

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 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, Klutman, Mulnix, Whorley
Absent: Simmons
Guests: Mark Talcott

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

Public Comments

Mark Talcott announced that he was in attendance to express his interest in the vacant Trustee position. Talcott submitted an application, a copy of which council members received in their meeting packet.

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of August 2021.

Council received a letter from Angela Stephens, Executive Director of the Saranac Housing Commission. Due to Donna Smit resigning her position, there is a vacancy on the board of the Saranac Housing Commission and the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation. Stephens noted in her letter to the Village Council, that there are two members of the community who applied for the position. Stephens is requesting that the Village Council appoint one of the members at tonight's meeting.

Council members reviewed the applications of the two community members.

Motion was made by Darby, supported by Mulnix, to appoint Ryan Hesche as Commissioner of the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as Director on the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board, to fill Donna Smit's seat which expires May 2025.

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

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to accept the Treasurer's Report of August 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 September 13, 2021, in the amount of \$74,518.44.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

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

Planning Commission Report – No report.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Public Safety

Chief Simmons reported that currently, there are 3 Fire Department members out with Covid-19.

Parks & Recreation

Straubel reported that she received via email today, a preliminary score for the Scheid Park grant application. The Village received a score of 290, out of a total possible score of 500. Supplemental information can be submitted until October 1, to potentially increase the score. Straubel will work with Fleis & VandenBrink to ensure that the maximum number of points are awarded.

Streets

Darby reported that the extreme heat affected Bridgefest turnout this year. She also mentioned that next year's event will be located entirely at the boat launch park, as opposed to split between the boat launch and Erv Taylor Avenue.

Chief Simmons reported that the hog roast was a huge success. The Fire Department plans to discontinue the annual pancake supper and host an annual hog roast instead. The profit of the roast was less than the supper, but the time invested in the roast was way less.

Council members concurred that the chip/seal on Mill Street and Orchard Street turned out well.

DPW Simmons requested that council make a determination on whether to purchase a portable radar speed sign now or wait until a grant opportunity can be found. Mulnix reported that he had made some inquiries about a potential grant, but had not received any responses.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to purchase one portable radar speed sign from Kustom Signals Inc. in the amount of \$4,420.00.

Roll call vote: yeas – Klutman, Mulnix, Whorley, Darby; nays – Doll; absent – Simmons.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

Straubel reported that she and DPW Simmons met with Fleis & VandenBrink and EGLE regarding the DWAM grant application. Due to an overwhelming number of applications received, EGLE is requesting applicants to revise their project scope, so that more communities can benefit from the grant opportunity. These projects are 100% grant funded, so any amount awarded is acceptable as far as the Village is concerned. Fleis & VandenBrink will revise the grant application to get the project scope in line with EGLE's expectations, and resubmit for their approval.

DPW Simmons reported that EGLE is changing their requirements for eligibility to take the water and sewer certification tests. This will most likely mean that our two new employees will have to wait longer than one year before taking the tests.

Personnel

Darby reported that DPW Simmons completed 90-day performance reviews for Lake and Darby.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby reported that Dollar General's corporate office is hesitant to give permission to the organizers of the Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder bike race, to place a beer tent on their property during next years' event. Council discussed other possible locations for the beer tent, noting that it could not be on Village owned property. It was suggested that Dirty 30 organizers contact the owner of the property who hosts the beer tent during Bridgefest.

Darby provided council members with a draft Electronic Sign Policy and requested their feedback by the October 11th council meeting.

Darby reported that the Village has received two applications for the vacant Trustee position, copies of which are included in tonight's meeting packet. Mark Talcott was in attendance, but Norman Day had a prior commitment and was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Council members will review the two applications received and any others that may be submitted, and make their selection at the October 11th council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk