

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2022

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:05 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 Koster; Trustees – Day, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Doll, Simmons
Guests: Deputy Jacob Sommer, Andrew Filler – Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer

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

Darby informed council members that Christine Simmons resigned by letter today, from her position as Trustee on the Village Council. Simmons was serving a 4-year term expiring November 2024.

Public Comments – None.

Mark Talcott and Jaye Whorley took the Oath of Office as Village Trustee with a 4-year term expiring November 20, 2026.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to reappoint Norman Day as Village Trustee with a 2-year term expiring November 20, 2024.

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

Norman Day took the Oath of Office as Village Trustee with a 2-year term expiring November 20, 2024.

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of November 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 may have.

Andrew Filler, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer, was in attendance to review components of the SPARK Grant application for improvements to Scheid Park.

Filler explained how the SPARK Grant program is structured, and answered council's questions regarding the scope of items for the Village application.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Day, to adopt Resolution #121222, a Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a MDNR SPARK Grant Application for improvements to Scheid Park.

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

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the Treasurer's Report of November 30, 2022. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Day, to approve the Accounts Payable of December 12, 2022, in the amount of \$61,528.77.

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

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

Planning Commission Report

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

Committee Reports

Budget

Straubel reported that she still needs a 2023/2024 budget from the Water/Sewer Committee. DPW Koster will contact Doll and discuss needed items.

Personnel – No report.

Public Safety

Fire Chief Koster reported on a recent structure fire. He commented on how beneficial it was having 4 firefighters out on the first truck.

Mulnix commended Fire Chief Koster for having a positive impact on the Fire Department's junior members.

Parks & Recreation

Council members discussed whether to purchase a new tree and plant it at the Trailhead for future Christmas tree lighting events, or move the existing tree that is located on the northeast corner Bridge and Church Streets. Council members concurred that the Trailhead site is a better location for the Christmas tree lighting event. Darby will discuss the options with the SCA at their next meeting.

Darby inquired about adding some lighting at the Trailhead site, for evening events. Fire Chief Koster noted that he is planning to update the Fire Department's training tower lighting. He will see if he can incorporate some directional lighting for the Trailhead site, at the same time.

Streets

DPW Koster reported that the Bradford Pear trees that are planted in the business district, have become an invasive species. He suggested replacing them (potentially at the rate of 2 trees per year) with the type of tree that Lowell has. Koster believes they are a Ginkgo trees, but will confirm.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

DPW Koster informed council members that well #4 does not have an operational generator, which is required by EGLE. Koster suggests that the Village budget for one, in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Talcott inquired about leaves in storm drains and the possibility of renting or purchasing a leaf vac truck. Council members noted that this topic had been researched in the past and the cost is prohibitive for the amount it would be used.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby reported that the Saranac Community Association is in favor of observing Halloween on the last Saturday in October, as opposed to October 31st, as requested last month by the members of Better Together 4 Saranac.

Darby reported that the 2023 Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder bike event is scheduled to take place on April 8th.

Talcott agreed to be placed on the Streets Committee as well as the Parks & Recreation Committee, to fill vacancies left by Klutman and Simmons.

Darby and Koster explained a potential dilemma, that actually turned out to be beneficial for both the Village and the Fire Department. The Fire Department ordered a new truck from Berger Chevrolet, which was in their approved 2022/2023 budget. The new truck was to replace the department's 2011 medical unit. Due to lack of communication from Berger, fire department personnel contacted Young of Ionia who found a truck for them quickly. Shortly thereafter, Berger called and said the truck the fire department ordered had arrived. The Fire Department was only obligated to purchase the truck from Berger, as they had issued a letter of intent. However, the truck from Young is more suited to the Fire Department's needs.

Koster explained the situation to council members via email, and suggested that the Village purchase the Berger truck, to replace the 2016 Chevy, and the Fire Department purchase the Young truck. Council members concurred with Koster's rationale.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to purchase from Berger, a 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 in the amount of \$36,857, to replace the 2016 Chevy truck.

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

Norm Day accepted the position of Ex Officio member of the Planning Commission, to fill the vacancy created when Kevin Klutman did not run for another term on the Village Council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk