

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 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, Whorley

Absent: Klutman

Guests: Norman Day, Greg Grieves, Mark Talcott, Jeff Wingard

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

Public Comments

Greg Grieves was in attendance regarding the Village Nature Park. He requested that the Village consider not mowing the property in the center of the trail loop. He believes that area should be kept natural, as it provides food and habitat for wild life. He also mentioned that not mowing it would save the Village money in fuel and labor.

DPW Simmons stated that the Village mows the property for safety reasons. He has heard from park users (families and lone walkers/runners) that they feel safer in the park when that area is mowed, because they can see across it to keep an eye on their children and know who else is in the park.

Other council members noted that Grieves has a valid point, but safety of park users is their main concern. The Nature Park is remote and has been vandalized on several occasions. Letting that area grow to its natural height would make the park feel even more isolated.

Grieves stated that he would like to attend a Parks & Recreation meeting to discuss this further.

Law Enforcement Report

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

Jeff Wingard, Engineer with Fleis & VandenBrink, was in attendance to present a proposal to provide engineering services for the EGLE Drinking Water Asset Management Grant project. The Village of Saranac was awarded a grant in the amount of \$158,240 to update the existing Water System Asset Management Plan (AMP) and Distribution System Materials Inventory (DSMI) as well as develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) to store water system information. The project is 100% paid for by the grant.

Council members reviewed F & V's proposal which further explains the scope of the services they plan to provide. They propose to provide these services for a lump sum fee of \$88,000.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to assist with the EGLE DWAM grant program to update of the Village's existing Water System Asset Management Plan (AMP) and Distribution System Materials Inventory (DSMI) for a lump sum amount of \$88,000.

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

Mark Talcott and Norman Day were in attendance as potential candidates for the open Village Council Trustee position.

Norman Day addressed council, sharing his personal and professional background. Day has lived in the Village since 2006. He and his wife chose to live in Saranac after interviewing various school districts and finding that Saranac was the most welcoming and accepting of his family. Day is the Director of Operations for an automotive facility, responsible for various financial aspects of their three facilities. He plans to retire in a few years. Day is also involved with Boy Scouts. He feels he can bring value to the Village Council in many areas.

Mark Talcott addressed council, sharing his personal and professional background. Talcott has been Chairman of the Village Planning Commission, giving him experience with various aspects of Village business. Talcott is a lifetime resident of the Village. He is retired from the Michigan Reformatory, where he was involved in equipment purchases and gained experience working with a 17-million-dollar budget. Talcott looks forward to learning about the innerworkings of the Village and adding value in many areas.

Discussion ensued amongst council members, as both Trustee candidates have much to offer.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mulnix, to appoint Norman Day to fill the open Trustee position that was created when Jason Ricket resigned, with a term expiring November 2022.

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

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2021. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Accounts Payable of October 11, 2021, in the amount of \$96,953.45.

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

Straubel reported at last month's council meeting, that the Village's preliminary score on the MDNR grant application for Scheid Park improvements, was 290 out of 500. The MDNR allowed for supplemental information to be submitted until 10/1/21, to potentially increase the score. One of the ways to gain more points was to increase the Village match percentage. Straubel email polled council members in late September and they unanimously concurred to increase the Village match from 38.8% to 40%. Straubel confirmed with the MDNR grant coordinator that council could follow up the commitment to increase to 40% by adopting a new resolution at tonight's meeting.

Council members reviewed Resolution #101121, a Resolution Authorizing an Increase in Total Project Cost and Match Percentage for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application #TF21-0126, the Submission of which was Authorized by Resolution #031521.

Straubel explained to council that the project cost was increased as well as the village match, as several of the items that will likely gain more points, will equate to additional cost (i.e., recycle bins, native plantings, rain garden, additional ADA spots, etc.). Also, in order to receive the maximum grant amount of \$300,000 with a village match of 40%, the project cost had to be increased from \$490,200 to \$500,000. This equates to an increase in village match of \$9,800 (from \$190,200 at 38.8% of \$490,200 to \$200,000 at 40% of \$500,000).

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mulnix, to adopt Resolution #101121, a Resolution Authorizing an Increase in Total Project Cost and Match Percentage for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application #TF21-0126, the Submission of which was Authorized by Resolution #031521.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

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

Planning Commission Report – No report.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Public Safety

DPW Simmons reported that the Tuesday – Saturday employee schedule rotation is working perfectly.

Parks & Recreation

In reference to the conversation regarding the Nature Park earlier tonight, Darby inquired whether there is a ground cover that could be planted in the center of the trail loop that doesn't grow too tall, but would still inspire nature. Council members concurred that this is a viable option. Darby has a product in mind that is used at her place of employment. She will look into the particulars of it and report back to council.

Streets

Council members received a copy of Scott Civil Engineering's biennial bridge inspection report. DPW Simmons has contacted a contractor to address some of the items noted in the report.

Straubel reported that a portable speed sign has been ordered.

DPW Simmons reported that the 2005 dump truck broke down again. This years' budget includes \$50,000 for replacement of the 2005 truck, but vehicles such as this are difficult if not impossible to find right now. Doll stated that he will look to see what's available, but indicated that if he finds a vehicle the Village may have to jump on it quickly, and it could cost more than \$50,000, as availability is scarce and competition is fierce.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Personnel

Darby reported that the Personnel Committee is meeting Wednesday, October 13th to discuss insurance benefit renewals as well as on-call pay.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby reported that she has been approached by several people who would really like to see a pickleball court in the Village. The Parks & Recreation Committee will discuss this at their next meeting.

Straubel reported that the Saranac Community Association is hosting the first annual "Village Harvest Festival" at the Trailhead on October 30th from 3 to 6 p.m. Events include a chili/soup cook-off, hot dogs, doughnuts, cider, pumpkin decorating and vendors trunk or treat. Costumes are optional.

Straubel reported that the 2020 Census numbers are in, and the Village of Saranac went from 1325 in 2010 to 1376 in 2020. An increase of 51 residents will amount to approximately \$5,000 more in revenue sharing annually.

Straubel reported that Malcolm Culmer (owner of CHO) received his occupancy permit from Ionia County for 75 N Bridge Street. He is now waiting for final approval from the State of Michigan, to operate his recreational marihuana establishment. Per Straubel, the Village received a letter dated 10/6 from the Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs stating that they have received a complete application for a state license. The Village is only required to reply, if the establishment is not in compliance with Village ordinances.

Darby requested that review of the draft Electronic Sign Policy be added to the November 8th council meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk