

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 8, 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 – Day, Doll, Klutman (arrived at 7:55 p.m.), Simmons, Whorley

Absent: Mulnix

Guests: Deputy Rachel Fugitt, Scott Truman with Granger Waste Services

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

Norman Day took the Oath of Office for Village Trustee, term to expire November 2022.

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

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

Deputy Rachel Fugitt was in attendance to provide council with an update on Village law enforcement items of interest, and to answer any questions council might have. Deputy Fugitt's last day with the Ionia County Sheriff Department is November 19<sup>th</sup>, as she is moving out of state. Deputy Veenstra will be taking her place as day patrol. Council members stated that it's been a pleasure working with her and she will be missed.

Scott Truman, Director of Sales for Granger Waste Services was in attendance to review with council members, Granger's proposal for a 2-year extension of the current 3-year agreement for removal of residential waste in the Village of Saranac. The current contract expires 12/31/21 and has an option to extend the agreement for an additional 2 years. Truman reviewed with council members, a handout he prepared and provided prior to the meeting. Granger Waste Services, headquartered in Lansing, is family owned and operated and has been in business more than 50 years. They employ over 300 associates and have over 160,000 single-subscription customers and 48 municipal contracts.

Topics discussed with Truman include, but were not limited to, Granger's eventual switch to ASL (automated side load) trucks and the impact that will have, the current state of recycling, and spring cleanup costs and volume of material.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to accept Granger's proposal for refuse services for 2022 and 2023 which include a 3% cost increase each year, as presented by Truman.

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

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Doll, to accept the minutes of the October 11, 2021 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Council members reviewed a proposed budget amendment prepared by Straubel, regarding an increase in cost to purchase a replacement truck for the 2005 GMC. The 2021/2022 budget includes \$50,000 and the 2021 Chevy truck will be approximately \$67,000.

Council members agreed via email, to upgrade to the 5500 Chevy due to lack of available vehicles and the worsening condition of the 2005 GMC.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to accept the General Fund Capital Outlay budget amendment from \$50,000 to \$67,000, as presented.

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2021. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of November 8, 2021, in the amount of \$137,063.38.

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

#### Zoning Administrator Report

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

Planning Commission Report – No report.

#### Committee Reports

Committee appointments were reviewed and Norm Day was added to Public Safety, Parks & Recreation and Budget committee. No other changes were made.

Budget – No report.

#### Public Safety

The Saranac Fire Department is considering an Explorer Program, as there has been recent interest.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

#### Streets

Klutman inquired whether Todd Richter has submitted an updated PASER report. Straubel will follow up with Richter, as the report has not been received.

Due to the fact that the school has announced that they will be changing the mascot, DPW Simmons inquired about Village signs that use the current mascot name. Council members concurred that the Village leave the signs as they are, until a new mascot has been named.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

#### Water & Sewer

Darby inquired about the status of the lagoon discharge. Per DPW Simmons, his crew will start discharging cell #3 tomorrow.

Personnel

Darby informed council that a question came up about whether the Village has a substance abuse policy and what the council's stance is on marihuana use outside of the workplace. Council members discussed the topic and tabled it. The Personnel Committee will meet to further discuss.

Another topic that needs review is whether the two new Village employees are required to obtain a CDL. Council members had differing opinions on whether obtaining their CDL was a condition of employment or not.

DPW Simmons made council aware of the fact that 3 of the 4 DPW employees had been chosen to get tested in the last random drug test. The Village currently sends employees to a clinic in Ionia, whereas a lab technician used to perform the tests at the Village Office. Simmons requested that this arrangement be set up again, if possible, as the wait time at the off-site clinic was 3 hours. Straubel will make some phone calls.

Council reviewed a draft "Village of Saranac Stream Electronic Sign Policy" prepared by Darby. Straubel suggested one week prior to event as opposed to six weeks prior. Darby suggested replacing "policy" with "guidelines." Council members concurred with these two changes, and no other suggestions were made.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby stated that the organizer of the Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder has asked if the Village would approve of a beer tent during the event, located on Village property. The property being inquired about, is an .8-acre lot located at the west end of the Dollar General parking lot. The reason this makes sense is because everything else for the event will be set up in the DG parking lot.

Doll voiced his concern about setting a precedence, if we allow this. Other council members concurred that they would grant the request if the Village's Property/Liability insurance approved. Straubel will contact MML regarding allowing alcohol on village owned property.

DPW Simmons brought up a matter that occurred during the recent Harvest Festival. A DPW employee was called upon that day to attend to items needed. In the future, Simmons would like to see a form filled out, stating what is requested of DPW employees the day of an event, and have it approved by council. Darby will draft a form.

DPW Simmons also mentioned that we could use more picnic tables at the Trailhead, and that they can be stored there as well. This will eliminate transporting tables from Scheid Park by tractor, when an event is held at the Trailhead. Council members concurred. Straubel will include the cost, approximately \$1,000, in the 2022/2023 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk