

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2026

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, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Doll, Klutman
Guests: Alex Larson – Saranac Library Director & Becky Fitzpatrick
Angela Stephens – Saranac Housing Commission Executive Director
Revitalize, LLC – Bruce Johnston, Reece Burton & Sharla Horton

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 April 2026.

Alex Larson, Saranac/Clarksville District Library Director, was in attendance to inform Village Council members that Ionia County Libraries will have a millage renewal proposal on the August 4, 2026 ballot. This is a county wide, operational renewal millage of 1.2212 for 10 years, 2028-2037.

Council members reviewed a Resolution to recommend to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, that they consider/approve, the Saranac Community Association's application for a Social District Permit, for a beer tent during BridgeFest on August 22, 2026.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, that the Village Council of the Village of Saranac recommend consideration and approval of the Saranac Community Association's application for a Social District Permit for August 22, 2026.

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

The Saranac Housing Commission (SHC) was chosen as the Third-Party Administrator (TPA) for the Village of Saranac Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation (HOR) Project, which is being funded through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

This opportunity is being offered to Saranac Village residents who meet income limits and other criteria. For those who are eligible, \$25,000 (no repayment required) is available for improvements to their home. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, roofing, HVAC, plumbing, furnace, hot water heater, improvements to health & safety concerns and accessibility improvements.

Angela Stephens, Executive Director of the SHC introduced herself to council. Stephens explained that the SHC is contracting with Revitalize, LLC to assist the SHC in carrying out the responsibilities of the TPA. Stephens introduced the Revitalize Team present at tonight's meeting, as follows: Bruce Johnston, Founder & CEO, Reece Burton, Project Liaison & Senior Consultant, and Sharla Horton, Project Liaison & CDBG Administrator.

Johnston provided council members with an overview of his numerous years of experience managing projects similar to the HOR project that the Village is undertaking. He also introduced each member of the Revitalize team and noted the expertise they bring to the table.

An informational meeting was hosted by SHC and Revitalize, prior to tonight's council meeting. The meeting was well attended and several applications were handed in at the conclusion of the meeting. To date, 11 applications have been submitted. Johnston stated that the team is planning to meet with applicants at their homes, in batches of 5-7, beginning the last week of May.

Johnston noted that the team is actively seeking local contractors of all trades. The plan is to have 5 or more homes at a time, ready for rehab, making the job more attractive for potential contractors.

Straubel reiterated that \$369,000 must be spent (approximately 15 homes at \$25,000, or more homes if improvements are less than \$25,000) by the end of 2026, or funds from the 2027 grant, \$861,000, will not be awarded.

Day inquired about the percentage of Village households that meet the income requirements of the project. He is skeptical of whether the target of 50 homes is feasible.

Burton replied that per the latest census, approximately 50% of Saranac Village households are at or below 80% AMI (area median income). Straubel noted, to put things in perspective, that 50 homes (project target) represent 14% of the total homes in the Village. If 50% of households are eligible, it seems that 14% is attainable.

Council members reviewed a letter submitted by Angela Stephens, Executive Director of the Saranac Housing Commission. Stephens is requesting that the Village Council reappoint Tina Vroman as Commissioner on the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as Director on the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board for a 5-year term beginning May 1, 2026 and expiring May 1, 2031.

Motion was made by Talcott, supported by Day, to reappoint Tina Vroman as Commissioner on the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as Director on the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board for a 5-year term beginning May 1, 2026 and expiring May 1, 2031.

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

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Day, to accept minutes of the April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Whorley, to accept the Treasurer's Report of April 30, 2026. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, to approve the Accounts Payable of May 11, 2026, in the amount of \$104,218.68.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for April 2026 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission's regular meeting for the month of May was cancelled due to lack of business.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report

Personnel

DPW Koster reported that he would like to hold off on hiring a part-time DPW employee at this time.

DPW Darby took his water certification exam last week. Per Koster, it will be approximately 45 days before he receives the results.

Public Safety

Chief Koster reported that the Fire Department is scheduled to pick up the new engine on May 26th.

Chief Koster informed council members that the Fire Department is hosting a Career Day at the Saranac high school. Central Dispatch, Life Ambulance and Ionia County Sheriff Officers will be in attendance.

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix reported that the Parks Committee received "bubble" diagrams from Fleis & VandenBrink, for the Parks Concept project (other than Scheid Park, which has its own concept plan). He stated that he is very pleased with the Concept Plan and that applying for future grants will be much easier, as the Concept Plan will be used to select improvements to include in a grant application.

DPW Koster informed council members that he recently planted wild flower seeds in the middle of the loop area at the Nature Park.

Streets

DPW Koster reported that the Summit Street project is gearing up and looks to be on schedule.

Buildings & Grounds – No report

Water & Sewer

DPW Koster reported that a sewer lateral on Weeks Street was recently replaced.

Koster also stated that they have been utilizing the acoustic leak detector, but haven't located the water leak yet.

EGLE visited the Village last week to conduct a Sanitary Survey. Koster reported that everything went well.

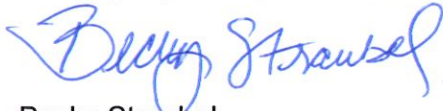
DPW Koster reported that the Aerator Replacement project is moving forward, and that he plans to discharge a lagoon next week.

Additionally, engineers are working on the technicalities of installing the Scada System.

Public Comments – None

Additional Business - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Village Treasurer/Deputy Clerk