

VILLAGE OF LAURIUM

Planning Commission

310 Hecla Street, Laurium, MI 49913

www.laurium.net

Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

October 13th, 2025

Present for Roll Call: Ian Raymond, Sean Gohman, Josh Harju, John Sullivan, Shana Porteen

Absent: Bill Ward

Guests: Ian Lewis, and two (2) members of the public.

The meeting was called to order in the village council chambers by Ian R. at 6:00 pm

A motion was made by Josh H. and seconded by Sean G. to approve the agenda. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Sean G. and seconded by Shana P. to approve minutes of the August 11th, 2025 regular meeting as revised. Carried 5-0

Capital Improvement Plan Rankings

Vote to Include the purchase of a New Police Vehicle in the Capital Improvement Plan:

Ayes: John S., Shana P, & Ian R.

Nays: Josh H. & Sean G.

Vote to Include the establishment of a Recycling Program in the Capital Improvement Plan:

Ayes: John S., Shana P, Ian R., Josh H. & Sean G

Nays: None

Vote to Include Improvements to the George Gipp Playground in the Capital Improvement Plan:

Ayes: John S., Shana P, Ian R., Josh H. & Sean G

Nays: None

Vote to Include Improvement to the Gipp Ballfields in the Capital Improvement Plan:

Ayes: John S., Shana P, Ian R., Josh H. & Sean G

Nays: None

Planning Commission Internal Rankings of each of the four (4) Capital Improvement Plans:

1. Recycling Program – 76.57 Avg Score
2. Ballfield Improvements – 75 Avg Score
3. Playground Improvements – 70.42 Avg Score
4. New Patrol Car – 59.71 Avg Score

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Capital Improvement Plan Public Hearing

Ian Raymond opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M.

Dan Zubiena voiced his opinion on the currently mentioned CIP items, he feels the Ballfields are the largest asset to protect in the current list, playground improvements second, recycling program third and patrol car last as he feels it shouldn't be considered Capital Improvement and just general operating replacement. Mentioned that a recycling program was previously attempted in the Village and failed due to the cost.

Trent Halonen said he would like to see ballfield improvements.

There were no further comments.

Ian Raymond closed the public hearing at 6:52 P.M.

Motion by Josh H, 2nd by Sean G. to withhold sending the CIP to council until further input from Council Committees is received with more representative projects from all departments is received at which time another public hearing will be scheduled. All in favor.

Communications

Village President – None

Village Manager – None

P.C. Chair – Website has been updated with “Redevelopment Ready” Guidance.

Planning Commission – Brief discussion on what should be included in the Capital Improvement Plan, Water Lines, Buildings, Roads, Sidewalks, Parks, other Infrastructure & large projects that are outside of the normal operating procedure for the Village. Capital Improvement Projects should also be categorized as certain projects will have certain possible funding sources.

Public Comments

Trent Halonen (Owner of H2 Lawn Service) is looking to purchase a vacant lot on Ahmeek Street (218 or 216) and plans to build a pole barn that is half storage and half living space, He will not be moving his business address to this location and will only be using for storage, PC agreed this would still fit under Residential Zoning and advised him to fill out a site plan application and submit to Ian Lewis for approval.

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Unfinished Business

Public Participation Plan : Engagement Activity Update

- Live on Website
- Need to look at more ways to reach the public, door mailers, radio ads, other postings, etc.

Other Business

- Annual Update to the Council
 - o Present in December to Council, Big items include Zoning Ordinance, Public Participation Plan, Capital Improvement Plan (Draft), Updating of Bylaws/Permit Fees, etc.
- Annual Items List
 - o Permit Fees (August)
 - o Planning Commission Bylaws (August)
 - o Capital Improvement Plan (August)
- Planning Commission Seat Renewals:
 - o Josh Harju and Ian Raymond need to resubmit applications if they wish to maintain a seat on the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission Call for Members:

- Still looking for one (1) member, we plan to readvertise the opening.

Announcements

N/A

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Harju, Planning Commission Secretary