

**Laurium Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 20th, 2025**

Meeting called to Order by President Sullivan 6:04 pm

Roll Call:

Present:

**John Galbraith
Andrew Erickson
John Sullivan
Wesley Pietila**

Absent:

**Jen Jenich-Laplander
Krista Carlson
Jeff Erickson (by Zoom, unable to vote)**

Also Present:

**Ian Lewis, Village Manager
Mary Pat Crampton, Village Clerk
Kurt Erkkila , LVPD chief**

Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion by Pietila Second by Galbraith
Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0
Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting April 15th, Statutory Meeting, and Special May 1st Meeting Minutes

Motion By Galbraith Second By Pietila
Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0
Motion carried

Submission of Bills

John Galbraith reported merchant account bills of \$225,441.46 and Prepaid bills of \$255,392.51

Motion by A Erickson, Seconded by Pietila

Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0

Motion carried

Communications to the Council - None

Public Comments

Julie Jarvey, 505 Iroquois Street. Ms. Jarvey expressed excitement over changes coming to Gipp Recreation Area. She would like to volunteer to help with planting, planning, and inquired about the timeline for the project. Sullivan accepted her help. Ian Lewis explained the Patronocity campaign to match grant funds to complete the project. Timeline may not allow for planting this year, but will map out area and possibly plant elsewhere and move plants to location after construction of the splash pad. They could sit down and map it out, come up with ideas.

JS talked about the amount of construction going on in the area due to the new building but there will be opportunities for community input and involvement. Will sit down with Beautification committee and put some info out on social media to get input from the public.

Ms. Jarvey also asked about broken glass and sod on the sidewalks – whose responsibility is it for clean up? Discussion followed. DPW sweeps sidewalks on main trunklines, homeowners mostly responsible. May be able to use temporary employees this summer.

Reports from Council Committees

Finance - No Report

Recreation/Parks/Beautification – Wes Pietila reported that the ball fields look good. J Erickson (by Zoom) reported that Little League has started. Men's league will start next Wednesday. Sand has been spread by DPW – some improvement but will need more after the season ends.

Gipp Arena project moving forward. Ice equipment has been demo'd. They are measuring for the new pad, and plan to install in September or October to be ready for ice by November.

Sullivan asked about the status of funding for Phase 2. J Erickson reported that it has slowed due to the focus on other projects but they are getting back into it. Lewis reported that the budget will allow for three pickleball courts inside the Gipp Arena this summer. He will put down temporary lines to make sure it fits. Discussed having it open when Dale is there. Also discussed hiring a temp employee to monitor. The transition of one tennis court to pickle ball is cost prohibitive (\$75k). There is a grant of \$20,000 to do a new pickleball court outdoors and looking for a foundation to redo the basketball court with a mural design.

Council will need to discuss the fee for pickleball. It will bring people into use the Gipp more. May just use white paint to avoid need to tear it up and put it back down. Ice can easily go over painted lines.

J Erickson reported that concerts in Daniell Park are confirmed. They will begin either July 3rd or 10th and go into early September, ending on September 11.

Sullivan talked about the need for sponsors with a mix of music

Public Safety –

John Galbraith reported along with Chief Erkkila that our future officer is at the police academy at NMU until late August.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation Committee

Jeff Erickson reported that the Village is grader shopping. Several CAT dealers and a John Deere dealer are watching for one that would work for us. We also need a sander.

Ian reported on having SAIL employees working for us for 6 weeks over the summer. The program is fully funded through the State of Michigan and employees can wash/wax firetrucks or public safety vehicles, sweep sidewalks, etc. The only responsibility of the Village is to provide the experience.

Ian explained the waves of garbage can delivery and discussed receiving a bailer that could help us provide cardboard recycling in the future with a space fenced off at the new DPW building.

Discussion followed of how cardboard is currently picked up. Residents may

continue to use their own cans until September 1st when the ordinance goes into effect fully. Another order of can should be here by June.

Property/Building/Ordinance Committee – No Report

Community Relations Committee – No Report

Manager's Report - Grant Update

Ian Lewis reported they are working on the exact specs for the splashpad. Keweenaw Community Foundation has granted \$3000 for ice skates for rental at the Gipp Arena providing another revenue stream. Center Ice gave us a great deal, basically cost the Village \$20. Photo op on Thursday.

A Erickson asked about the plan to maintain. Ian is working with Brandon Jacques to have the skates sharpened twice per season at the Colosseum.

Council will need to approve fee for rental.

DPW Building – Moyle (Andrew Kemper) has been unable to get the adjuster up here again. This week's meeting is cancelled, and the hope is to get the adjuster here before the next scheduled meeting in two weeks. More info at the next meeting.

Ordinance Enforcement – Ian is preparing to send out violations to follow the ordinances. He has determined a number of dangerous buildings but would like to have the opinion of Law Enforcement as well as a review by the council. If they are deemed dangerous, they will require inspection by the county building inspector.

There were three buildings last year that were determined dangerous. One was demolished, one is slated for demo, one person was removed from the list after he passed. Ian will also be looking at yards. J Sullivan discussed the definitions that the planning commission is working on and the difference between wildflowers and 3-foot-tall grass.

Ian stated that he would like to have all three entities – council, Ian as Zoning administrator, and law enforcement to review and to be on the same page for properties deemed in violation.

Unfinished Business

Sullivan reported that we are still looking for examples of fee structures from other zoning boards/planning commissions. Please gather some examples and submit to Sullivan for discussion at the next meeting. As part of the Redevelopment Ready Communities designation, a fee chart is required.

New Business

Request to renew Cynthia Bonenfant for reappointment to the Laurium Housing Commission. A letter of recommendation was read.

Motion by Galbraith Second by A Erickson
Vote 4 – 0
Motion carried

John Sullivan explained the purpose of a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). It is made up of 3 – 5 members who listen to appeals by residents who were denied zoning/building permits. Residents may apply for a hearing before the ZBA. The Village will put out a call for interested residents to sit on the board. If none are received it will be made up of three people including 2 council members. The council will table until next month.

Old Business

W Pietila reported that he has had many people ask about alternating the direction of snow removal. Trucks are not capable of changing the side that the arm is on. That is a discussion for the DPW committee. Ian reminded the council that we will be working with all new (different) equipment next season.

J Sullivan asked about the efficiency of using two sanitation trucks for garbage pick-up. Ian stated that they are not going to the transfer station as often, and the garbage collection is done before noon, freeing up the employees to do other things. By September 1st, when ordinance is fully enforced, only white truck will be used.

A Erickson asked about procedure for boxes. Currently break them down and put smaller into larger, next to can. Ian reported that by 2030 cardboard recycling will be mandated. That is why we have purchased large dumpsters and have the bailer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk
Village of Laurium
May 21, 2025**