CALUMET VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025
CALUMET VILLAGE TOWNHALL, 340 SIXTH STREET
Public viewing available via ZOOM.com - Meeting ID: 869 9877 4486 Passcode: 699798
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86998774486 or via phone: 1-312-626-6799

Present: President Rob Tarvis, Trustees Matt L'Esperance, Ariele Pizzo, Pamela Que, Kelly Ryan, Bernice Smith, James Tercha; Clerk Lori Weir
Absent: None
Also Present from the Village: Manager Megan Haselden, CEDM Fellow Joey Foster, Office Assistant Terra West
Present from the Public: 5 Community Members

I. Call to Order
Tarvis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with roll call and led the Pledge of Allegiance

II. Petitions from the Public *(members of the public have 5 minutes to speak)*
- Penny Menze shared the history of ~~Croatian~~Slovak immigrants in Calumet, the planning and details leading up to CroFest and thanked the Village for their support in putting on this event.
- Ann Linja provided positive feedback on CroFest and shared that it was a celebration of not only our history but a recognition of our Village's heritage and how different cultures coming together impact our community's present and future.

III. Approval of Agenda
Que moved, seconded by Tercha to approve the agenda with the addition under VI. New Business, a new number 1. "Joey Foster – Update on Rural Readiness Community (RRC) Certification."

Motion Carried 7/0

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items *(items are considered routine by the council and will be enacted by one motion. If discussion of an item is required, it will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.)*
Review and approval of Council meeting minutes

Regular Meeting	July 15, 2025
Special Meeting	July 28, 2025
Special Meeting	August 4, 2025

Review and approval of bills
Prior Paid Bills in the amount of $100,357.55
New Bills in the amount of $107,286.30

Review and acceptance of Correspondence Received
None

Que moved, seconded by L'Esperance to approve the consent agenda with the edit to the August 4, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes removing one zero (0) from $1,5000 under Number 1. Section IV.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Smith, Ryan, L'Esperance, Pizzo, Tercha, Que, Tarvis
Nays: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried 7/0

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

1. RRC Certification (Joey Foster)
   Reviewed progress made toward the Village becoming RRC certified. Discussed what is being actively worked on and near completion and what items still need more attention. There are four (4) longer term plans in the works: Master Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan, and Marketing Plan.

   Discussion on development guide that he is currently writing. Will be shared with council, committees, and commissions as well as he hopes to get feedback from local developers in the community.

2. Street Closure Request – 150th Block Party (September 13, 2025)
   Que moved, seconded by Pizzo to approve the 150th Block Party Street Closure as presented.
   Roll Call Vote:
   Yeas: Smith, Ryan, L'Esperance, Tercha, Pizzo, Que, Tarvis
   Nays: None
   Absent: None

   Motion Carried 7/0

3. Alcohol License Requests
   Liquor licenses will be applied for to cover three (3) events: Fashion Show Cocktail Hour (9/12/2025), Halloween Party (10/31/2025), and Red Jacket Ball (12/13/2025).

   Que moved, seconded by L'Esperance to approve the resolution for all three events as presented.
   Roll Call Vote:
   Yeas: Smith, Ryan, L'Esperance, Tercha, Pizzo, Que, Tarvis
   Nays: None
   Absent: None

   Motion Carried 7/0

4. Office of Rural Prosperity Grant

Haselden updated on the application process for this $50,000 funding opportunity. Ryan is helping write this and the funds would be used for hiring a consultant to assist with village planning as well as funds for training and community building.

5. MI Neighborhood CDBG Grant
$400,000 already reserved for the Village. Includes $72,000 for administrative fees so Haselden will be looking into hiring an administrator for the implementation of the grant~~this particular grant~~. The funding will provide residential property improvement grants for owner-occupied residences. The grants will be income dependent. There is an application process for residents, and grants are then awarded via a lottery. A public hearing will be scheduled for early September.

Que moved, seconded by Smith to approve Resolution No. 25.05 as presented.
Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Smith, Ryan, L'Esperance, Tercha, Pizzo, Que, Tarvis
Nays: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried 7/0

6. DDA Board Appointments
   i. Tarvis nominates Nikki L'Esperance to the DDA with a term ending August 2029.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Smith, Ryan, Pizzo Tercha, Que, Tarvis
Nays: None
Absent: None

L'Esperance abstains from the vote due to a conflict of interest as the nominated candidate is his spouse. The council agrees with this abstention.

Motion Carried 6/0

   ii. Tarvis nominates Courtney Tucker to the DDA with a term ending August 2029. Courtney Tucker introduced herself.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Smith, Ryan, L'Esperance, Tercha, Pizzo, Que, Tarvis
Nays: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried 7/0

7. Financial Review – General Fund

Haselden provided an update on the financial audit and the auditor's timeline for completion. She then reviewed the general fund balances through August 15, 2025. Discussed the DPW equipment purchases and how those are recorded on the budget breakdown. Discussed sale of old equipment and additional equipment needs. Discussed possible equipment swap.

There will be a special meeting to review and accept the audit once it is complete.

VII. Announcements

- Haselden shared information about Fish Boil tickets.
- Ryan noted that there are three (3) topics she would like to add to the next Work Session Agenda: Employee Handbook, Civility Initiative, Work Sessions vs. Committees
- Haselden updated on required policies needed for the Fire Department.

VIII. Comments from the Public

- One community member suggested that before selling or swapping DPW equipment, it should be appraised so we have a record of its value.
- One community member asked about the progress with blight enforcement and what the response has been to letters/tickets. Haselden provided an update. The 2nd phase of ticketing is going out soon. Discussion on how to address this issue moving forward and if there is a way that we could combine forces with the township and Laurium.

IX. Adjourn

Que moved, seconded by L'Esperance to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion Carried 7/0

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Weir, Clerk