

**Laurium Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025**

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

Roll Call:

Present:

John Galbraith

Andrew Erickson

John Sullivan

Jeff Erickson

Krista Carlson

Wesley Pietila

Jen Jenich-Laplander

Also Present:

Ian Lewis, Village Manager

Mary Pat Crampton, Village Clerk

Kurt Erkkila , LVPD chief

Steve Eskola, LVPD Officer

Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion Jenich-Laplander Second by Galbraith

Call Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting October 21st

Motion: Pietila to approve 10/21/25 Minutes Second: Jenich-Laplander

Call Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried

Submission of Bills

John Galbraith reported merchant account bills of \$53,503.55 and Prepaid bills of \$436,789.98

Motion by Jenich-Laplander, Second by AErickson
Call Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried

Communications to the Council - None

Public Comments

Brendon Stutzman , 157 Willow Avenue

Brendon spoke regarding the possible rental of the upstairs of the Village Hall for the Keweenaw Boxing Club. The Club currently rents space at the Drill Shop in Calumet but there are several drawbacks – no heat, concrete floors. Stutzman provided council with his vision for the future of the Club and possible dates and equipment to be used there. There is no ADA necessary for his clients. Ian Lewis will work out a contract with the Club. Council suggests same rental fee. Stutzman left literature with written request.

Motion to allow Keweenaw Boxing Club to rent upstairs of the Village Hall:
Jenich-Laplander; Second: Carlson
Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0
Motion Carried

Reports from Council Committees

Finance - No Report

Recreation/Parks/Beautification – J Erickson reported that the ice plant is up, they are currently painting lines. Ian Lewis reminded all that volunteers are needed Thursday and Friday to finish. JErickson asked if the hockey association had provided any help. They have not. Nate Polzein is the only other volunteer.

Lewis reported that Bryce will take a hard line on graffiti. Anyone caught will be immediately removed from the building. There has been a lot of writing on walls with pucks – at Gipp and Colosseum – other issues of destroying property as well. Discussion followed on inspecting locker rooms before and after use or making hockey association responsible if damage is done during their use.

There are issues with the new system. Bassett has come to troubleshoot, free of charge. The strainer has been clogged with debris. Shut off valves will need to be installed in several places. Price from Bassett is 14k, quote from RC Mechanical is \$2400 but they don't have the parts. They would need a 2-week

lead time. JEricksen will look for parts we can get sooner. Should drain the pipes once more before the beginning of December to keep from harming the pump.

Lewis stated that the funds are available in the Ice Arena budget for that work. If JEricksen will manage finding parts, turning bills in, locking down RC for the work.

Discussion around building the roof over the vents for the ice plant. Need 4ft or 6 ft corners with metal roof. I Lewis will tell Kelcich to prepare to build it.

JEricksen also reported on an ice sharpener. There are two -ne is a Sparks, which is a self-contained unit that is easy to operate, mostly for beginner, and infrequent skaters. Cost is 3 – 4k and would pay for itself in a short period of time. Wisota is cheaper and possibly better machine but requires minimally more attention. Currently we expect to pay \$8/pair for 50 pairs after the initial free sharpening. JEricksen will bring back more information to the next meeting.

Discussion followed about an annual pass for \$75. It would be a punch card, Desginotype will charge a \$20 layout fee the first year but not in the succeeding years. Cost for 50 would be \$120 this year and would take 2 weeks to get them.

There has been a change to the open skating schedule. Instead of two 1.5 hour sessions on Sunday, there will be one three hour session.

Ian reported that there are two open rental slots on Sunday. Due to the adjustments in schedule, the Village will increase its revenue for rentals by \$600/week. The fund should sustain the arena. He also reported that Brendon Stutzman will be our Sunday Zomboni Driver.

JEricksen inquired about the availability of the DPW since it is not snowing yet. He'd like the field fence torn down. J Sullivan stated that they should be prepping equipment for snow. Ian stated that several are on vacation prior to snowfall and others are putting sideboards on the new dump trucks. Bryce can operate the equipment and will have time to tear the fence down in the Spring after the rink is shut down.

Discussion again about the concrete on the Splash Pad. Lewis stated that you don't want it too smooth or kids will slip. It is too rough right now, but we don't have the bodies to do anything. Wait until Spring and revisit.

Motion to move forward with \$75 punchcard by: JErickson; Second: Carlson
Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0
Motion carried

Public Safety/Fire Department

Krista Carlson reported that the committee had come up with a capital project: cameras. Beginning with the parks, they would like to set up cameras either through Northern Glow Technologies or Up and Running. Houghton City uses Up and Running Grants are up in the air right now but the LVPD is interested in purchasing two new desk-top computers as well.

D Zubiena wanted to thank the Street Department for helping to block off the street during the recent accident where a driver hit a power pole. It helps to have the roads blocked and UPPCO appreciated it.

I Lewis reported that there have been no new updates on the new fire vehicle. It should be done by December, possibly November.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation Committee

J Galbraith – Nothing to report

JErickson asked if we have purchased the laptops yet for the trucks. Ian said not yet, but we plan to start with 1 in the garbage truck and see how it goes. It was suggested that this is a good time to get Black Friday deals so Ian will enlist the help of the front office staff. They can contact AErickson for specs.

Snow contracts got out early and are back. Aspirus has agreed to a 3 year contract with automatic increases. They have also come to an agreement with Miron.

Snow removal equipment is mostly ready to go with tires being put on and wings being installed. Ian reported that Jake and Jerry are working to update training for new equipment. Everyone is cross trained so everyone can operate all equipment. There was discussion about a damaged fence at the North HoCo building that the Village is currently renting. JErickson suggested we might want to buy that building for storage. I Lewis stated that he has had discussions with them and they will need it for the next 2 or three years. We will have first right of refusal if/when it comes available.

JErickson brought up the issue of private residents purchasing their own heavy equipment and driving it around. Council stated it is not our liability, but their own if they damage property.

Discussion on 2026 projects for DPW. JEricksen stated that we will get back to sidewalks, water lines, and the splashpad.

Property/Building/Ordinance Committee

JGalbraith – no report

W Pietila – no report

Community Relations Committee

Jenich-Laplander – No Report

Manager's Report

Ian Lewis reported that he is applying for several grants. One will benefit residents directly. It is a 400k grant that will assist homeowners with housing and energy efficiency. It is a Federal Block Grant. There is 1.5 m available and not many who have applied. It comes with an 18% admin fee so will help the Village Budget. Should hear more in January.

Ian is also working on a grant for 20k for police vests reimbursement.

Ordinance Updates – Ian has rewritten the pet ordinance to include an animal and it was submitted for edits. It will be ready @ the December meeting. It is 16 pages long and gives the LVPD a strong avenue for enforcement.

A list of budget amendments was passed out. There are increases or decreases to reflect the insurance proceeds. The DPW equipment line item is down, Parks and Rec is up. Amendments are zero sum except for the DPW recovery Fund. A copy of the amendments is attached to the minutes and available for review.

Motion to accept the budget amendments as proposed: JEricksen; Second: Jenich-Laplander

Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion Carried

I Lewis discussed a meeting with a representative of Fender (Asia Pacific) who is interested in supporting things for children here. He is from here. Ian will meet with him again.

Fire Department Consolidation – Initial contract is in the hands of the manger/supervisors for edits. After that, it will be shared with the respective boards/councils and their attorneys if they see fit. The next discussion will take place in early December, and the contract should be before council in January 2026.

DPW Building Progress – Not working this week – that was built into the contract. Ian has copies of the timeline available for review. No meeting this week.

The Copper Dog will be ending in Laurium. The first meeting of the committee will be in early December. Ian will find out then what is expected of Laurium. Possibly hold something at the Gipp, staging the finish line that will be on the crosscut road/dump road. Ian will report at the next meeting with more details.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Dates have been tentatively set for regular meetings in 2026.

Motion to accept as presented: Jenich-Laplander; Second by: AErickson

Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion Carried

Copper Shores Community Foundation would like to have their community picnic in Laurium next summer. Each year they move it to a community that has a lot of activity going on. They take care of insurance, show casing the area, and support. It will be a great promotion. All they have asked for is increased police presence. More information to follow.

Motion by AErickson to support the Copper Shores CF Picnic; Second: Jenich-Laplander

Call Vote; Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion Carried

The Skate with Santa will be held at the Gipp Arena on 12/13 from 3 – 5 pm, tentatively. Details should go to Jenich-Laplander for inclusion on fb. Carlson asked if we could do some decorating at the Gipp. Discussion followed with

regard to all around decorations for the Village that could be implemented next year. Grant spoke about the Hancock decorating contest this year. Laurium has had the lighting contest, but council would like to see more decorations at Christmas. Lighting up the belltower was mentioned. For this year, more decorations will be displayed at the arena.

MColes is being funded now through the Department of Treasury. There will be \$20,000 per cadet available. We have an interested party who is retiring from the military and would like to work part time. The timing is good to go to the academy. He could work some weekend shifts and fill in for vacations which is much needed right now.

Motion to approve applying for MCOLES grant: Pietila; Second: Carlson
Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0
Motion carried.

A great article was written about the Village's newest officer, Steve Eskola.

Old Business

JErickson stated that the Halloween party was great. Donations were received from Vollwerth's, Pat's, Mercy Ambulance, Ian and McKenzie Lewis and others.

Announcements:

Ian Lewis will be out of town until December 1.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk
Village of Laurium
November 19, 2025**