

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 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 (arrived at 8:07 p.m.), Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: None
Guests: Grant Whorley

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 March 2025.

Council members reviewed a letter submitted by Angela Stephens, Executive Director of the Saranac Housing Commission. In her letter, Stephens requests that the Village Council reappoint Ryan Hesche as President of the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as President of the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board for another 5-year term.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Talcott, to reappoint Ryan Hesche as President of the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as President of the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board, with a 5-year term commencing May 1, 2025 and expiring May 2, 2030.
Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman.

Council members reviewed a Resolution to Approve Surf Air Wireless LLC's (d/b/a Surf Internet) Metro Act Permit which would allow Surf Internet to construct fiber optic broadband within Village rights-of-way.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Day, to adopt a Resolution to Approve Surf Air Wireless LLC's (d/b/a Surf Internet) Metro Act Permit as presented.
Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman.

Council members reviewed a Traffic Control Order (TCO) prepared by Jim Doezeema, Village Attorney. The TCO was prepared following a Speed Limit Study conducted by Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, of a portion of N Bridge Street. The TCO sets the speed limit to 25 mph on all Village streets, except the portion of N Bridge Street lying north of the southside of the bridge over the Grand River, to the northern limits of the Village, which is set at 40 mph.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Traffic Control Order, as prepared by Jim Doezeema, Village Attorney.
Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Talcott, to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Talcott, supported by Whorley, to accept the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 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 April 14, 2025, in the amount of \$186,276.06.

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

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

Straubel will request that Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, address potential zoning violations observed by council members.

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

Mark Schaafsma, owner of 234 Vosper Street, has requested to be placed on the Planning Commission's May 7th Agenda to bring commission members up to date on his revised plans for the old Harker Middle School.

Straubel reported that she and Koster will be attending a Zoom meeting with Schaafsma and Revitalize LLC, a pre-development consulting firm assisting Schaafsma with his project. They would like to share with the Village, information regarding a new program being offered by MSHDA that could provide funds for projects such as Schaafsma's.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report

Personnel

The Personnel Committee met to discuss the status of DPW employee's water and sewer certifications. Per Koster, Stickney is scheduled to sit for the water certification exam on May 7th. If he passes the exam, he will be a certified operator of both the water and sewer systems.

Public Safety

Darby reported that she, Koster and Straubel will be attending a Special Meeting hosted by the Keene Township Board at the Keene Township Hall on April 23rd at 5 p.m. Keene Township Board members requested the meeting, as they would like to discuss the Emergency Medical Services and Fire Protection Agreement between Keene Township and the Saranac Fire Department.

Parks & Recreation

Koster reported that he anticipates opening the Nature Park by this Friday.

Mulnix inquired whether a resolution to the issues with the restroom doors at Scheid Park had been resolved. Per Koster, Todd Richter is assessing the situation.

Streets

Koster reported that Snyder Asphalt will patch Mill Street, near the intersection of Mill and Vosper, as soon as they can get hot patch.

Buildings & Grounds – No report

Water & Sewer

Koster informed council members of an issue with the controls for the water tower. The analog controls are failing. Koster has requested quotes from Kennedy Industries for three different repair options.

Public Comments – None

Additional Business

Darby reported that PE Solutions has completed the last two WIFI unit installs.

Darby reported that she attended the Ionia County Economic Alliance annual meeting. Ryan Wilson, Executive Director, has requested to meet with Darby and Straubel, or attend a council meeting, to learn about current and upcoming projects in the Village.

Darby reported that she received communication from Heidi Wenzel regarding Dial-A-Ride services in the Village. Wenzel provided Darby with a survey form for Village residents to complete. The survey is to gauge potential use of their services. Darby will forward the survey.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



Becky Straubel
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk