

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2024

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, Talcott, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Michael Newton

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

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

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

Michael Newton of 46 Dewitt Street, Saranac, was in attendance to inform council that he has applied for a variance from side setback (Zoning Ordinance Section 30.17.08 I. (Accessory Buildings, Structures and Uses). Newton would like to remove his old garage and replace it with a new garage with the south wall constructed and extended at the same current garage setback of 2 feet. A 3-foot variance is requested to maintain the current 2-foot side lot line setback.

Variance requests are heard by the Village Council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, at a Public Hearing.

Due to noticing requirements, the earliest date for a Public Hearing is January 29th. Newton and council members concurred that Monday, January 29th at 6:30 p.m. will work.

Council members reviewed Grand River Excavation's Application for Payment #3, in the amount of \$81,525.81, for the Scheid Park Improvements Project. The application was reviewed for accuracy by Fleis & VandenBrink, prior to being submitted to the Village for payment.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to approve Grand River Excavation's Pay Application #3 for the Scheid Park Improvements Project, in the amount of \$81,525.81.

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

Council members received a Notice of Public Hearing & 30-Day Draft Plan for the Village 5-Year Park & Recreation Plan. The Public Hearing is scheduled to be held on Monday, January 22nd at 7 p.m. at the Saranac Village Office.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Talcott, supported by Doll, to accept the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2023. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 8, 2024, in the amount of \$172,197.22.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for December 2023 was reviewed and discussed by council members.

Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission's regularly scheduled meeting for the month of January was canceled due to lack of business.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Buildings & Grounds

DPW Koster would like to include the purchase of a generator for village office, in the 2024/2025 budget. Council members concurred with that plan.

Public Safety

Chief Koster reported that the Fire Department had 649 calls in 2023 as compared to 554 in 2022.

Parks & Recreation

In conjunction with the Scheid Park project currently underway, DPW Koster would like to install a section of privacy fencing to "hide" the DPW grounds. Council members agreed that this would be more visibly pleasing, and would enhance the new restroom/concession building.

Mulnix suggested chain-link privacy fencing to remain consistent with current fencing as well as fencing to be installed as part of the current project.

Streets – No report.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Additional Business

Darby inquired whether council members had given any more thought to the idea of the Saranac Community Association (SCA) pursuing the establishment of a Social District in downtown Saranac.

Darby answered various questions posed by council members.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to allow the Saranac Community Association to pursue the establishment of a Social District in downtown Saranac. All yeas.

The Village Council's Regular Meeting for the month of February may be rescheduled to a later date. As soon as a date has been established, Straubel will email a notice to council members and post the notice on the Village website and (3) bulletin boards in town. The annual Budget Hearing will be held in conjunction with the rescheduled February council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Becky Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk