

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 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 – Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley;
DPW Simmons
Absent: Doll
Guests: None

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

Public Comments – None.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mackey, to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2015 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mackey, to approve the Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2015. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of July 13, 2015, in the amount of \$81,094.28.

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

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

Council revisited the ongoing issue of vehicles parking on unimproved surfaces and within village right of ways, which is a violation of the Village of Saranac Zoning Ordinance. Also discussed, was the ongoing issue of vehicles driving over sidewalks (other than at a driveway), which according to the Michigan Uniform Traffic Code, is a misdemeanor.

Council discussed various ways to bring these issues to the attention of violators, including but not limited to; notices on windshields of vehicles in violation, letters to property owners and issuing tickets. DPW Simmons and Straubel will confer with Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator and Jack Pieters, Ionia County Sheriff's Deputy, before implementing actions discussed.

Straubel stated that Vandersloot has suggested a review and potential revisions to the Sign and Fees Sections of the Village of Saranac Zoning Ordinance. Per council's direction, Straubel will inform Vandersloot to proceed with review and proposed revisions.

Mackey inquired about fireworks regulations within the Village and whether complaints could be addressed as a violation of the Village's noise ordinance.

Council discussed the fairly new legislation that allows the use of fireworks on the day preceding, the day of, and the day after a national holiday. Also discussed was whether a Village ordinance would adequately address issues/complaints on all other days of the year. Additional information will be sought on the topic.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Pursuant to PA 563 of 2014 (new legislation signed into law by Michigan's Governor), the Village of Saranac is required to establish specific written procedures and guidelines for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. With the assistance of James Doezeema, Village Attorney, a proposed Resolution has been prepared, along with three supporting documents, referred to as Exhibit 1, 2 and 3, in the proposed Resolution.

Council reviewed and discussed a proposed Resolution to Approve FOIA Procedures and Guidelines, a Written Public Summary and Detailed Itemization.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Whorley, to adopt the proposed Resolution to Approve FOIA Procedures and Guidelines, a Written Public Summary and Detailed Itemization, as presented. All yeas.

Committee Reports

Public Safety – No report.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

Simmons inquired about whose responsibility it is to maintain the Rail Trail, outside the Village limits. Darby stated that there is a group of volunteers that provide general maintenance. Darby provided a name of one of the volunteers, with whom Simmons can make contact.

DPW Simmons reported that the new playground equipment has arrived and DPW employees are preparing the site for installation.

The memorial plaque for the Scheid Park trail connector has been installed on the boulder. DPW Simmons and Straubel will coordinate with Doris Beukema and a representative from the Sons of the American Legion, for a photo with the plaque. Straubel will submit the photo and a narrative to the Ionia Sentinel Standard, in acknowledgement of their donation.

Buildings & Grounds

Mackey inquired if dead trees are still being cut along the village nature trails. DPW Simmons stated that there are more to be taken down, but the DPW is concentrating on other projects at this time.

Darby mentioned that she has received positive feedback regarding the porta-john the village placed at 113 N Bridge Street, for public use.

Straubel reported that the Michigan Municipal League (MML), providers of Property & Liability Insurance to the Village, contracted with a company to perform site visit valuations of Village owned structures. Site visit valuations with written appraisals have not been prepared since 1997. The MML provides this service free of charge to the Village.

Streets

The Streets Committee met and discussed a resident's request to adopt an Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Ordinance, authorizing and regulating the operation of ORV's in the Village. Ionia County recently adopted an ORV Ordinance that states that an ORV may not be operated on any City or Village road, unless allowed by City or Village ordinance.

Per Klutman, committee members discussed the pros and cons of adopting such an ordinance. The committee recommends that council not move forward with an ORV Ordinance, for several reasons, including, but not limited to: possible abuse at the parks and the boat launch, additional signage requirements, enforcement of the ordinance, ORV spots vs. car spots, true usage and current little demand.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to accept the committee's recommendation to not adopt an ORV Ordinance authorizing and regulating the operation of ORV's in the Village of Saranac.

Roll call vote: yeas – Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Darby; nays – Whorley; absent – Doll.

Klutman stated that he had received a request to close Bridge Street, from Church Street to Main Street on September 18th, for the annual "Girl's Night Out" event. Council concurred to grant the request.

Klutman also stated that the Saranac Community Association (SCA) has requested to close Bridge Street on August 22nd, from Mill Street to Main Street, for BridgeFest activities. The requested time frame would be approximately 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Council discussed the SCA's request along with liability and safety concerns expressed by DPW/Fire Chief Simmons.

Klutman stated that for many years, streets were closed diagonally (from the northeast corner of Church and Bridge Street to the northeast corner of the Post Office) during BridgeFest. It has only been in recent years that Bridge Street has been closed from Mill to Main.

Much discussion was held regarding the safest and most convenient options for closing the streets for BridgeFest.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Klutman, to close Bridge Street, from Main Street to the north side of Speedway's Bridge Street entrance, for BridgeFest activities on August 22nd from approximately 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Roll call vote: yeas – Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley; nays – Darby; absent – Doll.

Klutman suggested sending notices to property owners on Main Street, informing them of the upcoming chip and seal project. DPW Simmons has not yet received word from Ionia County, when the project will start.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported that the duckweed removal unit purchased from ProSkim is working, but at a very slow pace.

Personnel

Darby reported that DPW Simmons recently received his Certification of Sewage Treatment Works Operators.

DPW Simmons asked for clarification regarding hourly employees being paid overtime when they are called to work while on vacation. Darby stated that the intent of the language in the employee handbook is that hourly employees be paid overtime in this situation, but that the language should be modified for further clarity.

Additional Business – None.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk