

**Laurium Village Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 17th, 2025**

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

**Roll Call:**

**Present:**

**John Galbraith**

**Andrew Erickson**

**Jen Jenich-Laplander**

**John Sullivan**

**Jeff Erickson**

**Wesley Pietila**

**Krista Carlson**

**Also Present:**

**Ian Lewis, Village Manager**

**Mary Pat Crampton, Village Clerk**

**Kurt Erkkila , LVPD chief**

**Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation called by President Sullivan**

Ian Lewis gave a brief explanation of the annual millages and the Hedley Amendment. The millage goes down, but the assessed values increase allowing the Village to access full revenues. The resolution was approved at the Special Meeting held on 06/03/25. IL asked if there was any input from the public, and that the meeting should be left open for comments.

President Sullivan said we will allow ten minutes for comments, individuals should keep comments to 3 minutes.

Additionally, IL noted that the Public Hearing noted had been published ten days prior on 06/07/25. IL also reiterated that the taxable value of the properties assessed had risen from \$31m to \$32.7m due to sales and uncapped taxes.

No comment from the public was heard. Public hearing was closed at 6:10 pm.

**Approval of Regular Agenda**

Motion by Jenich-Laplander Second by J Erickson  
Call Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>, Statutory Meeting, and Special May 1st Meeting Minutes**

Motion by J Erickson Second By Pietila  
Call Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried

**Submission of Bills**

John Galbraith reported merchant account bills of \$92,197.19 and Prepaid bills of \$434,824.20  
Motion by Galbraith , Seconded by Jenich-Laplander  
Call Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried

**Communications to the Council - None**

**Public Comments**

Sara Green – Calumet Twp

Ms. Green stated that she has been attending various local meetings to share her concern about the chaos going on at the federal level with regard to Medicaid and how it will affect our local hospitals. She recited information from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District about the impact the proposed spending bill will have on rural and local hospitals. Twelve thousand individuals will lose access to Affordable Care Act insurance, 17, 580 will lose Medicaid benefits for a total of nearly 30,000 people who will be uninsured. Ms. Green wanted to make sure that the council is aware of this issue.

President Sullivan thanked Ms. Green for attending and sharing this information.

**Reports from Council Committees**

**Finance - No Report**

**Recreation/Parks/Beautification** – J Erickson discussed the Daniell Park concert series and that it is finalized. The first event will take place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the series will end on September 11, 2025. They are still working on manning the concession stand and have discussed having food trucks. The group continues to work on sponsorships and has approached Laurium Manor to

hook into their electricity.

The Village will utilize up to 4 workers from SAIL. They have cleaned the upstairs ballroom, worked on the ballfields and will help to clean up after the firemen's tournament. They can do things such as sweeping, painting, clearing, weeding.

Little League is in full swing. When the season is over the Men's League and Little League will each donate \$500 to pay for infield dirt.

No word from Jeff Kalcich on storing his equipment there but they have a pile of black dirt to be screened.

There is a possibility to apply for a grant for a new salt shed. The old salt shed would then be moved and used possibly for a recreation equipment garage.

Flowers are up on all the poles. JErickson reported that the clamps to hold the pots/flags were machined by CCISD students from Calumet. K Carlson suggested we give them some appreciation on our facebook page.

Ian reported that the old horseshoe pits were dug up. The Splash Pad will be located where the old pits were. It should arrive by 06/30 or sooner – or the week of the 4<sup>th</sup>, to be completed by mid-July.

There will also be a new pad poured for the ice plant.

The Community Garden patroncity fundraiser was a success and the goal has been reached. The area will be universally friendly with ADA picnic tables and benches.

JErickson reported that the GoFundMe page has been closed for the Gipp fundraising.

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

Krista Carlson reported that our future officer is still at the police academy at NMU until late August.

The Fire Department is busy with hosting the Fireman's Tournament with many activities going on in the Village. The schedule of activities is available on the LVFD Website.

As far as we know, the new firetruck is on schedule. IL told the Council that when the truck is ready, several of our firemen will need to travel to the site to do a pre-check inspection. We need to send at least two, they would prefer three. IL suggested two, plus our chief engineer. W Pietila asked if we would then drive it home. There would be a final inspection at a later date, and ideally, they would drive it home.

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

Jeff Erickson reported that the DPW has a heavy workload right now with a lot of projects including the Splash Pad/ice arena work/water lines/clean up. They are unable to build the cold storage building. They are not committed to doing any sidewalk projects unless a safety hazard.

JS asked about the expected completion date of the waterline project. IL reported that it has to be done by 09/30/25. Some will be easy if they can pull records to look at. There is 70k left in the fund.

Jenich-Laplander suggested that we'd committed previously to fix the sidewalk in front of Niemila's house on First St. Ian said if we can't get to it, we could offer to have them do it and reimburse them, but as it is a cosmetic issue, it will have to wait if they don't choose to have it done themselves. We will make it a priority in Spring 2026.

J Erickson reported that he has been working with a list with Qmodo for tasking and tracking completion dates. Currently they are working on time cards and billing. Qmodo will get up to speed with our needs for the new equipment such as training videos online.

Pietila asked if a grader was found. IL reported that yes, we have purchased a grader. It is a CAT from Grand Rapids – 2017/2018 model.

J Erickson reported that the Asphalt Recycler was received. We now have met our needs for snow removal and added some capacity. We have approximately \$100k left in the fund for contingency.

Sullivan asked about the old equipment. J Erickson stated that they are currently working on anything salvageable and will get rid of the rest. Two or three have already been moved, they are stripping the blades and will take anything of use, junk the rest.

Sanitation will have garbage cans by the end of the week and will deliver them early next week. DPW will collect old cans. There was also a question about whether each worker should be equipped with an I-Pad. It would help sync with Qmodo for time cards, accessibility, a worker could take a pic of an issue and immediately transmit it. This is a discussion for the future. JE stated this could save us a lot in the future.

K Carlson asked if cell phones could be used instead. Discussion followed.

J Erickson reported on a meeting with Miron, construction company for Aspirus expansion. There will be times 2<sup>nd</sup> street will not be accessible. They will continue to work on a solution. Miron will contract separately for their lots.

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

Ian Lewis reported that the Ordinance committee is reviewing the Good Neighbor Ordinance.

John Sullivan discussed complaints he has heard from the community about code enforcement. The discussion surrounded people's backyards abutting your property and not being cared for. Ian L reported that he drives around to look as Zoning Administrator. One completed task is getting solar panels moved off the sidewalk. There may be a card sent out to all residents to encourage checking with the Village Ordinance.

J Sullivan talked about eventually hiring at least a part time code enforcement officer.

Kurt Erkkila is checking with the prosecutor's office to determine if they will prosecute property issues.

Sullivan stated that we have to enforce the code or there is no reason to have it. Lewis replied that many communities hire law firms. Sullivan stated that we have to enforce them whether it is through a law firm or hiring a code enforcement officer. Sullivan requested Code Enforcement be put on next month's agenda.

K Carlson asked whether we have the budget for it. Lewis responded that we have 10k budgeted for attorney fees. There are ways to enforce the code with fines and hearings. We are not to that point yet.

Andrew Kemper from Moyle Construction reported on the status of the insurance claim on the DPW building. Originally, the insurance company had offered the Village approximately \$1.5m. Moyle has got them to increase that figure to \$3,628,000 for full replacement. Per the original agreement, Moyle performed those

duties free of charge. They are looking to partner with the Village to build a facility that will last for generations to come.

Moyle has submitted a contract that is currently under review for Design/Build of the new facility, including all engineering for a maximum return on our investment.

Ian Lewis reported the contract is sent to our attorney to confirm. There is nothing that stands out. The attorney will discuss it with council and Lewis and the committee.

Lewis thanked Moyle for the phenomenal job they did on increasing the insurance payout and assuring a clear path to the future for the DPW. IL, JE, JG recommend the Council Approve Moyle as the Contractor, contingent on approval of the contract by the attorney

Motion by J Erickson

Second by W Pietila

Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion Carried

## **Community Relations Committee – No Report**

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

The Village has met its goal for fundraising for the Splash pad and will receive the MEDC matching grant of \$18k.

Lewis has submitted the Reimbursement to the State of Michigan for \$165k for the grader. We spent \$9k more. It has a hydraulic plow, wing, lines fitted for it. All of our needs are met for snow removal and we have \$100k left for contingency.

NMU Fellow has been great.

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### **Unfinished Business**

Review of fee structures for the zoning board/planning commission did not receive any public comments. There will be no fee to park an RV. You still need a permit to park on the street. Short Term Rental permit will cost \$250 annually. There will be an annual inspection and the fees will be used to support that.

Long Term Rentals will also be inspected to make sure safety measures are in place. Discussion about who can do those inspections – licensed builder, fire department can review for fire safety issues.

Other fees:

Special Land Use - \$150

Planned Unit Development - \$150

Inspections – 0

Cycle begins in October

Motion to amend ordinance by J Galbraith      Second by A Erickson

Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion Carried

### **New Business**

I Lewis – Need to vote on resolution for Truth in Taxation

Motion to approve by J Jenich-Laplender      Second by J Galbraith

Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion Carried

Ian Raymond recommended a new member for the Planning Commission. Shana Porteen is a local business owner. She owns Black Ice Comics.

Motion to Approve Appointment of Shana Porteen by J Erickson

Second by K Carlson

Call Vote: Yes – 7 No – 0

Motion Carried

Council welcomed Shana to the Planning Commission

### **Old Business**

More discussion on Rental Property Ordinance. The current policy doesn't give anyone the authority to do inspections. Recommendation to the Council is that we cannot use the Police Department . Acting zoning enforcement officer should be given authority. I Lewis requested the Council give him the authority to draft the ordinance to amend it to allow authorization to enter.

Discussion followed about whether we could use J Kalcich and what his authority

is. Lewis reported a general contractor can inspect. Would have to be outside his work hours.

Motion by J Jenich-Laplander

Second by K Carlson

Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion Carried

More discussion on who can inspect. Carlson reported that the Fire Chief can inspect for safety such as fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers.

J Erickson stated that they need expertise in wiring/electrical/venting.

Discussion on how to notice residents, timeline.

JS suggested the Council consider hiring someone not affiliated with the Village.

WP – Discussion of the sign on the corner, no parking on other side.

JS – Discussion on painting curbs/stencil 'No Parking'

J Erickson brought up the AT&T poles on First Street. Wires are growing into trees.

WP reported that AT&T is doing away with landlines.

Ian Lewis reported that Calumet Twp has reached out and would like to meet. J Sullivan reported that we've asked many times. Council is in favor of talking, let Ian know so we can decide if it is considered a special meeting.

JErickson stated that if we become a city, can we annex other parts of the township. Can residents of Florida Location Annex.

Lewis stated that the discussion need to be ha at an official meeting. If there are things to partner on, we will discuss. J Erickson stated that we take the lead on the discussions since we have the resources, especially with the new DPW building coming.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk  
Village of Laurium  
June 30, 2025**