

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2013

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:01 p.m. at the Saranac Municipal Building, 27 N. Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: Whorley

Guests: Dave Hartman, David Wood, John & Brenda Van Tholen, Jesse Guild and Larry, Jo & Gary Carlson

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

Public Comments

Dave Hartman, owner of Carhart Products, was in attendance to discuss his business operations which currently include storing bumpers outside at 460 Main Street in Saranac. Per Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, Sec. 30.12.01 of the Village of Saranac Zoning Ordinance states that "Unless specifically authorized by the Planning Commission as a special use, all business, service or processing shall be conducted wholly within a completely enclosed building." Hartman was advised by council members to submit an application for special use to the village office, which would be reviewed by Vandersloot and forwarded to the Planning Commission for approval or denial.

David Wood, Watershed Coordinator for the Ionia Conservation District, introduced himself to council. The conservation district in Ionia deals with soil and water quality. The Ionia Conservation District received a federal grant to create a comprehensive water plan for Lake Creek. They would like to focus on water concerns. The plan is to reduce pollutants (phosphorous nitrogen) through various management solutions, specifically, wetland management and flood management. For the plan to be successful, input from surrounding communities is very important. Wood inquired if someone from the village council would be willing to sit on the board for the Ionia Conservation District. Also, community members are welcome.

John Van Tholen with Green Valley Disposal Service, Inc. introduced his wife Brenda and Jesse Guild, a driver and recycling specialist with the company.

Van Tholen gave a brief overview of the history and services provided by Green Valley (hand-out provided). Green Valley has contracted with the Village of Saranac since January 1, 2004.

Van Tholen requested that the village consider signing another 3 year contract (which would include an additional 2 year extension), beginning January 1, 2014. Van Tholen is proposing to maintain the current rates through December 31, 2014. After 2014, a 3% cap on cost of living would apply as well as a fuel increase or decrease as negotiated and agreed upon by the village and Green Valley.

Darby inquired about any other proposed changes, such as a "pay as you throw" concept. Van Tholen stated that Green Valley could look into this. One change that is trending is that trash service is becoming less necessary, as more people recycle. In the near future, we may see every week recycling and every other week trash pick up.

Van Tholen is willing to look at creative options/incentives for recycling.

According to Van Tholen, the next “big” thing will be organics/food waste, which would require another bin and another truck.

Bowen inquired about the weight difference between a refuse truck and a recycling truck. Recycling weighs less than refuse. Per Bowen, refuse trucks are very hard on the roads, according to statistical reports.

Darby inquired if Green Valley could come up with some ways to promote recycling in the community. Mackey suggested promoting it through the village website.

Council will review a proposed new contract and vote on it at June’s council meeting.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2013 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of May 13, 2013 in the amount of \$68,264.50.

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

The Saranac Community Church will be hosting a “30 Hours of Famine” on Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. During the famine, participants will be cleaning up properties that are in need of assistance.

The Zoning Administrator’s report was reviewed.

Bowen stated that he received a complaint of chickens at a residence in town. Bowen will request that Jeanne Vandersloot send a letter to the home owner. The use, shelter or storage of animals, livestock and fowl (other than common household pets) is prohibited in all zoning districts within the village.

Mackey inquired about whether golf carts are legal on the streets. Bowen stated that they are not legal on the streets.

The Planning Commission minutes of May 1, 2013 were reviewed.

The Council reviewed a proposed Resolution that recognizes the Saranac Community Club as a nonprofit organization. The Resolution is required by the Michigan Lottery, and would allow the Saranac Community Club to obtain a charitable gaming license, for purposes of fund raising.

Motion was made by Hendrick, supported by Klutman, to adopt a Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses (see attached), as requested by the Saranac Community Club. All yeas.

Per Straubel, the Village received a Project Agreement for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition project (Boat Launch Park Land Acquisition). One of the requirements of the Project Agreement, is to pass a Resolution accepting the terms of the agreement.

Council reviewed the proposed Resolution.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to adopt a Resolution to accept the terms of the Agreement (Project Number TF12-079) as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, for Boat Launch Park Land Acquisition. All yeas.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Deputy Charon submitted to Mackey, a monthly report and "Tip of the Month".

Darby stated that the new fire truck should be here by BridgeFest, August 24th.

Mackey inquired about monetary ramifications from the flooding. Doug DeVries, Ionia County Emergency Management Coordinator, has requested that Bowen submit a report of any costs attributed to the flooding.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

The committee met to discuss upgrades to playground equipment at Schied Park. Per Mackey, a village resident is interested in heading up a citizen committee and possible fundraising efforts for equipment purchase.

Per Bowen, the portion of the Rail/Trail from Adams Street in Ionia to Parsonage Street in Saranac will be completed this summer.

Buildings & Grounds

Mackey inquired if we could get window treatments for the conference room. Straubel will investigate. Klutman inquired about tinting the windows.

Streets

Per Klutman, bids for Parsonage and Dewitt Streets will be opened May 30th at the village office.

Water & Sewer

Per Bowen, Fleis & VandenBrink provided 3 options for removal of rags from waste prior to entering the waste treatment facility. The 2013/2014 sewer budget includes \$25,000.00 for this improvement.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mackey, to carry through with design and construction of option 3 as presented by Fleis & VandenBrink, at an estimated cost of \$27,000.00.

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

Personnel

Bowen requested a Personnel Committee meeting to discuss changes in employee responsibilities, due to his pending retirement.

Public Comments

Additional Business

Mackey pointed out that the council is still seeking a candidate to fill a vacant trustee position.

Hendrick inquired about Eagle scouts looking for projects. He pointed out that he has seen people fishing illegally in Lake Creek, which is a designated trout stream. He questioned the possible addition of signage at the location. Bowen stated that the DNR would be responsible for this.

Klutman voiced a concern regarding the overflowing garbage in the dumpster at the Ice Cream shop. Darby stated that a letter should be sent if the problem persists.

Council discussed the replacement of the 3 wood benches in the downtown area, with the same benches used in the Nature Park and Riverwalk. The families who purchased the original benches have agreed to pay for the engraving on the new benches. Mackey inquired if the benches should have arm rests to discourage skate boarders. Straubel will look into prices and options.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk