

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 8, 2017

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, Smith, Straubel, DPW Simmons  
Trustees – Doll, Klutman, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley  
Absent: Mulnix  
Guests: Pat Moore, Bill Phillips

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

Public Comments

Bill Phillips was in attendance to request that the Village connect the residence at 122 Bridge Street, to the Village sewer system. According to Mr. Phillips, several years ago when property owners on Bridge Street were connected to a new sewer main (at the owner's expense), his mother Mae Phillips, was unable to do so financially. A verbal agreement was made at that time to allow continued use of the home's septic system, with the understanding that quarterly sewer charges would be billed and paid at the same rate as properties connected to the Village system.

Current Village Council members and employees were not aware of the agreement with Mrs. Phillips, as it was made prior to their time with the Village and not brought to their attention until now. Upon learning of the situation from Mr. Phillips, DPW Simmons consulted with his predecessor, who confirmed the events as stated above. Also, Straubel verified that quarterly sewer charges have been billed and paid as agreed upon.

Due to the fact that Mrs. Phillips has been paying for sewer service and has not been connected to the Village sewer system, Mr. Phillips is requesting that the Village absorb the cost of connection. Based on estimated connection costs and quarterly sewer charges paid by Phillips over the years, DPW Simmons and Straubel are of the opinion that this is a fair request.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Doll, to authorize DPW Simmons to coordinate with subcontractors, the connection of 122 Bridge Street to the Village sewer system. Phillips is to pay subcontractors upon approval from DPW Simmons that the project is completed satisfactorily. The Village will reimburse Mrs. Phillips upon proof of payment to subcontractors. Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Mulnix.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to approve the Treasurer's Report of April 30, 2017. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Ricket, to approve the Accounts Payable of May 8, 2017, in the amount of \$99,358.12.

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

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

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Ricket reported on the status of the disc golf course proposed by Saranac resident Ryan Johnson. Feedback was received from Aaron Catlin, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer who worked on the Nature Park project. Per Catlin, the Nature Park falls under the requirements of a conservation easement recorded as part of the agreement with the DNR Trust Fund Program that was used to acquire and develop the park. Modifications of a permanent nature would likely require MDNR notice and approval. Further, the open play area in the park was planned for semi-active recreational activities that might utilize free-standing equipment (frisbee, catch, soccer, kite flying, etc.), not permanent fixtures as the disc golf proposal indicates.

Ricket will communicate with Mulnix (Parks Committee Chair) on the topic, as he is absent tonight.

Trustee Simmons expressed concern over the shortage of parking at Scheid Park last Saturday. Klutman stated that it was opening day for baseball season, which is typically the busiest day of the year for Scheid Park. Klutman also mentioned that the Parks Committee has researched various ways to improve and/or add to the parking, but space is limited.

Ricket shared possible options for relocating the DPW, to allow for additional parking and new restrooms at Scheid Park. These topics will be addressed at future Planning Commission meetings.

#### Committee Reports

##### Public Safety

Straubel will inquire about Deputy Sommer's April report.

##### Budget

DPW Simmons reported that the clutch on the tractor was just replaced, for the third time. Council members requested additional information (i.e. original cost, date purchased, repair costs to date) before discussing the feasibility of purchasing a new tractor.

##### Parks & Recreation

Straubel informed council of an inquiry she received from a local business about holding their company picnic at Scheid Park. They inquired about the possibility of bringing in "inflatables" and a food truck. Straubel consulted with the Village Property & Liability insurance agent, who advised to request proof of insurance from the business. Additionally, the business should request proof of insurance from any outside vendors they may hire.

Straubel presented the long-awaited "Pavilion Reserved" sign. Council approved of the finished product. Straubel will prepare the signs in advance and the DPW will make sure they are displayed on the appropriate dates.

##### Streets

Council was made aware of a sizable sinkhole on Church Street, near Independent Bank's driveway entrance. DPW Simmons plans to schedule the repair as soon as possible.

Klutman reported on a workshop he attended, at which a double chip/seal street application was discussed.

DPW Simmons reported that the Bridge project and the Bridge Street project (from north Village limits to Church Street) will begin sometime after Bridgefest, which is August 26<sup>th</sup> this year.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

Darby inquired about the water level at the ponds. DPW Simmons stated that he hopes to begin discharging cell 3 at the WWTF on Wednesday. He also stated that the new generator at well 5 will be up and running soon.

Personnel

Per Darby, the committee met, but has nothing to report at this time.

Per DPW Simmons, Koster took his sewer certification exam last week, but has not received results.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

In a recent conversation with Dale Eaman, Village insurance agent with the Michigan Municipal League, it came up that the Saranac Public Library (which is covered under the Village Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability insurance policies) has its own Federal Identification Number. According to Eaman, the Library should obtain its own policies, due to the fact that the Village and the Library are separate entities.

Straubel drafted a letter informing the Library Board that they must obtain Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability insurance coverage for the Library, on or before the expiration dates of the current policies (6/30/17 and 6/14/17 respectively).

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to notify the Board of the Saranac Public Library by letter (see copy attached) that they must obtain their own Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability insurance coverage, due to the fact that they are an entity separate from the Village.

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

DPW Simmons requested that council approve the purchase of polo-type shirts with the Village logo on them, for DPW employees to wear when representing the Village at outside classes and events. Council approved the request.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk