

**Laurium Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2025**

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

Roll Call:

Present:

John Galbraith

Jeff Erickson

Wesley Pietila

Jen Jenich-Laplander

Also Present:

Ian Lewis, Village Manager

Mary Pat Crampton, Village Clerk

Kurt Erkkila , LVPD chief

Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion Jenich-Laplander Second: Pietila

Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0

Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting November 18, 2025

Motion: Pietila to approve 10/21/25 Minutes Second: Galbraith

Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0

Motion carried

Submission of Bills

John Galbraith reported merchant account bills of \$93,949.77 and Prepaid bills of \$393,584.66

Motion by Jenich-Laplander, Second by Pietila

Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0

Motion carried

Communications to the Council - None

Public Comments - None

Reports from Council Committees

Finance - No Report

Recreation/Parks/Beautification – Wes Pietila reported that Skate with Santa was a success. J Erickson reported that we have sold some season passes for open skating at the Gipp. Pietila suggested we put out a reminder for people that we have rental skates available.

JErickson stated that after researching, the Sparks skate sharpener best fits our needs for recreational skaters.

Motion to purchase: Pietila

Second: Galbraith

Call Vote

Yes: 4 No 0

Motion Carried

Motion to move forward with \$75 punchcard by: JErickson; Second: Carlson

Call Vote: Yes – 7; No – 0

Motion carried

JErickson also mentioned that they will be able to put the roof over the ice plant.

Public Safety/Fire Department

Kurt Erkkila reported that they are participating in Shop with a Cop. They are providing gifts to underprivileged kids, as well as holiday meals. It is going very well.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation Committee

J Galbraith – Nothing to report

JErickson stated that everything is going well with the Streets. Banks are being cut back, equipment is running well. It is early yet.

Property/Building/Ordinance Committee - None

Community Relations Committee - None

Manager's Report

There is one budget amendment. Ian would like to add \$10,000 to the Multi-Rec fund. There were multiple breakdowns while he was out of town – Zamboni broke down, Bryce was forced to work overtime due to loss of part time employee. That had not been budgeted for. Working on keeping ours down, but with holidays there will be times when they can't. The garage door cost \$3k to fix as well.

The account balance in the Ice Arena account is approx. 120k and money is coming in.

Motion to accept the budget amendments as proposed: Pietila; Second: Galbraith

Call Vote: Yes – 4; No – 0
Motion Carried

Lewis discussed holiday hours at the arena during Christmas break. Working on getting a volunteer to fill in for trade of ice time slot.

Jenich-Laplander asked about holiday garbage schedule. Thursday pick-up on Friday. JErickson suggested we post it on facebook. He also noted that when the Zamboni broke down, they were able to use one from MTU that is maintained by Tech and available for use any time there is a breakdown at any of the local arenas.

JErickson stated that employee Bryce Jackman is doing an outstanding job at the Gipp Arena. He is friendly, the arena is clean, and the ice is the best ever.

Ian Lewis reported that the DPW building is coming along. They are moving quickly right now to get everything framed in. No issues so far.

Ian reported on the Copper Dog. He will be meeting with them on Saturday. The race will end next to Gipp – staging will take place there; open skating will be available throughout the weekend.

JErickson reported we have been approached by a local restaurant that would either lease the concession and give us a cut or would otherwise split profits with the arena to sell soups and chilis. Reps from CD will attend the next meeting to discuss.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Trent Halonen has been recommended by the Planning Commission to fill a vacant seat.

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

Call Vote: Yes – 4; No – 0

Motion Carried

Lewis handed out proposed Articles of Incorporation for the Fire Department Consolidation. They have been submitted to the Township Manager, Village Manager and edits have been made. Council is asked to review and bring any issues, potential changes, or edits to the next meeting. Information was taken from several other municipalities who have gone through this process. Some things will be left to legal counsel. Intergovernmental agreements will ensure training together and continued mutual aid. Some discussion surrounded possible structures for millages, still allowing for changes in government units, such as becoming a city. Lewis asked that Council read through it and make comments PRIOR to the next meeting in January. Equipment will be a big discussion as all will be titled to the 'authority'. This could free up 60+k in funding currently spent on insurance, etc.

Jenich-Laplander asked if there was any thought of police consolidation, others brought up garbage service. Lewis suggested we get through one, then can prioritize other opportunities.

Old Business

Capital Improvement plan submissions are still being accepted. JErickson noted that he submitted purchasing the gas plant road facility, storage garage on Florida Street, and shell improvements.

Equipment falls under Replacement, rather than cap improvement.

Announcements:

JErickson shared that a long time council member and past president Buzzy Bausano had passed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Motion to adjourn: Pietila

Second: Galbraith

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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