraith said there was no report on the Fire Department. The new officer has started and his working alone when Aaron is in he other car. By the next pay period, Steve Eskola will be working on his own and fully trained.

I Lewis reported that one of our firemen is retiring after 41 years on the job. He is suggesting some recognition for Roger Wetelainen for the number of years served. He recommended giving Roger his helmet or making some type of plaque or proclamation for the next meeting. J Galbraith and K Carlson will handle it.

K Erkkila brought up the possibility of hiring one part time officer but the cost of the academy is prohibitive with no MCOLES grants available right now. The individual is planning to retire from the military but will only retire if he has this plan in place. Jenich-Laplander asked what the cost is – K Erkkila reported it is approx.. 20k. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of those funds being reinstated in the upcoming state budget. It will be several weeks before we will know.

I Lewis reported that he has had discussions with Calumet Village who is interested in having some patrol coverage around 8 or 9 of their buildings. Currently, the discussion is that it would be about a \$20,000 cost to Calumet for us to provide that service. The revenue could offset the cost of the academy and there is a possibility that it could be more.

A Erickson suggested that we table it until October's meeting.

I Lewis stated that he doesn't expect the grant to return as grants to municipalities have been cut across the board. He suggested getting someone local, who has already shown an interest is positive.

### **Streets/Equipment/Sanitation Committee**

Garbage pickup is going well. 98% of the garbage cans have been delivered. Discussion of the last 2% followed.

J Erickson stated that there are photos available of the most recent rendition for the new DPW building. The site is being cleared and square footage is decided. Plan to have an enclosure before the snow flies. Anticipate it to be fully operational by July of 2026.

The Aspirus building project is in full swing. Miron Construction has contracted with the VOL to provide snow removal.

A resident found a piece of float copper at the dump. We have no idea if it has a value and how much or what we would do with it.

Equipment is all good. With new equipment there will be a need for enforcing

the winter parking ordinance so that people know they will get ticketed or towed if their cars are parked on the street. The new equipment can't push like the old graders did. K Erkkila stated that with the increase in police coverage, the parking ban will be enforced.

There was an employee issue that was handled.

Ian reported that all residential accounts are now compliant with the new garbage cans. There have been no issues with using the old cans. As of October 1, no non-conforming cans will be picked up. The orange truck will still be used to pick up commercial dumpsters.

### **Property/Building/Ordinance Committee**

A Ericson – Nothing to report

### **Community Relations Committee**

Jenich-Laplander reported that she will post on fb that hedges will be cut at Gipp Memorial, and no butts of cars should stick out into the street after parking ban.

### **Manager's Report - Grant Update**

There are currently no amendments or adjustments to the budget at this time. There may some internal adjustments but no change in the amounts. The Gen Fund will show a decrease with a \$50,000 surplus.

Update on the Ordinance enforcement: 61 violations were noted. Of those, only 5 fines were mailed out. Three complied, and two were returned. They will look into finding out where property owners live.

Audit – Everything went fairly well. MDOT paperwork was submitted on time. The Retiree report still needs to be submitted.

Discussions for the proposed fire department consolidation will get underway in early October. Calumet has been busy with their 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. Ian has pages of notes of research. We are not reinventing the wheel – Fire Authorities have been established in many different places. He will present to council following their discussions and after they meet with the fire department personnel.

## **Unfinished Business - None**

### **New Business**

Debbie Berryman has resigned from the Housing Commission. The commission would like to appoint Barb Vichich. A letter to that effect was received.

Motion to accept by JERickson Second by: Jenich-Laplander

Vote: Yes – 5; No – 0

Motion Carried

Update on the South Florida Street Garage - Three quotes were submitted to install a 12 x 16 foot garage door and install a gas heater.

JErickson reported that Northern Heating and Plumbing quoted \$7,800, Patrick's Plumbing and Heating quoted \$10,348, and RC Mechanical quoted \$5,595. All quotes were comparable in services.

Keweenaw Overhead Door is used by the Village for garage door replacements. Their quote was \$5,137

Motion by Jenich-Laplander to accept the quote from RC Mechanical and KOHD  
Second by J Galbraith

Vote: Yes – 3, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (J Erickson)

JErickson reminded I Lewis to submit info to UPPCO for taking the electrical heating system off line to receive a credit.

### **Old Business**

Ice Rink staff – I Lewis reminded council of the previous decision to hire a full time, non union employee as an overall Recreation employee and DPW assist.

Discussion followed for clarity of job description. The position has been offered to Bryce Jackman who currently oversees Julian Properties. He has done work for the Village in the past so we know his work ethic. The position will report to I Lewis and is non-union. The pay will be \$19.50 per hour, he will be offered 'in lieu of payment' as he does not need medical, he will receive sick and vacation time as any FT employee. He can opt into 457 but it is not a MERS position. Total cost is approximately \$44,000. The council has already approved this position based on the recs of the finance committee.

J Jenich-Laplander suggested he could work more on the locker rooms at the Gipp. Lewis suggested that as a FT employee, he will be able to focus on all that is needed there. He has some knowledge of the ice plant and would be hired in time for start-up at the Gipp.

J Sullivan stated that we need to look at the job description and make sure it is clear. I Lewis reported that the FTE will do whatever they need, not be utilized by DPW for things they want done. The cost of the position will be split between the Ice Arena Account and whatever area he is working in on a given day.

**Announcements: None**

**Public Comment: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk  
Village of Laurium  
September 17, 2025**