

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 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: Jeanne Vandersloot, Deputy Jack Pieters, Trever Hopkins and Charles Williams

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

Public Comments

Trever Hopkins and Charles Williams apologized to the council, for the damage they caused to village property at the Nature Park. The two young adults have since restored the damaged property, to the satisfaction of DPW Simmons. Council accepted their apologies.

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

Much discussion was held regarding the "Sign" section of the Saranac Village Zoning Ordinance. Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator for the Village of Saranac stated that several violations of the sign section currently exist throughout the village, mainly in the Central Business District. Vandersloot was in attendance to gather direction from council members regarding possible revisions to the sign section.

At council's direction, Vandersloot will draft proposed revisions to the sign section of the Zoning Ordinance as discussed, and present them to the Planning Commission at their October 7th meeting.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to businesses and/or residents that are currently in violation of the sign section of the Zoning Ordinance, advising them that the ordinance is in the process of being revised and that they may or may not be in violation after the revisions are adopted. The letter could also advise them of meeting dates and times, so their input on the topic could be heard.

Vandersloot requested clarification from council regarding the Variance application that was approved at the August 10, 2015 council meeting. The approved variance from lot width at 225 Parsonage Street was for approximately 50 feet. A Land Division Application was submitted regarding the same property, proposing the actual lot width to be 38.07 feet. After some discussion, council concurred that 38.07 feet was approximate to 50 feet, given the fact that its future use is for a driveway.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mackey, to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2015 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mackey, to approve the Accounts Payable of September 14, 2015, in the amount of \$56,977.69.

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

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council members reviewed Deputy Jack Pieters Monthly Law Enforcement Report for August 2015. Deputy Pieters was in attendance to answer any questions or address any concerns that council might have.

Pieters inquired if council would like additional coverage for the “Girls Night Out” event that’s being held Thursday, September 17th. Darby stated that no problems were anticipated.

DPW Simmons reported than a minor accident occurred between Engine 5 and a Village employee/firefighter’s vehicle. The engine had returned to the station after a run and the driver was attempting to swing the engine into position, to back it into the station bay. The employee’s vehicle was parked in front of the station in a designated parking spot. The driver of the fire engine misjudged the amount of clearance he had to swing the engine into position, and struck the parked vehicle. Damage to the engine was minimal. Damage to the parked vehicle is estimated to be under \$1,500. The incident has been reported to the Fire Department’s P & L insurance company.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

A tentative committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 p.m., pending Aaron Catlin’s availability.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets – No report.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported on the status of duckweed at the sewer lagoons. It is an especially prominent nuisance this year. Per Simmons, other municipalities are experiencing similar struggles with eradication of the duckweed. Simmons will continue to research purchasing a dump trailer, to aid in removal of the duckweed next spring.

Personnel

The Village received six resumes in response to the “Help Wanted” listings for the DPW/Firefighter position that became available upon Tony Koster’s resignation. The Personnel Committee, along with DPW/Fire Chief Simmons, interviewed all six candidates and offered the position to Caleb Merrifield, pending council approval. Darby advised council of the terms of the offer (offer letter on file). Merrifield is available to start Monday, 9/21, which would give him one week to train with Koster.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire Caleb Merrifield for the position of DPW/Firefighter (see offer letter on file).

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

Per Darby, in completing the renewal form for health insurance coverage through Priority Health, a question was asked regarding termination of coverage for dependents who reach the age of 26. Priority Health provides the option of coverage through the end of the month or the end of the calendar year in which a dependent reaches the age of 26. The Personnel Committee's recommendation is the end of the month in which a dependent reaches age 26, as this corresponds with current Village policy.

Motion was made Mackey, supported by Klutman, to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to terminate dependent coverage at the end of the month in which they reach the age of 26. All yeas.

Additional Business

Straubel received an invitation from the MDNR to attend a meeting on 9/23 regarding a water trail designation for the Grand River. Klutman expressed interest in attending the meeting on behalf of the Village Council.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk