

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2015

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Pro-tem Whorley at 7:02 p.m. at the Saranac Municipal Building, 27 N. Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Pro-tem Whorley, Smith, Straubel, trustees – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, DPW Simmons

Absent: President Darby

Guests: Logan Stiles, Geordie Rind, Alec Doll, Hunter Klutman

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

Public Comments

Logan Stiles, Geordie Rind and Alec Doll introduced themselves as members of Boy Scout Troop 71 of Saranac. They inquired about potential Eagle Scout projects. There are 3 – 5 Scouts looking to complete Eagle Scout projects by the end of this summer. They requested that the projects not exceed \$2,000 - \$3,000, per project.

Mackey inquired about project funding. The Scouts explained that they are encouraged to fund-raise for all, or at least a portion of the project costs. They would accept funding assistance from the village.

Rind shared his idea to build flower boxes and place them in front of the businesses along Bridge Street. Simmons inquired about who would maintain the flower boxes.

Klutman suggested constructing a batting cage at Scheid Park.

Doll shared with council and the Scouts, several ideas that the Parks Committee discussed at their committee meeting last week, as follows:

- 1) Clean up (remove brush and overgrowth) village owned property located at the far west end of Dollar General. Create a picnic area, possibly with a gazebo or picnic tables.
- 2) Build a new path from the Nature Park to the Rail Trail (east of the pond and parallel to the east property line in the Nature Park).
- 3) Construct a dog park, if suitable property can be found in the village.
- 4) Clean out behind rail/trail (clean out shrubs along bike path)
- 5) Construct a small bridge to be installed under the north Bridge Street bridge, to connect the depot area to the boat launch area.

Klutman suggested that another potential project would be an improved trail near the village wellhouse off Parsonage Street. The DPW currently mows a path in the location Klutman is referring to.

Council concurred that the Scouts should schedule a Committee Meeting with the Parks Committee to further discuss potential Eagle Scout projects.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Doll, to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2015 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to approve the Treasurer's Report of February 28, 2015. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of March 9, 2015, in the amount of \$118,003.73.

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

Straubel provided written clarification on questions that had been raised at February's Council Meeting, regarding millage rates and administrative fees.

Council reviewed the financial results for fiscal year ending 2/28/15. Straubel provided a brief narrative.

Straubel pointed out, that while the Sewer Fund appears to have a substantial balance, the amount that is put into reserves on an annual basis is minimal. Straubel suggested that a water and sewer rate study should be conducted this year, as rates have not been adjusted since January 1, 2008. Once the rate study is complete and new rates have been established, Straubel suggested that council consider an annual cost of living increase in water and sewer rates, to alleviate larger one-time increases.

Council reviewed the proposed budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/28/15.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to accept the budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/28/15, as presented.

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

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Doll, to approve the appointment of Lisa Hill to the Saranac Library Board, to fulfill the term of Carla Day, which expires September 30, 2016. All yeas.

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet in March.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council members reviewed Deputy Charon's monthly status report and Tip of the Month.

Budget

Fiscal year 2014/2015 financial results and budget amendments were reviewed and approved earlier this evening. The Budget Committee has nothing further to report.

Parks & Recreation

The Parks Committee met and discussed a request from the "Saranac Students With A Goal" team, to build a "Tire Dragon" at the Nature Park. Per Doll, the committee determined that this project is not feasible for the Nature Park, due to the fact that the area floods on a regular basis. The committee also has concerns regarding use of tires, both from an environmental and a health standpoint. There is concern that tires attract bees and mosquitos are drawn to standing water, which can collect in tires. Doll will make contact with the individual who submitted the request, to advise her of these concerns and encourage the possibility of a different project.

The committee also discussed potential scout projects, as per the minutes from earlier this evening.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets – No report.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Personnel

In Darby's absence, Doll reported on the Personnel Committee's recommendations for employee wage increases, to be effective 3/1/15 with the start of the new budget year. The recommended increases were incorporated into the 2015/2016 budget that was approved at February's meeting.

As discussed at previous council meetings, a wage inequity exists between two DPW employees. The Personnel Committee's proposal to begin to rectify this situation is reflected in their recommendations for employee wage increases.

Doll mentioned that the Personnel Committee will be making the recommendation that the Village require all DPW workers to be MFR (Medical First Responder) certified, as there is currently a shortage of MFR's available for daytime fire department medical calls.

Straubel inquired about the continuation of the Village 6% contribution to employee SEP plans. Per Straubel, email correspondence from Darby regarding personnel budget numbers, confirms that the Personnel Committee was going to recommend this as well.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to increase employee wages, effective 3/1/15, as follows: Koster, Simmons, Straubel – 3%; Rood – 6%; Wittenbach – 0%. Additionally, the 6% contribution to employee SEP plans will be continued.

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

Additional Business

Straubel received an email from AT&T, requesting that the village allow a link to their internet service options, on the village website. Straubel sent a response to AT&T that council would be advised of their request, but that by providing a link to AT&T's plans/pricing, the village, as a government agency could be seen as influencing residents' choice in service, as there are other companies that provide internet service in the village.

Council concurred with Straubel's rationale and response to AT&T, and denied their request.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.