

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2022

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, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley
Absent: Klutman
Guests: Deputy Jacob Sommer

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

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of August 2022.

Deputy Jacob Sommer was in attendance to provide council with an update on village law enforcement items of interest, and to answer any questions council might have.

Proposed changes for next years' BridgeFest parade were discussed. The Saranac Community Association is considering having someone on foot lead the parade, as opposed to an Ionia County patrol car, to slow the pace down.

Council members expressed concern over foot traffic crossing Bridge Street between the depot and the trailhead during BridgeFest. Deputy Sommer stated that he can look into the possibility of having posse members stationed at that location, to assist foot traffic in crossing.

Doll requested more police presence at football games. Sommer took note and will pass the request on to his administration.

Whorley inquired whether Ionia County officers would eventually have body cams. Sommer said he believes it's currently being researched by the department.

Sommer informed council that the department is looking into new uniforms, potentially within 6 to 12 months.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2022 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to accept the Treasurer's Report of August 31, 2022. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Day, to approve the Accounts Payable of September 12, 2022, in the amount of \$75,886.27.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for August 2022 was reviewed.

Planning Commission Report – The PC did not meet, as there was no new business to discuss.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Public Safety

Council discussed Doll's idea of posting a picture of current Fire Department members on the Village Facebook page.

Parks & Recreation

Straubel reported that we are waiting on the signed Scheid Park Improvements project agreement from the MDNR.

Council discussed the timing of a donation from the estate of a long-time village resident that recently passed away, for the new ballfield at Scheid Park.

Council also discussed visible recognition at the new ballfield, of Doug & Connie Thompson's donation of land. Ideas included signage on the fence, a dugout or the scoreboard.

Streets – no report

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported on a sanitary sewer backup on Vosper Street that Tony attended to over the weekend, as he was on call.

Darby informed council members of a violation letter the Village received from EGLE, regarding a lapse in DPW Simmons' Waterworks System Certification. The violation is for failure to maintain an Operator in Charge and failure to notify EGLE. Simmons maintains that he renewed his license online and paid the fee via Village credit card. Straubel confirmed that the fee was paid by Village credit card on 7/12/21, before the expiration of his current license. EGLE acknowledges receiving the payment, but not the certification renewal form. They reinstated Simmons' license on August 25, 2022.

In the violation notice, it states that we are required to send a public notice to all customers of our water system, informing them of the violation. In addition, we are required to include the violation in our annual Consumer Confidence Report, which is due by July 1, 2023.

DPW Simmons, Straubel and Darby plan to collaborate on a response to EGLE's notice of violation, requesting that they remove the violation due to the fact that we did have a backup licensed operator (Tony) during the time that Simmons' license was expired.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby brought up the topic of parking violations, which was discussed briefly at last month's council meeting. She reviewed the village ordinance (Traffic and Vehicles) and shared her findings with council members.

After much discussion on the topic, council members concurred that the ordinance needs to be updated in the areas of two-hour parking, towing, and fees for violations. Darby suggested, and council members concurred, that all parking violation fees be quadrupled, as they have never been increased.

Straubel will contact Jim Doezema, Village Attorney, regarding updates to the Traffic and Vehicles Ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk