

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 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 – Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley
Absent: Doll, Klutman
Guests: Deputy Kurt Bindus, Angela Stephens, Jeanne Vandersloot, Brandon & Brittney Miller

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

Public Comments

Brittney Miller, tenant of the duplex owned by Saranac Housing Commission, located at 260 Church Street, stated that as of Friday, October 6th, they are in full compliance with the Village Zoning Ordinance. Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator for the Village of Saranac, concurred with Miller's statement.

Deputy Bindus inquired if council had any questions regarding his September Law Enforcement report.

Deputy Bindus informed council that he recently became a member of Ionia County's Critical Incident Team.

Mulnix inquired if Deputy Bindus has encountered any traffic problems due to bridge repair work and one-lane traffic. Bindus stated that he has not had any issues and is not aware of any issues encountered by other law enforcement officers.

Darby inquired if Deputy Bindus has had any recent reports of vandalism in the Village. Bindus stated that he has not.

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

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Ricket, to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2017 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2017. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of October 9, 2017, in the amount of \$58,498.30.

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

Council reviewed the minutes of the Planning Commission's September 13th Regular Meeting, at which a Public Hearing on an application for a Special Use Permit for a 2nd story residential apartment at 51 N Bridge Street was held. The Planning Commission approved the application.

DPW Simmons stated that two complaints have been received regarding bricks falling from the north wall of the building at 51 N Bridge Street. The new owner was notified, as well as the Ionia County Building Department.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Chief Simmons received a quote from Always Earth Friendly, to install LED lightbulbs in all light fixtures at the fire station. The cost would be approximately \$2,900.00, but would be offset by a Consumers Energy rebate of approximately \$1,900.00, leaving a net cost of \$1,000.00. The projected annual savings in cost of electricity is \$1,200.00, so the payback would be less than one year.

The net cost of approximately \$1,000.00 would be a Fire Department expense, as it would be considered a building maintenance item. Council members concurred, that if the Fire Department budget can accommodate the additional expense, Chief Simmons should proceed with the project.

Straubel reported that Boston Township voted to assess .9 mills for the remainder of the fire millage that was approved by voters in 2016. The funds collected will pay for both the Village and Boston Township's share of operating expenses, as well as capital outlay items.

Budget

Straubel will soon be providing committee members with Budget vs Actual reports to date, in preparation for 2018/2019 budget planning.

Personnel – No report.

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix reported that the Saranac Youth Baseball League decided not to pursue the addition of another baseball field at Scheid Park, at this time.

Straubel reported that the Village received a fully executed agreement from the MDNR for the Trailhead project. She will contact Rick Stout, F & V project engineer, to schedule a committee meeting to discuss project particulars and timeline.

Streets

Darby inquired if anyone had been notified in advance that the rail trail would be closed during the bridge project. Per DPW Simmons, the trail was closed by the contractor and he is not aware if any notifications were made prior to the project starting.

Darby informed council members, that as the contractor removed asphalt from the bridge, they discovered that the joint between the box beams at the sidewalk was never grouted. F & V project engineer recommended that the joint (and presumably the one on the opposite side) be grouted to reduce or eliminate leakage. Straubel approved the additional work to be performed at an approximate cost of \$7,500.00 (for both sides), the Village portion of which will be \$375.00.

Todd Richter, F & V engineer, inquired if the Streets Committee would like to meet to discuss 2018/2019 budget items. Simmons will follow up Richter to schedule a meeting.

Buildings & Grounds

Whorley would like to schedule a committee meeting to discuss 2018/2019 budget items.

Per Darby, the annual making of the scarecrows for downtown display, went well.

Council members reviewed an email and flyer received from WION Radio, requesting that council consider sponsoring the station's Halloween program. Council members concurred to decline participation in the event this year.

Darby stated that the DPW received a very nice thank you letter from Jason Smith, Superintendent of Saranac Community Schools, for hauling wood chips from the Housing Commission to the schools.

At Darby's request, council discussed potential pros and cons of purchasing the vacant middle school building on Vosper Street, should the price become affordable to do so. Discussions included possible uses for the property, the cost of demolition and potential grant opportunities. Council members concurred to pursue research of the idea. Straubel suggested and will look into utilizing the services of a professional project planner, due to the many variables involved.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported that he is continuing to monitor the sewer ponds and that F & V engineers will be setting up a more accurate gauge for measuring changes in pond levels.

DPW Simmons reported that lead and copper results for the most recent round of water testing, were all below the action levels established by the DEQ.

Straubel reported that she and DPW Simmons met with F & V engineers to review completed work, and work remaining on the Stormwater Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) Grant Program. The deadline for completion of the program is Fall 2018.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk