

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2018

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Village Office, 27 N Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Darby, Smith, Straubel, DPW Simmons; Trustees – Doll, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: Ricket, Klutman

Guests: Robert Dunton, John VanTholen, Ed Brown, John Brown, Deputy Bindus

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

Public Comments

Deputy Bindus informed council that he is now certified in child safety seat inspection.

Robert Dunton, Vice-Chair of the Ionia County Board of Road Commissioners, was in attendance to inform council of the upcoming Primary Road Improvement Proposal that will be on the ballot of the August 7th Primary Election. He provided an informational flyer which explains the need for additional funds for road improvements throughout Ionia County. The additional 1 mill would generate \$1.5 million annually for 6 years. Over 55 miles of roads would be improved in 2019 and 2020. The 1 mill increase would cost taxpayers in Ionia County \$1 per \$1,000 in taxable value, annually.

Darby inquired about the potential benefit to the Village of Saranac. Dunton replied that a portion of the funds (approximately \$20,000 annually), would go directly to the Village to be used on road improvements at council's discretion.

John VanTholen, Sales Manager for Granger Waste Services, was in attendance to request that council consider a contract extension or renewal, as the current contract expires at the end of 2018. The current contract can be renewed for an additional 2 years. VanTholen estimates that rates would increase minimally, possibly 3%, but that the fuel surcharge would be eliminated. If a new contract is written, VanTholen suggests a 3-yr, 5-yr or even longer term. Straubel inquired if the length of the contract term could impact rate increases. VanTholen indicated that a longer term could potentially minimize rate increases.

Per Darby, the Streets Committee will meet and make a recommendation to council regarding the refuse contract.

Ed and John Brown were in attendance regarding 15+ acres of vacant land on Parsonage Street, owned by the Phyllis Brown Trust. The property is for sale and a buyer is interested in purchasing a portion of the property on the south side. Due to its odd shape, the buyer would have to request a variance from the 4:1 width to depth ratio, in order to build a home.

Council members reviewed an arial map of the Parsonage Street property. There are properties adjacent to the Brown property that are similar in their width to depth ratio. These properties have homes on them and were most likely grandfathered in when zoning was adopted.

It was the unofficial consensus of council members present, that a variance request of this nature would have a favorable outcome for the applicant. The Browns were informed of the variance process which includes a notice in the newspaper, a notice sent to property owners within 300 feet of the subject property and a Public Hearing on the matter.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2018 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2018. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to approve the Accounts Payable of July 9, 2018, in the amount of \$118,592.93.

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

Council reviewed a proposed Resolution to accept Contract #18-5310 with MDOT and to authorize Village Officials to sign said contract. The contract with MDOT is for resurfacing Bridge Street, from Church Street to the south Village limits. The contract stipulates that MDOT will cover 80% of eligible construction costs, approximately \$158,600 of the estimated construction cost of \$230,400.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to adopt the Resolution to accept Contract #18-5310 with MDOT and to authorize Sharon L Darby, Village President and Becky A Straubel, Village Treasurer, to sign said contract.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for June 2018 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Darby informed council members that the Ordinance to Amend the Planning Commission Ordinance, which was approved for adoption by council at last month's meeting, was not officially adopted. Jim Doezema, Village Attorney, informed Straubel that allowing a Village employee to be a member of the Planning Commission is not allowed, per state statute.

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix inquired about the status of the Trailhead Project. Per Straubel, the DEQ permit has been approved, but we are still waiting on the DNR for a final approval of the project plans.

DPW Simmons proposed adding a sidewalk leading to the bathrooms at Scheid Park, as it would be much safer than the current path. He will price the project and present it to council at the August meeting.

Mulnix inquired about the status of the Thompson property. Per Straubel, there is additional survey work to complete before the property can be deeded to the Village.

Darby attended a board meeting of the Boston-Saranac Historical Society (BSHS) to discuss signage at the depot. Darby and board members agreed upon language acceptable to both the BSHS and the Village.

Streets

Per DPW Simmons, the latest information he has received from Ionia County is that the chip/fog seal project is slated for the end of July.

Per Straubel, bid letting for the Bridge Street project is July 13th.

Buildings & Grounds

Per Straubel, the Village owns an 8-foot strip of land that divides property at 46 Dewitt Street, in half (east/west). The property owner inquired whether the Village would be willing to swap a strip of property on the northern end of the property, for the strip in the middle. Council concurred that they would be in favor of this arrangement if the owners of 46 Dewitt Street wish to pursue it.

Water & Sewer

Per DPW Simmons, the DEQ recently visited to perform their annual review of the Village Water System. Simmons was informed that the DEQ will soon require cross connection inspections of every residence. Simmons expressed concern over the number of man-hours this will require.

DPW Simmons made mention of the overabundance of duck weed on the sewer ponds. A treatment is scheduled for this week.

Public Safety

Council received ICSO stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of June 2018.

Darby inquired about EMS response times. Per DPW Simmons, they have not improved.

Budget – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

DPW Simmons is ordering a topper and running bars for the new 2018 Chevy truck. The total cost of the vehicle with these additions is still well under the amount budgeted.

Saranac's annual Bridge Festival is August 25th this year. Per Darby, there will be more rides this year, as well as a zipline. Per DPW Simmons, the Fire Department is planning to have a duck race that day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk