

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 12, 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, Whorley  
Absent: Klutman, Ricket  
Guests: Deputy Rachel Ervin

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

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

Council reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of March 2021. Deputy Rachel Ervin will look into whether there may be some incidents missing from the stat report, as the date range is 3/10/21 to 3/21/21.

Ervin provided council with an update on Village law enforcement items of interest.

DPW Simmons mentioned that he has seen various non-legal versions of off-road vehicles (mini-bike, lawn tractor) using Village streets, since the adoption of the ORV Ordinance. Ervin will keep an eye out for the offenders.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2021. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 12, 2021, in the amount of \$62,857.61.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for March 2021 was reviewed.

Planning Commission Report

Straubel reported that the Planning Commission's Special Meeting scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> to consider supplemental information submitted by KISA Enterprises, was cancelled. The applicant withdrew his request for a Special Use Permit to operate a Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center and an Adult Use Retail Establishment at 9 E Main Street. The applicant is considering alternate locations within the Village.

### Committee Reports

Budget – No Report.

### Public Safety

Council reviewed a flyer prepared by Dennis Bowen, Boston Township Supervisor, entitled “Hero’s Salute”. The flyer is a tribute to Saranac Community Fire Department members and the sacrifices they make to protect the Village and surrounding Townships. The flyer will be published in an upcoming edition of the Ionia County Shopper’s Guide.

Trustee Simmons thanked the Fire Department for posting the number/type of calls they respond to monthly, on their newly created Facebook page; facebook.com/SaranacCFD.

### Parks & Recreation

Straubel reported that the grant application for the Scheid Park Improvements project was submitted to the MDNR successfully and per email notification is administratively complete and has moved to the next stage of evaluation. Preliminary scores will be released in late summer.

Darby reported that the Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder bicycle race had approximately 600 participants this year. Per Darby, the event went smoothly, other than a vehicle back-up on Bridge Street. There are already plans in place to avoid this issue next year.

Each year, the Dirty 30 event organizer gives back to the community by way of park equipment or a monetary donation. This year, the donation (amount unknown at this time) will go toward the Scheid Park Improvements project.

DPW Simmons reported that the Saranac Youth Baseball League will likely install another ballfield at Scheid Park this year.

### Streets

Straubel informed council of a request from a Bridge Street business owner, to set up a tent on the Village owned parking lot behind the businesses (Erv Taylor Avenue) parking lot for a graduation open house. Council discussed the topic and regretfully concurred to deny the request, as the public parking lot cannot be used for personal events.

DPW Simmons informed council members that Consumers Energy will be replacing approximately 30 electrical poles on the west side of the Village. They have placed flags in the locations they will be working. Unfortunately, the project has been delayed three times now.

Buildings & Grounds – No Report.

### Water & Sewer

Straubel requested council’s input on past due water bills. The moratorium on water shut-offs expired March 31, 2021. The Village currently has seven accounts that are past due, a few of which have balances that go back to June 30, 2020.

Potential repayment options were discussed, including, but not limited to; requiring the full amount due by a certain date to avoid shut-off, establishing a payment plan where a certain percentage of the past due balance is paid each month, or adding the balance to property tax bills if not paid by a certain date. Straubel will propose a plan and report back to the Water/Sewer Committee.

Straubel reported on the status of the Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) grant application which was submitted to EGLE December 30, 2020. Per Todd Richter, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer, preliminary reports indicate that Saranac is ranked 69<sup>th</sup> out of 301 applicants and that funding may run out around the 55<sup>th</sup> ranking. Richter remains hopeful that additional funds may be allocated or grant amounts revised, to spread the dollars further.

#### Personnel

Darby reported that the Personnel Committee (PC) met and would like to recommend to council, two changes to the Employee Handbook. Currently, the handbook has a section entitled "Weekend Schedule (Standby Pay)". This section states that non-exempt DPW employees are on a 24/7 on-call schedule, on a rotational basis. When on-call on a weekend, they are allowed one non-work day during the week. Typically, the on-call employee only works two hours (reading pumps and checking parks). The PC is recommending that council amend this section to where the on-call employee works an eight-hour shift on the Saturday they are on-call. The reason for this suggested change is to have one Medical First Responder (MFR) in town and available for calls. Fire personnel who routinely respond on Saturdays need some relief, as they are getting burned out. The Village has three DPW employees who could alleviate some of that burden by providing Saturday coverage on a rotational basis.

Additionally, the Employee Handbook has a section entitled "Volunteer Firefighter Duties". This section currently states that it is desirable that all DPW employees maintain a MFR certification to assist with emergency situations during their shift. Currently, two DPW employees have their MFR certification and one does not. The Personnel Committee is recommending that council amend this section to make it mandatory that all DPW employees maintain their MFR certification.

The PC is recommending a June 1, 2021 start date for the proposed on-call change and a deadline of January 2022 for the one remaining DPW employee to obtain his MFR certification.

Council members discussed the particulars of the PC's recommendations.

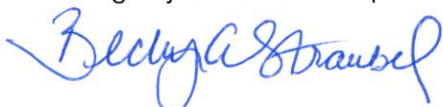
Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendations as proposed above.

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

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk