

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2019

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, Straubel, DPW Simmons; Trustees – Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Kerry Fountain & Pat Essig – Saranac Library
Julie Calley – State Representative
Sam Pernick – Green Michigan Partners

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

Public Comments

Julie Calley, State Representative for the 87th District, provided council with updates on the state budget and other noteworthy items of interest.

Calley also presented council with a framed document signed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senator and Julie herself, in recognition of the Village of Saranac's 150th (Sesquicentennial) anniversary.

Sam Pernick, with Green Michigan Partners, addressed council and provided a 13-page memo regarding medical & adult-use marijuana. Pernick summarized the contents of the memo which covers marijuana laws, as well as the potential positive economic, public health and public safety impacts of allowing marijuana facilities in the Village of Saranac.

Kerry Fountain, Saranac Library Director, addressed council regarding the library's progress in becoming a District Library. As part of the process, the Saranac Library is requesting that the Village of Saranac, along with Boston Township, Campbell Township, Berlin Township, the Village of Clarksville and the Saranac Community School District, sign an agreement as participating municipalities. Once all six members have signed the agreement, it will be submitted to the Library of Michigan for approval.

Mulnix inquired if any new services will be offered as a result of the Library's impending District status. According to Fountain, there will be more flexibility for programs, as they will not be "confined" to the walls of the physical library. They plan to be proactive in assisting Saranac schools, as they do not have an active library due to lack of funding. Fountain also mentioned creating a "story-walk" along the Rail Trail and a program at Sessions State Park. Another service they plan to expand is the volume of electronic services. Darby and Mulnix expressed that they are avid users of the library's electronic services and look forward to expansion in that area.

Council concurred to review the proposed District Library Agreement and corresponding Resolution, and revisit the topic at November's council meeting.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2019. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Accounts Payable of October 14, 2019, in the amount of \$61,323.38.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for September 2019 was reviewed.

Klutman reported on the Planning Commission's October 2nd meeting. The commission will be considering Zoning Ordinance language for live/work allowances in the Central Business District, at their 11/6 meeting.

Council reviewed a proposal for services, submitted by Tim Johnson of MainStreet Planning Company. Johnson proposes to prepare an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to implement the 2019 Master Plan update. Johnson proposes to complete this task for \$2,500 plus expenses as laid out in his proposal.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to accept MainStreet Planning Company's proposal to update the Village of Saranac Zoning Ordinance to reflect Master Plan updates, in the amount of \$2,500.

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

Council reviewed a draft stand-alone ordinance prepared by Jim Doezenia, Village Attorney, regarding the operation of food trucks in the Village.

Council reviewed a draft ordinance prepared by Doezenia, to amend the Zoning Ordinance in regard to food trucks.

Council concurred that they would like more time to review the two ordinances prepared by Doezenia. The topic will be revisited at the November 11th council meeting.

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation

Darby informed DPW Simmons of a large pudding stone that he may want to consider placing in the wood-chipped area near the Trailhead building.

DPW Simmons inquired if council would like the DPW to snowplow the newly developed Trailhead property. Given the fact that the public restrooms are open for year-round use, council concurred that the DPW keep the paved areas clear of snow.

Streets

Klutman will contact Todd Richter to schedule a Street Committee meeting to discuss next years' budget.

Per DPW Simmons, the Parsonage Street reconstruction project is nearing completion. The project has gone smoothly and the work appears to be satisfactory.

Buildings & Grounds

Whorley and Doll assessed the condition of the restrooms at Scheid Park. Whorley has sought an initial bid for new restrooms and will forward to council members upon receipt. Per DPW Simmons, further discussion is warranted regarding the condition of the entire building.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported that he has received a bid for a new control/alarm system at the wastewater treatment facility. The Sewer Fund budgeted \$15,000 for this item and the bid came in at \$12,950. Simmons is moving forward with the project, as it is under budget and very much needed.

Budget – No report.

Public Safety

Council reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for September 2019.

Darby reported that Deputy Bindus will no longer be the day-time deputy assigned to the Village, as he has accepted a position with another department. Deputy Ervin is expected to be his replacement.

Chief Simmons reported that the Fire Department is at 450 calls to date, which has surpassed the total calls for 2018 of 445.

Personnel

Darby reported that the committee met and reviewed the renewal proposal for employee health care coverage with BCN, as well as other options provided by HUB. The committee recommends that council renew the current BCN plan with an approximate increase in annual premium of \$1,500.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to renew the current employee health care plan with BCN, resulting in an approximate increase in annual premium of \$1,500.

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

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk