

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2013

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Municipal Building, 27 N. Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Darby, Straubel, trustees – Hendrick, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, DPW Bowen, DPW Simmons

Absent: Smith, Klutman

Guests: Adam Doll, Mindy Free and Wendy Hesche

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to approve the Regular Agenda. All yeas.

Public Comments – None.

Per council's request, Mindy Free and Wendy Hesche, Saranac Community Club members, were in attendance to address any questions/concerns that council may have regarding the upcoming Girl's Night Out event which is scheduled for Thursday, September 26th from 4 until 8 p.m. Hesche and Free would like to close Bridge Street at 2:30, to allow vendors to set up for the event. They expect to have everyone cleared out and the street reopened by 8:30. Mindy spoke with several business owners and so far has not received any opposition to closing the street. Approximately 48 vendors are expected, drawing in around 400+ event goers. Free and Hesche would like to have all vendors on Bridge Street this year, which would require Bridge Street to be closed from Main Street to Speedway's south drive. Free stated they would be happy to advertise business specials on the event flyer. Bowen reiterated that the center of the street needs to remain open, for fire and emergency vehicles. Council agreed to Free and Hesche's request to close Bridge Street, from Main Street to Speedway's south drive, from 2:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 26th for the Girls Night Out event.

Adam Doll was in attendance to further evaluate his level of interest in a trustee position on the village council.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2013 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mackey, to approve the Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2013. All yeas.

Council discussed various accounts payable items.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Hendrick, to approve the Accounts Payable of July 8, 2013 in the amount of \$57,543.10.

Roll call vote: yeas – Hendrick, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman.

Council reviewed a resolution from October 10, 2011, in which the village pledged a local match of \$5,000.00 toward the construction of the Grand River Valley Rail Trail (section from Ionia to Saranac). Jason Eppler, Ionia City Manager is requesting the \$5,000.00 village match at this time, as construction is to begin July 15th.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to submit payment to the City of Ionia in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Village of Saranac's local match toward the construction of the Grand River Valley Rail Trail, from Ionia to Saranac.

Roll call vote: yeas – Hendrick, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman.

Council reviewed a document from the Michigan Municipal League, regarding amendments to Michigan Election Law. The new law prohibits villages from holding regular elections in September and requires a village regular election be held at the general November election (even year only). The law further stipulates that village elections will be conducted by the township and that the current terms of village officers are extended to 2014 or 2016. In addition, a president pro tempore must be appointed by the council, November 20th of each election year.

Council reviewed a proposed resolution, which summarizes the effects of the amendments to Michigan Election Law.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to adopt the Village of Saranac Resolution (see attached) stating that elections for village offices be held at the even-year November elections, to be conducted by Boston Township and to extend the current terms of office of village trustees and president. All yeas.

Council reviewed correspondence from Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering (F & V), regarding a SAW (Stormwater Asset Management and Wastewater) grant opportunity. The SAW grant program offers significant grant funding (90%), for the planning and design of stormwater and wastewater systems. The SAW grant will fund Asset Management Plans, which are a planning tool for managing infrastructure.

F & V submitted a proposal for assistance with the SAW grant program. They anticipate that the preliminary services they provide, will be grant eligible. If not, F & V will not bill for these services. Additionally, if the village applies for and does not receive the SAW grant, F & V will not bill for their time.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to accept the terms of F & V's proposal for assistance with the SAW grant program, as presented (see attached). All yeas.

Council received a Draft copy of a proposed new agreement with Life EMS covering the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016. President Darby recapped the changes proposed by Life EMS, which include the cost per capita increasing from \$4.25 to \$4.95. The proposed agreement utilizes a graduated scale, incorporating the per capita changes over a three (3) year period. The Village of Saranac's current annual subsidy is \$6,141.76. If the new agreement is put into place, the Village of Saranac's subsidy for years 2014-2016 would be \$5,675.75, \$6,254.00 and \$6,558.75 respectively.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mackey, to accept the draft of the new Life EMS Agreement as presented.

Roll call vote: yeas – Hendrick, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman.

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council received Deputy Charon's May & June stat reports, as well as his "Tip of the Month" regarding seatbelt usage.

Darby informed council members that the new fire engine will not be completed by BridgeFest.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

Mackey has not received any new information from Sarah Doll, regarding a special committee for playground purchases.

Bowen reported on the status of the pole building purchase/grant, tree removal in the Nature Park and Riverwalk and the most recent Eagle Scout project. Council suggested posting pictures on the village website and/or Facebook page of the completed project (exercise stations in the Nature Park).

Bowen submitted a report updating council members on the status of the rail trail project.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets

Darby inquired about the new tree on Bridge Street, in front of the Fire Department, as it is blocking the scrolling sign that is displayed in the building's front window. DPW Simmons will investigate and reposition the sign if feasible.

Replacement benches for the three Bridge Street memorial benches have been ordered. DPW Bowen and Simmons will discuss how to anchor them when they arrive. Bowen would like to remove them in the winter (as they do the benches in the parks), for snow removal purposes.

DPW Bowen is seeking bids on joint & crack sealing streets that were microsurfaced last year. He has only received one bid so far and is awaiting a second.

Bowen reported that the DPW is continuing to replace/update village street signs.

C. L. Trucking is expected to begin work on Parsonage and Dewitt Streets in September.

Water & Sewer

DPW crew is having difficulty controlling the duck weed in the sewer lagoons. Bowen indicated that they may have to skim it off, a process that could take 10-14 days. Bowen also reported that they are still experiencing difficulties with rags and other miscellaneous products getting caught in the aerators.

DPW Simmons reported that we are continuing to experience trouble with rags in the lift station as well. Bowen stated that the lift station is scheduled for replacement next year.

Personnel

Darby recapped correspondence received from Bill Lewis, the village's health insurance agent, regarding changes in health insurance as a result of ObamaCare. A decision has to be made by July 15th, if the village wishes to change their renewal date in order to keep the current health plan, through 2014. The current plan will not be available as of January 1, 2014, which is the current renewal date. Per Lewis, BCBSM currently offers thousands of options and will be reducing those offerings to 46, for groups with fewer than 50 employees. The village could change the plan year to December, which would keep the current plan in place until December 2014. However, renewal rates for the current health plan have not been announced yet. If the village decides to change the renewal date and the renewal rate increases by more than 10% they would not be held to plan. If the increase is less than 10%, the change would automatically take place.

Motion was made by Darby, supported by Simmons, to change the Village of Saranac's health care plan renewal date to December, to maintain the current plan until December 2014 and to accept the renewal rates if they result in less than a 10% increase.

Roll call vote: yeas – Hendrick, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman.

Public Comments

Adam Doll stated that he would accept the vacant trustee position. He will be appointed and take the Oath of Office at the August 12, 2013 council meeting.

Additional Business

Council discussed the feasibility of establishing a local fireworks ordinance, which some communities are doing. Others are simply relying on state regulations together with their local noise ordinance, if an issue arises. Darby requested that Mackey speak with Deputy Charon regarding the subject and report back to council.

Per Mackey, the Bridge Church of Saranac is holding a Back to School Block Party (food, prizes and games) on August 24th from 4-7 p.m. on the lawn at the Saranac Housing Commission, 203 Parsonage Street. The event is free and everyone is welcome. Backpacks filled with school supplies will be given to the first 200 school age children and kiddie totes to the first 100 under school age children. Visit the event's Facebook page "Saranac Back to School Block Party" for further details.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Becky A Straubel, Deputy Clerk