

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 10, 2023

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, Straubel, DPW Koster; Trustees – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Whorley

Absent: Talcott

Guests: Deputy Macklin, Dave Washburn, Linda Sprague, Allison Willis, Ben Randall

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

Public Comments (3-minute time limit)

Dave Washburn, Saranac Village resident, was in attendance to voice his continued concerns over a post on the Saranac Community Association (SCA) Facebook page regarding the Saranac Farmers' Market (printed copy on file). Washburn voiced his concerns (handwritten copy on file) and provided council members with a printout of his correspondence with two SCA members regarding the topic. Washburn wrapped up his public comment time with a formal request that elected officials separate themselves from the SCA.

Allison Willis, Market Manager of the former Saranac Farmers' Market, was in attendance to share her thoughts with council members. Willis reminded council members that 5 years ago, she attended a council meeting to request permission to establish a farmers' market in the Village. Per Willis, she worked with everyone necessary and followed all the steps needed to make the farmers' market legal and successful. She expressed that she was hurt and felt as if she did not receive support from the Village or Historical Society regarding events that occurred at the market.

Linda Sprague, Saranac Village resident, was in attendance to inform council members of the ongoing issue she has had over the years with drainage/washout at the end of her driveway. Per Sprague, the issue got worse after the recent chip/seal of Weeks Street. Sprague provided council members with photos for reference. She explained that her property used to be partially located within the Village limits and partially outside the Village limits. However, that changed many years ago, and her property is now completely within the Village limits. At the end of her driveway, Weeks Street is partially paved and partially dirt. She questioned why the Village never extended the pavement to the Village limit when the limit was adjusted to the east. Sprague has had conversations with the Ionia County Road Department and two former Village DPW Directors who made attempts to fix the issue, but the fix was always temporary. She is requesting that the Village find a permanent resolution to her driveway issue.

Per DPW Koster, he visited the site after receiving a phone call from Sprague, and had planned to discuss the topic with council at tonight's meeting. He has requested that Snyder Asphalt submit potential resolutions/estimates and will also confer with Village Engineer Todd Richter of Fleis & VandenBrink. Koster will provide Sprague and council members with any feedback he receives from Snyder and/or Richter.

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of June 2023.

Deputy Macklin 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.

Per Mulnix, the illegal operation of quads on Village streets is still very much a problem.

Per Straubel, a Bridge Street resident informed her that vehicles continue to speed on south Bridge Street, despite the presence of the radar speed sign.

Deputy Macklin took note of both complaints.

Willis thanked Deputy Macklin for his positive engagement with the youth of the Saranac community.

Council members reviewed a letter from Angela Stephens, Executive Director of the Saranac Housing Commission, requesting the reappointment of Bruce Chadwick.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to re-appoint Bruce Chadwick as Commissioner of the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as a Director on the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board, retroactive to 5/1/23 and expiring 5/1/28.

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

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Regular Meeting and the June 26, 2023 Special Meeting. All yeas.

DPW Koster suggested that the Village donate the old patch trailer to Saranac Community Schools.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to donate the Village's 1996 patch trailer to Saranac Community Schools.

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Day, to accept the Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2023. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of July 10, 2023, in the amount of \$111,278.88.

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

#### Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for June 2023 was reviewed/discussed.

#### Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Public Safety

Fire Chief Koster reported that the Fire Department has received their 800 MHz pagers and they are in-service and working splendidly. Koster also reported that it will likely be December before the department receives their 800 MHz radios, as they need to be programmed/approved at both the state and federal level.

Chief Koster reported that the Fire Department's 2012 Chevy Suburban (Med 5) was recently sold to the Yarmouth, Iowa Fire Department for \$29,000, less a 10% broker fee.

Per Koster, the Saranac Fire Department is on a trend to reach 650 calls this year, which is 100 more than they had in 2022.

Parks & Recreation

Per Straubel, construction documents are in the MDNR's hands for approval before going out for bid on the Scheid Park restroom/concession project.

Also per Straubel, the MDNR Spark Grant application for construction of pickleball courts and other improvements at Scheid Park, was submitted on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The MDNR's announcement of grant awardees is expected by the end of September 2023.

Streets – No report.

Water & Sewer

DPW Koster reported that all but one of the annual water tests required by EGLE have been completed and all results were well below state parameters.

Public Comments (3-minute time limit, agenda items only)

None.

Additional Business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



Becky Straubel,  
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk