

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 16, 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: None

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

Public Comments – None.

Motion was made by Whorley at 7:04 p.m., supported by Doll, to open the Public Hearing to set the property tax millage and approve the budget for fiscal year March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016. All yeas.

There was no public to comment on the proposed budget and millage rate to support it.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mackey, to close the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. All yeas.

Council discussed the proposed increase in Street Mills, from 2.5 to 3 mills. Trustee Simmons voiced her concern over increasing village tax mills and inquired as to how long it had been since the last increase. Straubel stated that it had been at least as long as her employment with the village (14 years) but most likely much longer.

Jim Doezeema, Village Attorney, confirmed via email response to Straubel's inquiry, that the village is not required by statute to request citizen vote on increasing Street mills, as long as they stay within the headlee roll back cap. An increase however, would require a vote of council members, with 2/3 approval.

A .5 increase in Street Mills would generate approximately \$9,700 more in tax revenues in 2015. The tax collected would be divided equally between Major Street Fund and Local Street Fund. An example of how the .5 tax mill increase would affect village taxpayers is as follows. A property with a taxable and assessed value of \$50,000 (implying the property's worth to be \$100,000), would see a \$25 ( $\$50,000 \times .0005$ ) increase in their total village tax bill. In this example, the village tax bill for 2015 would be \$671.61 (a \$25 increase) versus \$646.61 in 2014.

Council also discussed the proposed addition of a 1% Administrative Fee to 2015 village tax bills. The village has not charged the 1% Administrative Fee since 1999. Upon review of 2014 Ionia County tax data, it was discovered that the Village of Saranac is the only village in Ionia County not charging the 1% Administrative Fee. If added to 2015 property tax bills, the fee would generate approximately \$2,500 in additional General Fund revenue. In the example above, a fee of \$6.72 (1% of \$671.61) or \$6.47 (1% of \$646.61) would be added to the tax bill. The amount is dependent upon whether the Street Mills are increased by .5 mills.

The 2015/2016 proposed budget is inclusive of the proposed .5 tax mill increase for Street Funds and proposed 1% Administrative Fee for General Fund.

Various questions were asked and answered regarding the proposed 2015/2016 budget.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to approve the property tax millage for 2015 as follows: General Fund – 10.4321 mills, Streets – 3.0000 mills, for a total of 13.4321 mills.

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

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Doll, to add a 1% Administrative Fee to 2015 property tax bills.

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to approve the budget for fiscal year March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016 in the amount of \$1,319,902.00, as presented.

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

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mackey, to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2015 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to approve the Treasurer's Report of January 31, 2015. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of February 16, 2015, in the amount of \$66,707.75.

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 February.

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

The Village Council previously approved this Resolution in May 2013 for the Saranac Community Club (SCC). The SCC has since changed their name to SCA, requiring a new Resolution to be adopted, per State of Michigan requirements.

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

The current Agreement for Sheriff's Office Services between the Village of Saranac and Ionia County, expires 2/28/15. Council reviewed a proposed renewal Agreement, with a five year term ending February 29, 2020. The renewal Agreement is being recommended for approval by the Public Safety Committee of the Village of Saranac.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to approve the Agreement for Additional Sheriff's Office Services between the Village of Saranac and the County of Ionia, as presented. Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Council members reviewed a proposed Agreement (see attached) between the Village of Saranac and the Ionia County Road Commission, for a Chip and Fog Seal treatment on Main Street, from Bridge Street to the east village limits. The approximate cost to the village is \$32,500.00, with a +/- variance not to exceed 5% without advance notice and approval by the village.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mackey, to enter into the Agreement with the Ionia County Road Commission, for Chip and Fog Seal of Main Street, as presented. Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

#### Committee Reports

##### Public Safety

Council members reviewed Deputy Charon's monthly status report and Tip of the Month. Discussion was held regarding recent vandalism in the business district.

##### Budget

The Budget Committee met and recommended the budget that was approved at the conclusion of the Public Hearing that was held this evening.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets – No report.

##### Water & Sewer

The Committee is finalizing duck weed mechanisms, per Doll. DPW Simmons has a plan to dispose of the duckweed, once it is removed from the lagoons.

##### Personnel

Darby provided an update on the Cellular Stipend Policy that the committee has been working on. Council members received a draft of the policy, for reference.

##### Additional Business

Darby will be on vacation during March's Village Council Meeting. President Pro-tem Whorley will chair the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Public Comments – None.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk