

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2021

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, Mulnix, Simmons, Ricket, Whorley

Absent: Klutman

Guests: Dave Washburn

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

Public Comments

Dave Washburn was in attendance to inquire about the status of his request that council revise the ORV Ordinance to include golf carts. In his opinion, the ORV Ordinance serves people outside of the Village, more than it does Village constituents.

Darby stated that the ORV Ordinance would not be amended to include golf carts, as the two “vehicles” would have very different rules/regulations. A separate ordinance to regulate the use of golf carts in the Village, would have to be considered. The Street Committee had intended to discuss the golf cart topic, but haven’t met since Washburn’s original request, due to scheduling conflicts.

Washburn brought up a Main Street project from over 20 years ago, and the issues he encountered. Council questioned the correlation between golf carts and a street project from over 20 years ago. Finding no correlation, the street project topic was dropped, as current council members were not serving on the council over 20 years ago, and cannot speak to what happened during that time.

Law Enforcement Report

Council reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of December 2020.

Straubel reported that Deputy Carter is the new Boston Township liaison officer and the night shift deputy for Saranac.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer’s Report of December 31, 2020. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 11, 2021, in the amount of \$70,383.31.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for December 2020 was reviewed.

Planning Commission Report

Straubel reported that the Planning Commission met last week and reviewed/discussed two permit applications for Marihuana Establishments and Marihuana Facilities which were drafted by Attorney Laura Genovich. Commission members raised a few questions which Klutman agreed to research.

Committee Reports

Budget

Straubel reported that Fleis & VandenBrink provided a summary of potential Sewer Fund capital expenditures for council's review. The correspondence is included in council's meeting packet.

Public Safety

Chief Simmons reported that all but 3 firefighters responded to Sunday night's house fire.

Chief Simmons and Ricket reported on the status of Engine 5. The engine is approximately 19 years old and by industry standards could remain in service another 6 years. However, it has seen numerous repairs lately, making it a potential safety hazard and financial burden. It may be prudent for the fire department and the Fire Board to consider replacing the engine sooner than projected.

Straubel stated that the annual Fire Board meeting will be held January 25th, 7:00 p.m., at the Village Office.

Ricket agreed to represent the Village at the Fire Board meeting, along with President Darby.

Darby inquired whether firefighter training is up to date, due to the constraints of in-person meetings/training. Per Chief Simmons, all training has been online and everyone on the department is current with requirements.

Darby raised the topic of Boston Township's fire millage and that the millage account may not fund Boston and Saranac's operating expenses for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. This is due to the fact that capital expenditures are slated for the upcoming year and the fire millage ends soon.

Ricket raised questions/concerns about not using fire millage funds for operating expenses.

Straubel will update the fire millage cash flow projection and confirm the end date of the current millage.

Parks & Recreation

Council discussed the timing of a grant application for Scheid Park improvements. Due to the fact that grant applications are due in April, Straubel will contact Fleis & VandenBrink this week, to start the process.

Streets

Darby reported that the committee attempted to meet, but encountered scheduling conflicts. Straubel will get with Klutman (committee chair) to reschedule. The committee will discuss whether to allow golf carts in the Village or not, at Washburn's request.

Buildings & Grounds

DPW Simmons reported that a portion of gutter and fascia fell off one of the DPW buildings. They will have to wait until spring to fix it.

DPW Simmons also reported that a section of soffit fell off the trailhead building. He and Tony were able to reattach and reinforce it.

Water & Sewer

Doll will schedule a committee meeting, including Todd Richter, to discuss Richter's email recommendations relative to sewer capital improvements.

Straubel requested that the committee discuss a sewer rate increase as well and will provide the committee with additional revenue created for an increase of 5 – 10%.

Personnel

Darby reported that the potential medical situation with a Village employee resolved on its own.

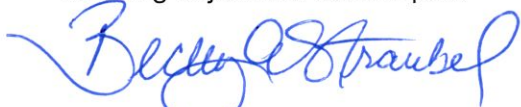
Darby also reported that the situation with daytime fire department calls has been getting better. This will be monitored and addressed by the Personnel Committee if needed.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Straubel requested that February's Village Council meeting be rescheduled from Monday, February 8th to Monday February 15th, to allow additional time to complete the 2021/2022 budget. Council members concurred with this change.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk