

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 13, 2015

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, Smith, Straubel, trustees – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley; DPW Simmons

Absent: None

Guests: Dean Gage for Boston/Saranac Historical Society  
Todd Richter, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer

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

Public Comments

Dean Gage was in attendance to discuss the Historical Society's plan to install security cameras at the depot, in light of the most recent acts of vandalism. Gage also confirmed that the Historical Society is willing to allow the Village to tap into their electrical service, in order to install cameras on the trails. Darby inquired about the cost of the electricity. Per Gage, the cost will be minimal, so the Village will not be charged. The Historical Society feels that this is merely an exchange of services, as the Village provides services to the Historical Society free of charge, such as snowplowing their parking lot. Gage has received two bids so far for the camera system and is awaiting a third.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2015 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mackey, to approve the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2015. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Whorley, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 13, 2015, in the amount of \$96,194.46.

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

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet in April.

Council members discussed Fleis & VandenBrink's Proposal for Engineering Services for the WWTF Influent Pump Station Improvements Project.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Doll, to accept Fleis & VandenBrink's Proposal for Engineering Services for the WWTF Influent Pump Station Improvements Project, in the amount of \$19,800.00.

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

Council members reviewed a proposed Resolution in support of Proposal 1 for safer roads.

No motion was made to approve the Resolution.

## Committee Reports

### Public Safety

Council members reviewed Deputy Charon's monthly status report.

Mackey stated that she will contact Deputy Charon regarding recent vandalism and will ask for increased patrol in the problem areas.

Budget – No report.

### Parks & Recreation

Straubel, DPW Simmons & Trustee Simmons met with the Saranac High School student and teacher who submitted a request to build a "Tire Dragon" at the Nature Park. They were made aware of the Village's concerns with the proposed project and encouraged to choose a different project and location.

Mackey reported that the Rail Trail and the new playground system at Scheid Park are both being widely used.

A park user informed Mackey of a bees nest in one of the older pieces of playground equipment. DPW Simmons will address the issue.

Mackey expressed that she would like to see some sort of signage for trail users, "inviting" them to visit and shop in downtown Saranac during their travels.

Council discussed the fact that the current signage on Bridge Street, directing trail users to park in the lot across from the Depot, is not working too well. Nor is the word spreading, as hoped. DPW Simmons will investigate other possible ways to instruct trail users of the designated parking area.

Straubel will make contact with Aaron Catlin, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer, to begin discussions of grant funding for Trailhead construction.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

### Streets

Per Todd Richter, Fleis & VandenBrink is witnessing a big jump in construction costs. He would advise the Village to begin planning for 2016 street projects in late summer/early fall of 2015.

DPW Simmons has suggested relocating Bridgefest, to Erv Taylor Avenue, for safety reasons. His ideas were not met with enthusiasm by the Saranac Community Association, as they felt that the event would not be as well attended as it is on Bridge Street.

Council reviewed the Spring Clean Up flyer that will be mailed to all Village residents next week. This year's clean up will begin Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Water & Sewer

Per Todd Richter, the Village should be receiving notification late fall of this year, regarding whether they have been approved for the SAW Grant for 2016.

Personnel

Darby presented council members with the Personnel Committee's list of proposed changes to the current Employee Handbook. Council concurred with the changes, with one correction. "Page 35 – Updated Insurance Co-Pays to 80%/20%" was removed from the list of changes, as the current handbook is correct, with the Co-Pays at 85%/15%.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mackey, to approve the proposed changes (with the correction noted above) to the Village of Saranac Employee Handbook. All yeas.

Additional Business

Darby informed council members of a recent article in the Ionia Sentinel, regarding an attorney that is looking to establish a marijuana facility in Ionia County. The location he is looking at, has not been disclosed. Council concurred that Straubel should consult with Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator on this topic.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk