

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2025

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, Klutman, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Doll
Guests: None

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, 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 January 2025.

Motion was made by Mulnix at 7:03 p.m., supported by Talcott, to open the Public Hearing to set the 2025 property tax millage and approve the 2025/2026 budget. All yeas.

No public comments were offered on the proposed budget and/or the millage rate to support it.

Motion was made by Day at 7:07 p.m., supported by Klutman, to close the Public Hearing. All yeas.

Council members received budget reports prepared by Straubel, as follows: Summary Budget and Detail Budget with notes for fiscal years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026, Cash Balances by Year and Fund, Net Income/Loss Estimates by Year and Fund for fiscal years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 and Capital Outlay & Other Non-Typical Expenditures proposed for 2025/2026.

Darby provided a narrative on the Detail Budget, highlighting 2024/2025 budget items expected to be under (revenues) or over (expenditures) budget by significant amounts and proposed 2025/2026 budget items with sizable decreases (revenues) or increases (expenditures). The "Notes to Detail Budget" provides this information in writing and is part of the budget, as submitted by Straubel.

Council members discussed various aspects of the proposed 2025/2026 budget.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to approve property tax mills for 2025 of 13.9121 as well as a 1% administrative fee, and to approve the budget for fiscal year March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026 in the amount of \$1,848,331.

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

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Klutman, to accept the Treasurer's Report of January 31, 2025. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Day, to approve the Accounts Payable of February 17, 2025, in the amount of \$112,523.53.

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

Council members reviewed Addendum 2 to Operating Agreement #PRD-MISC-061-2014 between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Village of Saranac. The original Operating Agreement was entered into on November 6, 2014. Addendum 1 was signed in October of 2019, extending the agreement to 2024. Addendum 2 would extend the agreement an additional 5 years, to November 2029. The purpose of the Operating Agreement in 2014 was to construct and maintain an asphalt pedestrian trail across the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail in the northeast section of Scheid Park.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to accept Addendum 2 to Operating Agreement #PRD-MISC-061-2014 between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Village of Saranac, extending the agreement to November 30, 2029. All yeas.

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for January 2025 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet in February, as no new business was brought forward.

Committee Reports

Budget

The 2025/2026 Budget was approved earlier in the meeting tonight.

Personnel

Darby reported that the Personnel Committee will meet later this week to discuss employee wage increases effective 3/1/25.

Public Safety – No report

Parks & Recreation – No report

Streets – No report

Buildings & Grounds – No report

Water & Sewer – No report

Public Comments - None

Additional Business

Council members reviewed a letter from Melissa Eldridge, from the Ionia Conservation District (Designated Planning Agency for Materials Management). The topic of the letter is EGLE's requirement that all counties update their Solid Waste Plan, to a Materials Management Plan. Per Eldridge's letter, Ionia County will adopt a Materials Management Plan, by 2028.

The County has a Materials Management Planning Committee working on the Plan. The Committee is seeking input from the public to ensure that goals are set, and the Plan accurately reflects the needs of Ionia County residents.

Included with Eldridge's letter, is a survey that will be made available at the Village Office, for residents of Ionia County to complete.

Council briefly discussed the downtown WIFI project, as it is close to completion. Once the remainder of the WIFI units are placed, an announcement will be made to inform village residents and visitors of the Village of Saranac's newest perk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



Becky Straubel
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk