

**Laurium Village Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 17<sup>th</sup> , 2026**

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

**Roll Call:**

**Present:**

**John Sullivan  
Andrew Erickson  
Jeff Erickson  
W Pietila**

**Absent:**

**Jen Jenich-Laplander  
Krista Carlson  
John Galbraith**

**Also Present:**

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

**Approval of Regular Agenda**

Motion J Erickson Second: Pietila  
Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Motion: J Erickson Second: A Erickson  
Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0  
Motion carried

**Submission of Bills**

Merchant account bills of \$432,508.47 and Prepaid bills of \$ 109,302.45  
Motion by J Erickson, Second: A Erickson  
Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0  
Motion carried

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

### **Public Comments - None**

### **Reports from Council Committees**

#### **Finance**

Ian Lewis has some changes to the proposed budget. A lot of money will be transferred. The general fund is in good shape at \$158,000. The Sanitation fund is the only one in deficit right now. Multi-rec could be as well. Cash balance is up.

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

W. Pietila and J Erickson reported that the Gipp Tournament went well and was well attended. J Erickson stated that there were a lot of compliments. Jen's Kitchen sold pasties and bakery. It went well so this summer we will partner with Miller's and Miner's café to provide food during Splash Pad hours. Discussion, again, of the work still needed for the Splash Pad. I Lewis reported that we are awaiting a quote for the polymer and the grind down. DPW will do a minor fix. The shack is OK/working. J Erickson said we'll need some fine tuning once it's ready.

J Erickson reported that the ice is holding/we adjusted temps/will address dead zones in the spring.

W Pietila reported hearing many positive comments about the ice.. J Erickson stated that this year was a learning curve and next year we'll be ready. Folks have noticed the upkeep on the building. We will have ice until 3/30/26.

Discussion around the ballfields. The sale of the float copper found in the dump produced at \$5000 donation to the rec department. I Lewis reported that the donor wants the money to go to rec projects but would like to make sure that the DPW benefits too – maybe a refrigerator in the new building.

There was discussion about a section of fencing for the back ball field where the Men's league hopes to have a third field. Superior Sand and Gravel will help

with the infield mix to make it playable. Snow fencing will work for the time being. Ian suggested that Bryce is able to run the loader and has experience so if there is time he could work on the outfield. J Erickson asked if there is money in the budget for a box grader but Ian thinks Scott McInnes may come up with his and fix it for us. Men's league would have two more games per week. J Sullivan suggested we make this a priority. He also asked about the parking area near where the DPW building was. . There was further discussion on the black dirt and using it to fill the raised garden beds that have been ordered.

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

Kurt Erkkila reported that our new recruit is moving through the paperwork for the academy this spring.

Ian reported that the new fire truck may be ready in March.

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

J Erickson reported that that we have had several breakdowns, most are fixed. We are waiting on parts that are stuck in customs, and down to one Sno-Go. We have gone through most of the funds that were set aside for parts and repair. There is still money in the contents budget and still need to stock the new building which is estimated at approximately \$80,000. Erickson reported that we will put out a list for bids.

I Lewis discussed developing a procurement policy which is needed for grants. Below 15k is considered small and above means we need to get bids. A list is a good starting point.

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

The new building is coming along. There is a building meeting on 1/21/26 with Moyle at 9:30 am.

The pet ordinance has not been completed. No edits were received so Lewis will complete it as time permits.

J Erickson reported that Aspirus will demolish the 1920's building. They have requested to park the MRI on Boundary Street until a permanent pad is built. J Sullivan stated that it would be two days per week. There was discussion about bringing in a tractor to clean out the area. Kurt will be involved in that.

## **Community Relations Committee**

A Erickson reported that more info will be going out about Copper Dog. We will link our fb page with the Copper Dog page.

J Erickson will reach out to the radio stations with info on the free skating and things happening at the Gipp for Copper Dog.

## **Manager's Report**

Grants: Ian reported that he has been working a lot with the MSHDA grant. There are a lot of aspects to it with TPA's (third party admins) to help with properties. Ian talked to Josh Harjue, we will keep as much in house as possible as Admin fees will be paid at 18%. There will be a public hearing prior to any notice going out.

Fire Department Consolidation – a memo has gone out The Calumet Village Council is in agreement and so is the Calumet Twp Board. At the chiefs meeting there was considerable discussion about Copper City. At this point the board will be made of 3 managers/1 community/1 at large member. The twp will absorb the cost if Copper City decides to unincorporate. I Lewis suggested that after the first term the firemen would vote for board members. One of the three chiefs could be the chief, but it isn't clear if any of them would like to be.

Copper Dog update – Kelly Probst is running the event portion. She is all set. Meghan and Bryce will set up at the Gipp on Sunday morning if anyone is available to help with snow fence. There will be a FINISH banner along the Arena near the chiller. Vehicles will use the other side – thru the construction area. We will ask LVPD to handle crowd control/parking/directing traffic – maybe we'll park a DPW vehicle across the road.

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

Millages – The FD millage is strictly for apparatus. We are using reimbursement money to pay of fire equipment. He would like the council to consider not renewing the millage. Sullivan asked how sure we are that the consolidation will happen. Lewis reported all three entities are on board. J Sullivan suggested we leave it for another year until things with the consolidation are settled. The current levy is one mil and costs the average taxpayer \$80-\$100. Lewis stated

we should renew the street millage in 2026 at a lower rate. No need to collect for the vehicle debt if we have no need for vehicles. Add it back if consolidation doesn't go through.

PIF – the Council is considering new chairs, tables, the raised garden beds and a table for the DPW. The Village Hall needs attention: paint, carpet. There is still a question if Ian will be housed in the DPW building or maybe Bryce.

Floors in the ballroom need attention. J Sullivan will pay for the cost of cleaning – approx.. \$3000. Jim Waara gave a quote of \$12000 to have them refinished. If Council decides to redo the floor, J Sullivan will still pay the \$3000 to offset the cost of the refinishing.

A wedding reception will be held in the ballroom this summer and is an opportunity to showcase the area. We will also need to get quotes on an up to code railing on the balcony to use it. Discussion followed regarding making the building ADA accessible so that we can develop an income stream using the ballroom. The boxing club will be asked to use rubber mats, etc. when the floors are refinished. Lewis reported that we can do a \$20k transfer from the general fund to PIF for repairs and upgrades to the building.

Lewis stated that his goal is to bring the Village Hall back to it's old glory The ballroom has a capacity of 600.

Motion to approve refinishing of the ballroom floors with \$3200 from J Sullivan and \$9300 from PIF transfer.

Motion by: J Erickson                      2<sup>nd</sup>: A Erickson  
Vote: Yes – 4,                      No – 0

Motion carried.

Lewis submitted budget amendments. He stated that we do not want to show a huge surplus. Transfer 10k to PIF. Lewis explained all of the budget amendments which are attached. Some amendments are at the request of our auditor.

Motion to accept budget amendments as presented.

Motion by: J Erickson                      2<sup>nd</sup>: W Pietila  
Vote: Yes – 4                      No – 0

Motion carried

Lewis reported that there will be a public hearing on the MSHDA at the regular meeting of the Council on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Notice will be given.

We need a motion to create a procurement line item.

Motion: A Erickson

2<sup>nd</sup>: Pietila

Discussion began around EV charging stations as an income stream as there is road funding available. That question will be added to the agenda for the meeting with Moyle.

Lewis stated the new boards will be covered under a Parks and Rec grant. Discussion followed about saving money on that project through volunteers.

### **Old Business**

Ian Raymond reported on the activities of the Planning Commission. A handout was given with possible capital improvements for the next five years. Raymond explained the next steps. They will whittle the list of 7 projects down to three that are attainable. Raymond explained the ranking process. Fill out applications, members will rank a list of projects that can be completed in 5 years. Currently there are 18 projects on the list – too many. There are questions about many of them for exactly what they mean.

Raymond stated that this list will go back to the Planning Commission, there will be an annual update and in 3 months a public participation plan.

Lewis stated the new boards will be covered under a Parks and Rec grant. Discussion followed about saving money on that project through volunteers.

### **Announcements:**

None

**Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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

