

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2024

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, DPW Koster; Trustees – Day, Klutman, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Straubel, Doll
Guests: Todd Richter – Fleis & VandenBrink, Deputy Jordan Luz, Andy Campbell – Baker Tilly, Brittany Brower – Baker Tilly

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to move Todd Richter up on the agenda and to approve the Regular Agenda. All yeas.

Public Comments - No public comments.

Todd Richter, Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) Engineer, was in attendance regarding the Church Street project. Richter submitted F&V's Letter of Recommendation to award the Church Street project to Grand River Excavation in the amount of \$949,895.50. Grand River's bid was the lowest of the six bids received. Todd answered council's questions regarding the bid recommendation.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to award the Church Street Reconstruction project to Grand River Excavation in the amount of \$949,895.50.

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

Richter also submitted F&V's proposal for construction engineering services for the Church Street Reconstruction project, not to exceed \$95,700.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept F&V's proposal for construction engineering services for the Church Street Reconstruction project in the amount of \$95,700, as presented.

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

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of February 2024.

Deputy Jordan Luz was in attendance to provide council members with an update on village law enforcement items of interest, and to answer any questions they may have. In addition Deputy Luz reported Deputy Bradley Mezei will be working the night shift since Deputy Loghyn Hurst moved to the day shift.

Andy Campbell, with Baker Tilly Municipal advisors, was in attendance to review with council members, results of the water and sewer rate studies he compiled as part of the DWAM project. This is a 20 year analysis encompassing expected operational and repair expenses. He recommends a re-evaluation every 3-5 years. Campbell stated that both the water and sewer funds are in good condition, but recommends a 5% inflationary increase this year and inflationary increases every year thereafter as a best practice.

Campbell stated that both of our water and sewer rates, on average, are lower than most he has seen. To put the increase into perspective, a typical household at 5% increase would see approximately \$3.00 increase for water and \$6.00 increase in sewer costs per quarter.

The Village sewer bond is due to be paid off in 2 years. To prevent large expenditures from the water and sewer funds down the road, Campbell recommends contacting our State Representative for possibly getting earmarked funds through the State budget.

DPW Koster noted that he will eventually need to test the sewer pond bio solids when the time comes to remove them. Day suggested earlier testing to determine if PFAS is present, as the haul away cost would be significant.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Day, to adopt the Water and Sewer Rate Resolution as presented

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

Council members reviewed Grand River Excavation's Application for Payment #5 in the amount of \$82,516.89, for the Scheid Park Improvements Project. The application was reviewed for accuracy by Straubel and corrections noted by Fleis & VandenBrink, prior to being submitted to the Village Council for payment.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Day, to accept the Treasurer's Report of February 29, 2024. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to approve the Accounts Payable of March 11, 2024, in the amount of \$146,998.50.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for February 2024 was reviewed.

Council members received a copy of the Planning Commission's March 6th meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Budget

Straubel is working on Budget vs Actual and Budget Amendment reports, for review at the April 8th council meeting.

Personnel - no report.

Public Safety

Fire Chief Koster reported that the grass rig had incurred some damage at a recent fire, running over a stump and sliding into a tree. There appears to be damage to the muffler and some scratches to the paint.

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix reported the committee met to discuss the use of the new concession building at Shied Park. The committee is recommending a \$500 deposit for use and \$100 per day rental for private events, non-residents \$200 per day. There would also be a fee assessed for auxiliary services. The Village will purchase the table and refrigerator. There is a storage room for any equipment others purchase that is not meant to be accessible for all. Any Village supported event would have the fees waived. Consider blending this in with the rental agreement used for the Pavilion's. Will review at a future council meeting.

Mulnix discussed the possibility of a controlled burn along the river front by boat launch to bridge area. Council was concerned about DNR restrictions. Tony to inquire with DNR/EGLE.

Darby reported that Becky, Tony and myself will be meeting with a Kayak Rental organization for the possibility of self-checkout kayaks at the boat launch area. More information will be forth coming after the meeting. Council is excited about pursuing this opportunity.

Darby reported that the PA System for Sheid Park was delayed a few weeks due to equipment delays. It is expected to be install this week some time.

Social District plan needs to be fully completed and presented to the Council at the next meeting. Council is considering paying the cost of the application fee, believed to be \$270.00.

Whorley inquired about the Fix It Bike Repair Station and if it has been fixed yet. It has not. Further investigation is needed to determine who can fix it.

Streets – no report.

Buildings & Grounds – no report

Water & Sewer - no report.

Public Comments – No public comments.

Additional Business - none

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Sharon Darby
Village President