

**Village of Laurium Council Meeting
Public Hearing Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes
03/17/26**

Meeting Called to Order at 6:02 pm by President Sullivan/Pledge

Roll Call:

Present: **Jon Galbraith
Andrew Erickson
Jen Jenich-Laplander
John Sullivan
Krista Carlson
Wes Pietila**

Absent: **Jeff Erickson (Present by phone, no vote)**

Also Present: **Ian Lewis, Village Manager
Jon Koskiniemi, Village Treasurer
Mary Pat Crampton, Village Clerk
Kurt Erkkila, Chief of Police
Dan Zubiana, Chief of LVFd**

Begin Public Hearing:

Ian Lewis reported on the MSHDA MI Neighborhood Grant that has been awarded to the Village to inform citizens of the project's objectives, activities, locations, and funding allocation.

Time was allotted for public comment. Several community members asked questions with regard to types of projects, amount of money available per project, past awards, process going forward

Lewis reported that the tentative timeline is to get information out to the public for application in early June, Applications will be available online or in the Village office.

Motion by Jenich-Laplander to close public hearing 2nd: A Erickson

Vote: Yes - 6; No 0

Motion Carried

Begin Regular Meeting - 6:30 pm

Approval of Regular Agenda

Changes to agenda: Add Procurement Policy and date change for April Statutory under New Business.

Motion to accept with changes: Jenich-Laplander 2nd: A Erickson
Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0
Motion Carried

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes and Budget Hearing Minutes as submitted.

Motion: Pietila 2nd: Galbraith
Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0
Motion Carried

Submission of Bills

Galbraith reported. Merch bills of \$331,341 Prepaid: \$292,716.25

Motion to approve: Jenich-Laplander 2nd: Carlson
Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0
Motion Carried

Communications to Council - NONE

Public Comment

Public comment was heard from Nathan Anderson, 315 Hecla and 205 N. Pewabic
Referred to committee

Joe Panijan, Aspirus, reported to council regarding the placement of the MRI machine during construction during demolition of 1920's building. Ian reported that the Village has not received any complaints to date. Aspirus will adequately mark the area.

Reports of Committees

Finance - No Report

Recreation/Parks/Beautification-J Erickson reported that the Copper Dog went over well. Most will attend finish in the history of the event. Megan did great job, as did Bryce. Tentatively scheduled to do it again next year and add food vendors and a fire pit. Pasties sold out. Carlson reported she has received many compliments on the overall condition of the Gipp Arena.

Public Safety Committee - Krista Carlson reported that our new recruit has passed all of his entry exams and will go to a final interview in the next week. Kurt Erkilla reported on

snow issues. Carlson mentioned that the LV Fire Department volunteered for Copper Dog by manning the crossing on US-41 at Gateway.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation - J Erickson reported that everything is still working, they've had to hire subs, the committee is actively looking for a sander, a Sno-Go, and a sidewalk machine. Ian explained why the streets were so narrow - breakdowns, snow every day, not having the DPW building which makes repairs take longer than normal. There was more discussion about whether we need a temporary mechanic. Lewis suggested that this year is an anomaly and we will monitor how things go once we are in the new building.

J Erickson also reported that the committee addressed an EV charger at the Gipp Recreation area and decided that having too near the DPW building would be inconvenient so it would be best to have it over nearer to the Arena.

Property/Building/Ordinance Committee - A Erickson asked about the Pet Ordinance that was brought up at the last meeting. Ian Lewis reported that he had cleaned it up, removed some things to make it shorter, and would get it back to the Council for review before the next meeting. He'd like to schedule a public hearing possibly in May.

Community Relations Committee - No Report

Manager's Report

Ian Lewis reported that the fire equipment truck will be ready to be picked up on 03/27/26 to be delivered. Sean Jacques will travel to Nebraska to do the final inspection. Discussion followed with regard to branding the truck given the potential for a new name with the consolidation efforts that are ongoing. We are awaiting reimbursements which make the general fund balance appear low. The state is taking 3 - 4 months to get reimbursements out. It was built as a general equipment vehicle and Ian is hoping the state will allow the grant to pay 11k for equipment but if they say no, there is enough money in the fund to pay the \$13,000 to fully equip it up to standards. Sullivan suggested we start ordering the equipment. D. Zubiana said he thought that was in process but will confirm.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

A resolution is before the Council to authorize submission of a grant proposal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant Program.

Motion to accept the resolution with corrected typos by Pietila 2nd: Galbraith

Vote: Yes - 6; NO - 0

Motion Carried

A certified copy of the resolution may be viewed at the Laurium Village Hall attached to the minutes of the March 17th, 2026 meeting.

More discussion followed on clarification of the terms of the MSHDA grant.

A motion was made to transfer the Daniell Park funds to the General Fund. They will still be monitored in that fund, but no separate line item will be needed.

Motion by: Jenich-Laplander 2nd: Pietila

Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0

Next item of discussion was whether or not to continue to levy a millage for the Fire Equipment Fund. Lewis suggested that we give tax payers a break for several reasons. We are just about to get a new truck. We do not have any future plans to purchase another. The amount we still have in the fund can be transferred to the proposed Fire Authority for purchase of additional equipment. We currently have no need to keep funding the millage.

J Sullivan agreed.

Further discussion on the potential consolidation. D. Zubiana would like to see more movement with regard to the firemen. Lewis reported that S Jacques had discussed combined training with Pat Boberg from Cal Twp so there is movement. The Twp asked for some minor changes that may affect the proposed board. The board will include the 3 managers/a rep from the community/and an At Large member to begin with.

Motion to stop levying the Fire Equipment Millage by Pietila 2nd: Galbraith

Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0

Motion Carried

Procurement Policy - handed out to members. The policy is an edit of the previous policy that Ian found. It basically provides guidelines for when bids, and/or sealed bids have to be utilized based on the cost of the item/service to be purchased.

Motion to accept the edited Procurement Policy by Galbraith 2nd: A Erickson

Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0

Motion Carried

Change of meeting date for April's Regular meeting/Statutory Meeting

An error was made in the posted date of the April/Statutory Meeting. It will be changed from April 14th to April 21st at 6:00 pm.

Motion by: Galbraith 2nd: A Erickson

Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0

Motion Carried

Discussion of the Ballroom railing. J Sullivan got two quotes on the replacement of the ballroom railing. Discussion followed on the potential uses for the ballroom. Carlson asked if it had been budgeted. I Lewis suggested that an engineer be obtained to take a look and see if the balcony is sound and what the weight load is. Comments about possible improvements, including making it ADA accessible. One length (10 feet) of a lift chair was donated to the Village. Sullivan has a lead on a couple more that might be available. Work will continue to upgrade the bathrooms, and eventually make the space available for public events.

The upgrade of the balcony railing was tabled until an engineering report can be gathered.

Old Business

Discussion the sale of the old fire truck. Ian will put it out for sealed bids with a minimum bid of \$2500.00

Announcements

There will be a Public Hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan on 04/13/26. Council is encouraged to attend.

Motion to Adjourn by Galbraith

2nd: A Erickson

Vote: Yes - 6; No - 0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Pat Crampton, Clerk

Village of Laurium

March 18, 2026