

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2017

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Municipal Building, 27 N. Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Darby, Straubel, DPW Simmons
Trustees – Doll, Klutman (arrived 7:22 p.m.), Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley
Absent: Smith
Guests: Sam Soyka (Saranac Village Resident), Garrett Hardman (Boy Scout Troop 71),
Deputy Alex Melinn & Deputy Jacob Sommer (Ionia County Sheriff Department),
Steve Reed (Granger Waste Services)

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

Public Comments

Ionia County Sheriff Deputies Melinn (night shift) and Sommer (day shift) introduced themselves to council. They have both been recently assigned to patrol the Village of Saranac and Boston Township. Deputy Sommer provided a verbal report of December activity. Future monthly reports will be emailed to the Village office, for distribution to council members.

Darby spoke about park vandalism in the past, and requested that Sommer and Melinn pay close attention to these areas.

Both Deputies expressed their enthusiasm for starting their new assignments.

Garrett Hardman, of Boy Scout Troop 71, was in attendance to propose an Eagle Scout Project. He would like to build and place a Carving Board at Scheid Park. Hardman explained that the purpose of a Carving Board is to provide an acceptable platform for park users to express themselves (carve), as opposed to vandalizing picnic tables and other park property. Hardman mentioned that Bertha Brock Park has a Carving Board that sees a lot of use. He is planning a pop bottle drive to raise funds for the materials needed to make the board. He may also inquire if Menards would be willing to provide funding (material) assistance. Hardman stated that the location of the Carving Board within Scheid Park would be council's decision, but that he suggests near the park entrance or near one of the pavilions.

Darby requested that Hardman coordinate with DPW Simmons on specific details, including a written plan and a sketch or picture of what the proposed finished product will look like.

Motion was made by Ricket, supported by Doll, to approve Garrett Hardman's Eagle Scout Project request to build and place a Carving Board at Scheid Park, upon approval by DPW Simmons of the plans and location. All yeas.

Sam Soyka, Saranac Village resident, was in attendance to observe and learn, as she is interested in local government.

Steve Reed, Chief Executive Officer of Granger Waste Services, was in attendance to formally request council's approval of Green Valley's merger with Granger, which was effective January 2, 2017. The existing Agreement between Green Valley and the Village states that Green Valley cannot re-assign the Agreement without prior written approval from the Village. Due to the fact that the proposed merger date was established after council's December meeting and before January's council meeting, Darby provided Green Valley and Granger with a letter of preliminary approval of the merger. Final approval was reserved for council at tonight's meeting.

Reed spoke about Granger's values and how they are very similar to Green Valley's. He stated that Granger is a Christian, family-owned and operated company that has served mid-Michigan for 50 years. Reed also stated that John Van Tholen and his staff have been retained with the merger. Additionally, there will be no changes to the service level or service day, at this time. Customers will continue to use their existing "Green Valley" carts.

Several questions were asked by council and answered by Reed, including such topics as recycling practices, costs, Spring Clean-up and Agreements terms. According to Reed, everything is to remain the same through the Agreement end date of December 31, 2018.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to approve the assignment of the Agreement between the Village of Saranac and Green Valley Disposal Service Inc., to Granger Waste Services, retroactive to January 2, 2017, with no other changes to Agreement terms.

Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; abstain – Klutman (due to not being present for the discussion that led to the motion); absent – none.

Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, was in attendance to discuss the zoning map project she has been working on with the Planning Commission (PC). She has also been consulting and comparing maps with Ionia County and their GIS mapping program. Several discrepancies have been found and documented by Vandersloot (see 11-page report). Vandersloot also consulted with Mark Sisson, the Certified Planner who assisted the Village in developing and maintaining the Village Master Plan. Per Sisson, the proper way to resolve the map discrepancies is for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to interpret the mapping errors/discrepancies and determine where the proper zoning lines should be.

Ricket (Acting Planning Commission Chair) suggested that the PC review Vandersloot's 11-page report in detail and provide the ZBA with recommendations for interpretation. The ZBA would maintain final interpretation and resolution, as advised by Sisson. Per Vandersloot, the meeting at which the actual interpretation of the correct zoning map boundaries is made, will have to be published at least 15 days prior to the meeting date. Vandersloot and Straubel will coordinate efforts in this regard.

Ricket suggested that the PC meet March 1st to compile preliminary interpretations on the zoning map boundaries.

Council concurred that informational letters will be sent to property owners whose zoning districts (partial or full) are proposed to be changed, regardless of whether the change will have any effect on their use of the property.

Council reviewed Vandersloot's Zoning Administrator report for the month of December.

Council members received a copy of Saranac Gas n Go's application for appeal for a variance from the sign section of the Zoning Ordinance. A ZBA Public Hearing will be scheduled, most likely for March 13th, to provide residents an opportunity to express their opinion on the application.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Ricket, to approve the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2016. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Ricket, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 9, 2017, in the amount of \$71,190.92.

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

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Darby reported that the annual meeting of the Saranac Fire Board is scheduled for Monday, January 23rd, at which time the budget for the Saranac Community Volunteer Fire Department will be discussed and approved.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix reported that the Village received a letter from the MDNR, stating that their grant application for a Trailhead Addition and Park Improvements at the Boat Launch Park was recommended for approval in the amount of \$181,500.00. When grant funds become available, Grants Management will contact the Village with information on receiving a project agreement.

DPW Simmons reported that the Village DPW crew has removed over 350 dead trees along the nature trail. Simmons suggested that the Village post signs along the trail, warning trail users of the potential for falling trees. Per Simmons, it is no longer safe for employees to remove the dead trees that remain. Council concurred with his suggestion to post signs. Ricket suggested seeking quotes to have them professionally removed. Darby inquired about whether the Village should consider planting replacement trees. DPW Simmons stated that he is seeing new growth already. Council concurred that nature will take its course in regard to replenishing the trees that have been lost.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets

Council reviewed photos taken by DPW Simmons, of the partial log jam under the north bridge on Bridge Street. Simmons has been in contact with various authorities regarding the situation. The Ionia County Road Commission has attempted to loosen the jam on two separate occasions. Per Simmons, they will attempt to do so again, when the water level rises.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported that well 4 has been inoperable for over a week. Peerless Midwest has ordered parts, after determining that the soft start that controls the motor needed replacing. They will install a variable speed frequency drive (as discussed and approved at November's council meeting), in lieu of replacing the soft start.

DPW Simmons reported on the outcome of the bid opening for the Water Tower Improvements Project. Four bids were received, ranging from \$49,500.00 to \$167,500.00. The project estimate was \$72,000.00. Dixon Engineering reviewed the bids for completeness and accuracy and submitted their written recommendation that the Village accept the low bid from Fedewa Inc. in the amount of \$49,500.00.

The project is expected to take approximately 20 days to complete, with a projected start date of May 1, 2017.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the low bid for the Water Tower Improvements Project, as submitted by Fedewa Inc. in the amount of \$49,500.00.

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

Council reviewed and discussed Dixon Engineering's Proposal for Administration and Inspection Services for the Water Tower Improvements Project, in the amount of \$7,900.00.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to accept Dixon Engineering's Proposal and Scope of Services for administration and inspection services for the Water Tower Improvements Project, in the amount of \$7,900.00.

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

Personnel – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby brought to council's attention, an invitation from the Michigan Municipal League (MML), to attend a free event they are holding in Lowell on Thursday January 12th, from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Lowell High School. The event is entitled "Save Michigan Cities" and is open to the public. Anthony Minghine, COO for the MML will speak at the event regarding the state's broken system for funding Michigan communities (loss of Revenue Sharing) and discuss ways to fix the system. Darby and Straubel are planning to attend the event.

Straubel requested that council members consider the possibility of a cost of living increase in water/sewer rates, as they are preparing for the upcoming budget year. Additionally, the Streets Committee has proposed a .5 increase in street mills, with the submission of their budget recommendations.

Straubel received notification that the Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trail group changed their monthly meeting date to the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Belding Depot at 7 p.m.

Straubel requested that February's Regular Council Meeting be held February 20th instead of February 13th, to allow additional time for budget preparation. Council concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.



Becky A Straubel, Deputy Clerk