

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2017

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, Smith, Straubel, DPW Simmons
Trustees – Doll, Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley
Absent: Klutman
Guests: Deputy Jacob Sommer, Mark Grieves, Ron Gunderson, Robert Brown, Doug Borup, Ryan Johnson, Chip Youmans

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

Public Comments

Robert Brown, Chairperson of the Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails, provided council with an update on the progression of the rail-trail system and noted several events that are planned for 2017.

Doug Borup, member of the Saranac Community Association, was in attendance to request council's approval to set up a beer tent during Bridgefest 2017. A specific time frame has not been established, but Borup estimates it being open from approximately 4-10 p.m., with music provided.

Borup also mentioned that the SCA plans to move Bridgefest activities from Bridge Street, to the back alley (Irv Taylor Avenue). Carnival rides for children are planned as well. Permission has been granted to the SCA, by businesses in the vicinity, to use their property for Bridgefest activities.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to approve the Saranac Community Association's request to set up a beer tent on August 26, 2017 during Bridgefest, from approximately 4-10 p.m., with music.

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

Saranac Village resident Ryan Johnson was in attendance to continue discussions of his proposal for a 9-hole disc golf course in the Saranac Village Nature Park. Johnson provided council members with a photo layout of the proposed course.

Concerns that were discussed at last month's council meeting were discussed again (i.e. flooding, trash, maintenance and potential interference with "other" park users). The proposed location of the holes was also discussed. Council members expressed concern over maintaining the integrity of the park as a Nature Park, and concurred that a public meeting should be held to gather input from Village residents.

There is also a concern that the course may have the potential to interfere or disturb protected wetland areas. Straubel will contact Aaron Catlin, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer who worked on the Nature Park project, to inquire whether there are any DNR/DEQ regulations that would limit the use of the Nature Park.

The Parks & Recreation Committee, weather permitting, will meet with Johnson prior to May 8th and walk the proposed course. The committee will report their recommendations to council at the May 8th council meeting.

Ron Gunderson, Belding City Mayor, stated that he would have some concerns about adding a disc golf course in a nature park. He supports and encourages the idea of a public meeting.

Deputy Jacob Sommer provided council members with an incident report dating back to January 1, 2017.

Sommer commended the Saranac Fire Department for their response to the accident that occurred April 5th at Hawley Hwy. and M-21.

Mulnix thanked Sommers for the Sheriff Deputy's personal interactions with the community.

Darby inquired if two deputies would be available August 26th during Bridgefest, especially with the addition of the beer tent. Sommer stated that should not be an issue.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2017 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to approve the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2017. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 10, 2017, in the amount of \$67,486.40.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report for March 2017 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet April 5th.

Mulnix requested that council consider allowing residents to have chickens in the Village. This is currently prohibited by the Zoning Ordinance. He mentioned several surrounding communities that allow them. Most of them don't allow roosters or free-range chickens and have a limit on how many they can have.

Darby stated that her concern would be enforcement of the restrictions, as the Village is not sufficiently staffed for that.

Straubel advised Mulnix that if he wishes to pursue the topic, he would have to apply for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The application would be reviewed by the Planning Commission and a Public Hearing would need to be held.

Committee Reports

Public Safety – No report.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets

DPW Simmons provided photos of a section of sidewalk he would like to remove, and not replace. The sidewalk is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Mill and Vosper Streets. The sidewalk is in disrepair and does not lead to an intersection for pedestrian crossing. Simmons believes that the sidewalk is a safety hazard and does not serve a purpose. Council concurred with this rationale and authorized removal of the sidewalk.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberta Jo Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk