

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 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, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Klutman
Guests: Jason Smith, Superintendent – Saranac Community Schools
Ryan Wilson, Executive Director – Ionia County Economic Alliance

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Day, to approve the Regular Agenda. All yeas.

Public Comments - no public comments.

Jason Smith, Superintendent of Saranac Community Schools (SCS), was in attendance to make council aware of SCS's 2024 bond proposal which will be voted upon May 7th.

Ryan Wilson, Executive Director for the Ionia County Economic Alliance (ICEA), was in attendance to provide council members with additional information, pending the Village's annual investment of \$1,000.

Motion by Mulnix, supported by Day, to make a 2024 investment payment to the ICEA in the amount of \$1,000.

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

Council members reviewed a Resolution Requesting Grant Funds from the State Disaster Contingency Fund for costs associated with the August 24, 2023 storm.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to adopt the resolution requesting grant funds from the State Disaster Contingency Fund for costs associated with the August 24, 2023 storm, in the amount of \$64,350. All yeas.

Straubel informed council members, that the Ionia Conservation District requested a letter of support from the Village of Saranac, regarding the Ionia Recycling Project. Koster and Straubel met with Melissa Eldridge, District Manager for the Ionia Conservation District (ICD), in January of this year, to learn about the program.

Council members discussed the Recycling Project, with varying opinions being heard. Council requested that Eldridge attend an upcoming Village Council meeting to provide additional information on the project.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Day, to provide the ICD with a letter of support for their recycling project and grant submission, without a monetary commitment defined.
Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley, Darby; nays – Doll; absent – Klutman.

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of March 2024.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2024 Regular Meeting and the March 25, 2024 Special Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Talcott, to accept the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2024. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 8, 2024, in the amount of \$125,459.74.

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

Council members reviewed financial results for fiscal year ending 2/29/24, as well as proposed budget amendments submitted by Straubel. Straubel reported that all funds except Local Street, ended the 2023/2024 fiscal year with a net income (added to reserves), as follows; General Fund \$50,239, Major Street \$28,694, Local Street (\$17,069), Water Fund \$88,183 and Sewer Fund \$90,320, for a total net income (added to reserves) of \$240,367.

Motion was made by Worley, supported by Mulnix, to accept the budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/29/24, as presented.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for March 2024 was reviewed.

Committee Reports

Budget – no report.

Personnel – no report.

Public Safety – no report.

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix reported that on May 14-16, Bob Rogers with "Love Our City" will be bringing a team of volunteers to clear brush along the Riverwalk, between the depot property and the first overlook. The project will be carried out with direction from DPW Koster.

Koster reported that approximately 600 ft of the nature park trail will soon be repaired/replaced.

Darby reported that the speaker system at Scheid Park, provided by the Saranac Community Association, has been installed.

Straubel reported that the MNR Trust Fund grant application for pickleball courts and other improvements at Scheid Park, has been submitted.

Koster reported on the recent watermain break at Scheid Park. He stated that since its repair, the water system has been pumping 25,000 gallons less per day than normal.

Darby reported that the application for a Social District is ready to submit, as soon as the maps are complete. The cost is \$270 per licensed establishment. Darby will request that the Saranac Community Association cover these fees.

Darby reported that the bike fix-it station located near the trailhead, is in need of repair.

Darby reported on the Zoom meeting that she, Straubel and Koster attended, regarding a self-service Kayak rental station. Due to the upfront cost (\$19,000 for 4 units or \$29,000 for 8 units), the three concluded that it would not be fiscally responsible to move forward with this.

Streets

Koster reported that the Church Street reconstruction project is underway and Union Street and Division Street will receive a chip/seal application later in April.

Buildings & Grounds – no report.

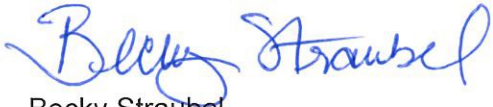
Water & Sewer

Koster reported that the sewer relining project, identified as part of the SAW Grant project, is ready to go out for bid. The culvert on Bridge Street will be repaired as part of this project.

Public Comments – no public comments.

Additional Business – none.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk