

**Laurium Village Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 21st, 2026**

**Statutory Meeting called to Order by President Sullivan 6:02 pm/Recite Pledge**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:**

**John Galbraith**

**Andrew Erickson**

**John Sullivan**

**Jeff Erickson (A)**

**Krista Carlson**

**Wesley Pietila**

**Jen Jenich-Laplander**

**Also Present:**

**Ian Lewis, Village Manager**

**Mary Pat Crampton, Village Clerk**

**Kurt Erkkila , LVPD chief**

**Dan Zubiena, LVFD chief**

**Discussion of Appointments**

Ian Lewis reported on current appointments and asked council to consider their choice for the coming council year. Due to the current illness of Council Member Jeff Erickson, it was recommended that Krista Carlson fill in as Temporary President Pro Tem while Erickson is absent.

Motion by: Sullivan                      Second by: Pietila

Vote: Yes – 6                      No – 0

Motion Carried

Lewis went on to report on previous appointments that will remain in place including Village Attorneys, Grant Holbein and Charles Miller; Village Auditor, Sue Sanford; Check Signatories, Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk, and Jon Koskiniemi, Village Treasurer. In addition, Deputy Clerk, Paige Blain, and Deputy Clerk, Megan Jackman remain as signatories.

**Depository of Village Funds:**

Incredible Bank  
Superior National Bank  
Range Bank

The Village currently uses only Incredible Bank but if it becomes necessary to take out a loan, it may be required to review the terms/rates of three banks before making a decision on which bank to use.

Investments are to be in accordance with the Village of Laurium Investment Policy as per PA 20 of 1943, as amended.

**Fire Chief:** Dan Zubiena

**DPW Group Leader:** Jeff Kalcich

**Dangerous Buildings Ordinance #145 Designee** – Houghton County Building Inspector (Todd LaRue).

**Dangerous Buildings Ordinance #145 Hearing Officers:** UPEA Representative

**Clerk Salary:**  
Current: \$135.00 /bi-weekly

**Treasurer Salary:**  
Current - \$230.00/bi-weekly

**Part-Time Janitor/Sanitation Position:** Gregg Saxton (Part-Time)  
Current: \$15.00/hr. Proposed: TBD Prior to January 1 or Fiscal Year

Benefits include holiday pay: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, July 5<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Vacation Pay: after 1 year, 1 week; after 2 years, 2 weeks; after 7 years, 3 weeks; after 12 years, 4 weeks. Sick Pay: ½ day earned each completed month of employment.

Accounts Clerks: Paige Blain/Megan Jackman

Current: \$21.27/hr Proposed: TBD Prior to January 1 or Fiscal Year

Benefits include holiday pay: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day,

Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Vacation pay: 1 year = 1 week, 2 years + 2 weeks, 7 years =3 weeks, and 12 years = 4 weeks. Sick pay: 1 day earned each completed month of employment and shall carryover in accordance to State law.

Personal days: 3 days not chargeable to sick time. Funeral leave: 3 days not chargeable to sick time.

Pension: MERS B-2, FAC 3 employee contribution 6%, Insurance Plans: Aetna, Delta Dental, MetLife, and Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance Group Plans, Optional 457 MERS Plan (Employee Sponsored).

Recreation Manager: Bryce Jackman

Current: \$19.50/hr. Proposed: TBD Prior to January 1 or Fiscal Year

Benefits include holiday pay: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Vacation pay: 1 year = 1 week, 2 years + 2 weeks, 7 years =3 weeks, and 12 years = 4 weeks. Sick pay: 1 day earned each completed month of employment and shall carryover in accordance to State law.

Personal days: 3 days not chargeable to sick time. Funeral leave: 3 days not chargeable to sick time.

Insurance Plans: In-Lieu of Health Insurance Payment, Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance Group Plans, Optional 457 MERS Plan (Employee Sponsored).

Discussion followed regarding changing the date of review/salary increases to the FY cycle rather than beginning of the year cycle. Changing to FY would clarify the budget without having to use numbers from part of one year and part of the next.

**Motion to change all employees to FY cycle.**

Motion: W. Pietila Second: Carlson

Vote: Yes – 6 No – 0

Motion Carried

**Current Committee Appointments**

Finance – Galbraith, Jenich-Laplander

Recreation/Parks/Beautification – J. Erickson, Pietila

Public Safety (Police/Fire) – Carlson, Galbraith

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation – J. Erickson, Galbraith

Property/Building/Ordinance – Pietila, A. Erickson

Community Relations – Jenich-Laplander, A. Erickson

President Pro-Tem

Krista Carlson (Temporary)

Motion to approve entire report as read with amendments.

Motion: Jenich-Laplander                      Second: Galbraith

Vote: Yes – 6                      No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion to adjourn Statutory Meeting

Motion: Jenich-Laplander                      Second: A Erickson

Vote: Yes – 6                      No – 0

Motion Carried

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk**

**Village of Laurium**

**April 22, 2026**

## **Begin Regular Meeting**

### **Approval of Regular Agenda**

Motion Pietila      Seconded: Galbraith  
Call Vote: Yes: 6, No: 0  
Motion carried.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting March 17th**

Motion by Jenich-Laplander    Second by Galbraith  
Call Vote: Yes: 6, No: 0  
Motion carried

### **Submission of Bills**

Jenich-Laplander reported merchant account bills of \$372,057 and Prepaid bills of \$112,438.31  
Motion by Jenich-Laplander, Second by A Erickson  
Call Vote: Yes - 6, No - 0  
Motion carried

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

### **Public Comments**

Trent Rajala, Kyle Larson from Recharge Services addressed the Council. They came to introduce themselves and their company that provides fire extinguisher services, kitchen suppression equipment, auditing. The company did a free on-site inspection of the Village's fire extinguishers. They provided literature on the services that they provide and demonstrated, briefly, what they could offer to the Village of Laurium, based on the 6 and 12 year cycles.

Ian Lewis reported that our current service provider may no longer be available and that we are already 2 weeks behind for our inspection. After discussion, the council tasked Ian with obtaining a bid from both companies and moving forward with ensuring our fire extinguishers are up to date. The companies would have to complete an inventory and track the cycles that each is on, and provide an overall cost to keep the Village up to date.

Rajala reported that the company uses a software package that records the make and model of each extinguisher to track. Larson stated that a properly maintained extinguisher could last up to 50 years.

Discussion followed regarding new extinguishers that would be purchased for the new DPW building. Rajala stated that if they were purchased through his company, they would come already tagged, whereas an extinguisher purchased elsewhere would still have to be tagged to confirm it was ready for use.

The council will allow Ian Lewis to accept and compare bids and move forward with the process.

Motion: Jenich-Laplander                      Second: Pietila

Vote: Yes – 6                      No – 0

Motion Carried

Further discussion followed regarding QModo. Lewis voiced frustration with the software development company. This is their first municipality and developers are in Atlanta, GA. They have not been as responsive as we need them to be to utilize the program completely. Ian continues to work with them. We are in the final year of a 3-year contract.

Ian also reported for Ryan Patrick. MDNR grants require licensed engineers for projects. If we get funding through a grant for the boards and glass at the Gipp Arena, it will be necessary to use a licensed engineer. If we do not intend to apply for a grant, we could raise funds on our own to do it, but it all needs to be ADA accessible.

The USDA RD grants also require an engineer so we will need it down the road. We could submit for it, but we currently have very little chance of getting it, mostly due to the inaccessibility.

Lewis suggested we focus on what we really need for the coming year. The Zamboni is the most pressing issue right now. Lewis would like to build the fund and go for the project later.

Sullivan suggested that we do what we can now to become more ADA accessible. Lewis reported that the DPW will attempt to pour a pad this summer, we could work on the bathrooms – the doorway is wide enough, but slams shut. Bryce can do some of the work. A Erickson suggested that we pick away at the

smaller projects that can do + the Zamboni and hopefully next year, we will be ready to move forward.

Incredible Bank had pledged some funding for the project (\$20,000) if we got through Phase I and Ian believes we have another 60k from other donors. We do need to pay attention to our Procurement policy as this project will meet the threshold.

Motion by A Erickson to put the project on hold until next year

Second: Jenich-Laplander

Vote: Yes – 6                      No – 0

Motion Carried

## **Reports from Council Committees**

### **Finance - No Report**

### **Recreation/Parks/Beautification**

The Veteran's Flags are up. There is an issue with having more flags than we have poles or brackets to hold them. Jenich-Laplander will check with CHS Metal Shop teacher to see if they could help out. Flags will be doubled up on poles.

Amy Schneiderhan will again help with the order of flowers for the beautification project. The Village has budgeted \$2500 but Amy will continue to accept donations.

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

Krista Carlson reported that our new part time officer will be going to the academy in May. She also read the monthly/year-to-date activity report.

Kurt reported that the department has apprehended the individuals who were stealing from parked cars in the Village.

Pietila asked about people requesting to be able to park on the street now even though the parking ban is still in place. Lewis reported that the DPW will start sweeping late this week or early next week to get up all the sand. Stay with the ban until May 1.

The new firetruck is here. Dan Zubiena reported that as soon as they can transfer the radio from the old truck to the new truck, it will be fully functional and we can go forward with selling the 1983 truck.

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

J Galbraith reported that they have dug out the pothole reconditioner. The reclaimed pavement is unfortunately still under snow but they have gotten as many potholes filled as possible. They will continue to work on it. Discussion followed on the orange garbage truck. It has been out of service, and the mechanics are going to try everything to fix it but if this does not work, the repairs could be very expensive. Lewis thinks it may be time to start looking for another used truck to replace it. He also reported that they are working with the sewer company and the water company to help filling in where there are issues with manholes.

There was more discussion about the poles on 1<sup>st</sup> street owned by AT & T. Erkkila reported that they are not Spectrum wires on the poles.

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

Ian Lewis – it is time to start working on ordinance enforcement. He would like to send out a ‘notice card’ asking residents to review the Core Ordinances.

A public hearing will be scheduled on May 11, during the Planning Commission’s meeting to review the possibility of rezoning a building located on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Leo’s) for the opening of a café. The area is currently not zoned properly.

### **Community Relations Committee**

No Report

### **Manager’s Report**

Ian Lewis gave a MSHDA update. The final submission was approved and moved our application to the higher ups. We are on a strict schedule and things are moving quickly.

We need to hire a third party administrator and Ian knows there will be applicants. The Council will need to select during the June meeting.

Local residents have approached the Village about Village owned public parking. There was an issue this winter with a lot partially owned by the Village. This year the Village was unable to plow due to a car that was never moved. A survey needs to be done. Ian will meet with the Streets committee to come up with a

plan. There are several options to review: the Village could sell its portion of the property or buy out the current owners. The only benefit to the Village of owning the property is to help those who can't afford a high cost to rent space.

Fire department consolidation is moving forward. No major changes were made to the proposed contract. It was sent by email to the Council. Ian encouraged council members to read it.

Annex the Gipp property update – in 1970 and 1975 the Gipp property was properly annexed but not properly recorded. Ian has gone to the County and was told it was properly recorded. He will not have to petition to have it annexed but will bring proof to the Township that it was done and recorded properly.

MML 2026 – the Village was awarded an opportunity to be involved in an exchange program to show how small communities can still accomplish big things. We have been paired with the town of Wakefield. Ian encourages anyone available to participate.

The Village will be accepting bids on the old firetruck and will have them available at the May meeting.

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### **Unfinished Business**

Capital Improvement Plan – Lewis reported that the list of Capital Improvements was narrowed down to between 5 and 10. Some of the ideas were combined to make sure they hit the 25k threshold and were prioritized. For example, cameras may be consolidated under the overall recreation plan. Ian Raymond has sent the list to council by email for review.

### **New Business**

Discussion was had around the DPW Millage Change. It needs to be worded to include not only the purchase of new equipment but maintenance of equipment. Lewis suggested the millage could be reduced. Info needs to be firmed up by the June meeting for a November ballot.

Village Hall RFP Electrical. Lewis has proposed putting out an RFP for a quote on rewiring the Village Hall. It is currently still knob and tube, with some hanging loosely in the stage area of the ballroom. He believes the project will be upwards of \$200,000 but we need to know to plan ahead for it. Any contractor able to do

the work is probably scheduling a year out so now is the time to bring someone in.

The DPW will do some patch work on the roof of the Village Hall but while our new DPW building is being roofed, Lewis suggested we have them quote a new roof for the Village Hall. DPW is also figuring out the leak in the bell tower.

UPEA proposal – The cost for inspection and report on the balcony and railing will cost \$5000. Discussion followed about problems that could arise and things we could be mandated to fix that are not in our budget. Currently, the balcony is inaccessible to the public and Council feels it should stay that way. It is low on the priority list. It can be used to decorate, but no access will be given during an event. We will focus on the ballroom itself and things that will make it attractive as a venue for events. Table the improvements to the balcony.

Sullivan brought up the purchase of tables and chairs that would be available for rental at an additional cost to use the venue. Having them available makes it more attractive to potential lessors. An estimate of the cost for plastic folding tables (not folding in the middle) is \$100 per table and chairs are \$30 - \$40 each. They could be stored behind the stage.

Lewis suggested purchasing 10 tables and the chairs to go with them (80). We will add to it annually. Ian will review the budget and bring back information on what we can afford.

Sullivan has cut and pasted together a potential lease agreement and will email it to the council. All received the 4 leases that were provided as examples. Please review. A fee schedule will have to be developed as well.

There was discussion about the Boxing Club and the possibility of a future agreement with them. Lewis suggested making them an offer and if they do choose to lease, then it will be an income stream that can be used toward future improvements.

Budget Amendments – Lewis proposed the following budget amendments:

Equipment decreased from \$7000 to \$1400

Tools increased to \$5200 from \$5000

Contents decreased to \$110,300 from \$115,000

Building increased to \$2,322,600 from 2,000,000

Motion to accept by Jenich-Laplander  
Vote: Yes – 6                      No – 0  
Motion Carried

Second: Galbraith

### **Old Business**

The Pet Ordinance will be scheduled for public hearing at the next council meeting at 6:00 pm on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Announcements:**

Calumet Township Fire Department has asked to host the Copper Country Firemen's Tournament in Laurium at the Gipp Recreation Area. Lewis is in agreement as long as there is no cost to us. He would like to continue to work with them to do more things together while we work on consolidation of the departments. Ian will work out the details.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk  
Village of Laurium  
April 22, 2026**