

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 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, DPW Koster; Trustees – Day, Doll, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Straubel, Klutman, Mulnix
Guests: Miranda Tase and Alex Larson – Saranac/Clarksville District Library
Deputy Jordan Luz – Ionia County Sheriff's Office

Motion was made by Talcott, supported by Doll, to approve the Regular Agenda. All yeas.

Public Comments

Miranda Tase and Alex Larson were in attendance representing the Saranac/Clarksville District Library. Tase stated that the library is looking to get more involved in the Saranac and Clarksville areas. They have added new programs, resources, and have expanded hours. The Michigan eLibrary (MEL) is one resource they are very passionate about and are working to get the word out for anyone looking for continuing education or additional educational resources. They will be partnering with the local schools too.

Law Enforcement Report

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

Deputy Jordan 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.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2024 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Talcott, to accept the Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2024. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Talcott, to approve the Accounts Payable of October 14, 2024, in the amount of \$210,161.35.

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

Council members reviewed various proposals for Downtown WIFI and a Village Phone System upgrade. The council discussed pros and cons of each proposal for the three bids received.

The lowest cost to add WIFI to the downtown area including the trail head would be \$4,624.00 plus installation of \$750.00. There is a small monthly service charge for T-Mobile coverage of \$119 per month.

Only one bid proposed a replacement of the Village phone system at a cost \$1,516.00 plus installation of \$1,959.04. The small monthly service charge for PE Office Systems would be \$175.00.

The cost savings for internet service would be \$223.72 per month and the phone system savings would be \$293.94 per month. This equates to a 22-month return on investment based on current costs of \$841.41.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to accept the proposal submitted by PE Office Solutions for both Downtown WIFI at \$5,374.00 and the Village Phone System at \$3,475.04. Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Talcott, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman, Mulnix.

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

The Planning Commission did not meet in October, due to lack of business. A November meeting is planned to review the Well Head Protection Plan.

Committee Reports

Budget – no report.

Personnel

The personnel committee met to review applications received to date. Phone interviews are being conducted to ensure they meet required qualifications as stated in the job description and understand the pay scale. Due to the low response, Council agreed it would be advantageous to continue advertising and suggested doing a Facebook Ad.

In addition, the personnel committee met to discuss the medical, vision, and dental annual renewals. Their recommendation was to maintain current coverage. There would be no increase for vision, a slight increase in dental (but still lower than what was paid in 2018), and medical would increase by 11.9% in monthly premiums. Additional cost for benefits would equate to \$7,350.24 more per year.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Talcott, to accept the personnel committee's recommendation to continue with our current plans. Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Talcott, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman, Mulnix.

Public Safety

Trustee Day reported on vehicles not stopping for school buses when indicated. In the first 11 days of the school year there were 5 incidents. To date there have been 4 additional incidents. All incidents are reported to local law enforcement for follow up and possible ticketing.

Parks & Recreation – no report.

Streets

DPW Koster reported that the previously requested speed study for the North end of Bridge Street has been completed with acceptable results. Koster is looking into next steps, potentially being a traffic control order, moving a couple of speed limit signs at the bridge area and adding an additional 25 mile per hour sign on Bridge further to the South.

Koster reported on the Main Street paving project and is concerned that a few manholes may need adjusting as they are not level with the pavement. Fleis and Vandenbrink is looking to see if there are any options with the contractor. Koster stated he is not inclined to cut the pavement as that will likely cause pavement issues down the road.

Koster also reported that Church Street rebuild is coming to an end and needs a final walk thru with Fleis and Vanderbrink.

The salt truck is back this week with repairs completed. The box has been refurbished, the chassis painted, and hydraulics are hard piped now per Koster. This should help extend the life of the box much longer.

One additional concern from Koster is the two 4-way stops on Bridge Street. He has witnessed several vehicles running signs on a regular basis, on one occasion almost hitting him. He has researched replacing the current STOP signs with a high visibility sign (more reflection) at a cost of \$1,200 total. Darby suggested maybe there is something we can do with the STOP cube. Koster to check into that possibility.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Doll, to approve replacing signs at the two intersections with high visibility signs at a cost of \$1,200.

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

Buildings & Grounds – no report

Water & Sewer

DPW Koster reported on well #4 and the need to have it recalibrated. Unfortunately, it is not able to be recalibrated due to its age (1994). It is slightly off, but still within allowable limits. This will need to be replaced soon. Cost estimate came in at \$9,946.96 plus the cost of an electrician.

Public Comments – No public comments.

Additional Business - none

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Sharon Darby
Village President