

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 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, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Deputy Jordan Luz

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 February 2025.

Deputy Luz 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.

Deputy Luz informed council members that she put in her 2-week notice with the ICSO. Council members expressed their best wishes for her future endeavors and thanked her for the service she provided to the Village of Saranac.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2025 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Talcott, to accept the Treasurer's Report of February 28, 2025. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of March 10, 2025, in the amount of \$148,226.84.

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

Council members reviewed an Agreement for Sheriff's Office Services submitted for their review. Per Straubel, the language is identical to the agreement that expired 2/28/25. Darby pointed out that the agreement calls for a 2% rate increase per year (or less based on actual costs), for the next 5 years.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Kluman, to accept the Agreement for Sheriff's Office Services as presented.

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

Council members reviewed financial results for fiscal year ending 2/28/25, as prepared and presented by Straubel.

Per Straubel's financial reports for fiscal year ending 2/28/25, the village experienced a net decrease in reserve funds (all funds combined) of \$627,997. This can be attributed to the Church Street reconstruction project, the total cost of which was \$1,113,723.

Proposed budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/28/25 were reviewed by council members.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to approve the budget amendments as presented by Straubel.

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

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

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

Committee Reports

Budget

Financial results and budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/28/25 were reviewed and approved earlier this evening.

Personnel

Per Koster, Stickney will be taking the water certification exam this spring. Darby informed Koster that he is not ready to take the water or sewer certification exams this year.

The Personnel Committee will meet to discuss this topic.

Public Safety

Per Darby, Keene Township Supervisor, Corey Wojcik, submitted a letter to the Fire Department, requesting to open renegotiations on the September 1, 2012 Amended and Restated Emergency Medical Services and Fire Protection Agreement they have with the Fire Department.

Chief Koster responded by email to Wojcik, inquiring about a day and time that works best to meet. Wojcik's response was that he will discuss this with the Keene Township Board at their March 12th meeting, and get back to Koster.

Darby, Koster and Straubel will plan to meet with Wojcik to hear Keene Township's proposed agreement revisions. Ultimately however, this will be a discussion involving all Fire Board members.

Parks & Recreation

Koster reported that the water leak that he's been trying to locate may be in Scheid Park. He should know later this week and will provide council members with an update on the situation.

Streets – No report

Buildings & Grounds – No report

Water & Sewer

Koster reported that Well 4 is back online as of today.

Public Comments – None

Additional Business

Council members discussed a letter received from the Ionia County Economic Alliance (ICEA), requesting that the village renew their annual investment of \$1,000.

Darby stated that she plans to attend the ICEA's annual meeting.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to contribute \$1,000 to the ICEA in support of the services they provide to the Village of Saranac and all of Ionia County.

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

Darby provided council members with an update on the downtown WIFI project. The final two units should be in place by the end of March.

The Saranac Community Association (SCA) inquired about including their flyer regarding a community-wide yard sale, with the village spring clean-up notice, which is mailed in May to all residential homes/housing units in the village.

Council members discussed the idea and concluded that allowing this would set a precedent for other non-profits to request the same. This is not a practice the Village Council wishes to start.

Straubel reported that Surf Air Wireless submitted their Metro Act Permit application, and Village Attorney Jim Doezema has reviewed it. Straubel and Koster will sign the document after a few corrections are made and the application fee of \$500 is received.

Day inquired whether there has been any word from the City of Ionia on the status of bringing Dial-A-Ride services to the Village of Saranac. Per Darby, she has not heard anything yet.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



Becky Straubel
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk