

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 9, 2023

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:01 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, Doll, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)

Absent: None

Guests: Kevin Klutman

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

Public Comments – None.

Adam Doll took the Oath Office as Village Trustee with a 4-year term expiring November 20, 2026.

Law Enforcement Report

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

Currently, the Village Council and the Planning Commission both have one vacancy. In response to a notice Straubel posted on the Village of Saranac Facebook page, three candidate applications were received as follows; Brad Hesche for the Planning Commission vacancy, Robert Vreeland for the Village Council vacancy, and Kevin Klutman for either vacancy. The Village Council appoints all Planning Commission members as well as Village Council Trustees, and candidates are to attend the next Village Council meeting, following their submittal of an application.

Brad Hesche, of 5854 W David Hwy, Saranac, submitted via email on December 14, 2022, his application for membership on the Village of Saranac Planning Commission. If appointed, Hesche will be one of two members on the Planning Commission that live outside the Village limits. Per ordinance, the Planning Commission can have up to two members who are not qualified electors of the Village.

Hesche explained in his email, that he would be unable to attend tonight's meeting, due to a prior commitment. Council members discussed Hesche's application and various members emphasized that his qualifications would be a benefit to the Planning Commission.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to appoint Brad Hesche as a member of the Village of Saranac Planning Commission, with a term to expire the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of June 2024.

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

Robert Vreeland, of 240 Orchard Street, Saranac, submitted in person at the Village Office on January 3, 2023, his application for Village Trustee on the Village Council. Vreeland was not in attendance to address the council tonight, and did not inform the office that he had a conflict with tonight's Village Council meeting date/time.

Kevin Klutman, of 71 Main Street, Saranac, submitted in person (by way of a family member) at the Village Office on January 9, 2023, his application for Village Trustee on the Village Council, or as member of the Planning Commission. Klutman addressed the council regarding the vacancy on the Village Council. Klutman noted his past involvement on both the Village Council (10 years) and the Planning Commission (9 years). He stated that he has missed being involved at the Village level and would feel honored to serve the village once again.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to appoint Kevin Klutman as Trustee of the Village Council, to fill the vacancy created when Christine Simmons resigned, with a term to expire November 2024.

Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Mulnix, Darby; nays – Talcott; absent – Whorley.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Talcott, to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2022 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 9, 2023, in the amount of \$120,025.51.

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

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

Doll stated that he still questions why Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, is comparing the business at 36 Church Street to 6 Mill Street.

Discussion ensued amongst council members, without a definitive resolution.

Straubel will invite Vandersloot to attend the next Village Council meeting, in the hopes of coming to a conclusion on this topic.

#### Planning Commission Report

Council reviewed Planning Commission minutes from their 1/4/23 meeting at which they approved a Site Plan Review application submitted by the Saranac/Clarksville District Library, for an addition to their building located at 61 N Bridge Street, Saranac.

Per Day, who was in attendance at the meeting as the Village Council (Ex Officio) member, reported that the architects indicated a completion date of fall, 2023.

#### Committee Reports

##### Budget

Council members concurred to reschedule February's council meeting from 2/13/23 to 2/20/23, to allow for additional time for Straubel to prepare the 2023/2024 budget.

Personnel – No report.

Public Safety

Fire Chief Koster reported on the recent fire at Zion United Methodist Church in Ionia. Multiple fire departments responded, resulting in a very good stop on the fire.

Koster also reported that the new Fire Department vehicle is waiting to be outfitted, before it is put in service.

Also, per Koster, a fire suppression line was installed today at Harker Place, 234 Vosper Street.

Parks & Recreation

DPW Koster reported that the lighting estimate for the Trailhead location is \$1,650. Council members agreed to proceed with purchase/installation of the lights.

Streets

DPW Koster noted that his crew will be patching streets this week.

DPW Koster informed council members that the arms of the tractor plow will need to be replaced at a cost of \$6,500. The arms were damaged when one of the DPW employees caught a storm grate and then a curb. Koster has initiated new protocols to lessen the chance of this happening again.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

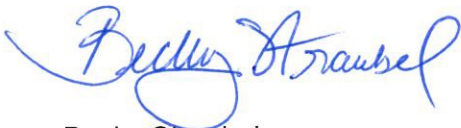
Water & Sewer

Doll reported that he recently did a ride-along during village employee work hours, with DPW Koster. He highly recommends that other council members do the same, as the experience was very eye-opening.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Becky Straubel,  
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk