

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2011

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Municipal Building, 27 N. Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Darby, Smith, trustees – Hendrick, Klutman, Mackey, McClellan, Whorley, DPW Bowen

Absent: Straubel, Brown

Guests: Mindy Free & Suzzie Derosha (Village Floral & Gifts), Fire Chief Jim Darby, Assistant Fire Chief Tim Simmons, DPW Brad Wittenbach

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by McClellan, to approve the Regular Agenda. All yeas.

Public Comments

Mindy Free and Suzzie Derosha were in attendance to apprise council members of their plans to open a floral shop at 70 Bridge Street in Saranac. The name of their business is Village Floral & Gifts. They will be handing out flyers advertising their opening. It was suggested that they advertise with a flyer insert in the Ionia County Shopper's Guide. They inquired about village rules and regulations. Council advised them to refer to village ordinances and mention was made about the clearing of snow and ice from the sidewalk adjacent to their building.

Motion was made by McClellan, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2011 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Hendrick, supported by Whorley, to approve the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2011. All yeas.

Bowen stated that the water meters purchased from Etna would put the village over budget in that category.

Bowen also stated that a "Release of Liability" was obtained from the property owners of 33 Union Street, prior to the work being completed by Everdry.

Council members discussed various expenditures listed on the Accounts Payable report.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by McClellan, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 11, 2011 in the amount of \$110,322.33.

Roll call vote: yeas – Hendrick, Klutman, Mackey, McClellan, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Brown.

Bowen stated that he would be providing Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, with a list of violations within the village.

Klutman reported on the Planning Commission's March meeting.

Darby stated that several townships are setting limitations on "medical marijuana dispensaries".

Klutman stated that the Planning Commission has discussed the legalities of setting limitations on "medical marijuana dispensaries".

Council reviewed a proposal submitted by Landmark Strategies, to update the Village of Saranac Master Plan. An “updated” and an “abbreviated” plan were included in the proposal. The Michigan Municipal Planning Act requires that the village review its Master Plan at least every five years to determine if the plan requires amendments. The village’s current plan was adopted in September 2001 and reconfirmed in December 2006 as the current and valid land use plan. It was determined that the village is not required to seek additional bids, due to the cost of the update. Klutman stated that Landmark Strategies comes highly recommended. Mark Sisson, President of Landmark Strategies, will attend the May 9th village council meeting to explain the proposal further and answer council’s questions.

Committee Reports

Streets

Klutman would like to schedule a committee meeting to discuss the “Streets Plan”.

Fahrner Asphalt will be submitting a bid for Cloverlane, which should be lower than anticipated due to the fact that they will be in the area for another job.

Klutman stated that a process of putting an asphalt overlay over the “chip and seal” may be an option for some of the village street repairs.

Bowen informed council about the new laws that require any entity that has underground utilities, to be a member of Miss Dig. Monthly fees are based on number of utilities and size of the community. The cost of membership for the Village of Saranac would be \$16.50 per month.

Motion was made by McClellan, supported by Whorley, to approve a payment of \$16.50 per month for Miss Dig membership.

Roll call vote: yeas – Hendrick, Klutman, Mackey, McClellan, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Brown.

Spring Clean Up is scheduled to begin Monday, May 9th.

Bowen has received various complaints regarding dogs running loose in the village. He suggested handing out a flyer to address the situation, at the same time Spring Clean Up flyers are handed out. The flyer would refer to the Ionia County Dog Control Ordinance. Council concurred.

Personnel

A proposed Employee Evaluation Form was submitted to council members for review.

Motion was made by McClellan, supported by Hendrick to approve the form as presented, for immediate use for village employees. All yeas.

Buildings & Grounds

The committee did not meet.

Whorley stated that Bill Overbeck accepted the payment that was sent, but did not agree to deduct the charge for Design Services. Overbeck will re-invoice for Design Services in the amount of \$1,950.00. Whorley will meet with him again to see if they can resolve this issue.

Whorley stated that the installation of security cameras is on track.

Budget Committee – No report.

Parks & Recreation

The committee did not meet, but communicated via e-mail.

Straubel received a request from a village resident, to hold a wedding ceremony in the Nature Park. Council members concurred to allow this at no charge, due to the fact that village labor or services will not be provided.

Superior Play submitted a quote in the amount of \$24,586.00 for replacement of fall zone material in two playground areas at Scheid Park. The committee will be seeking additional bids.

Klutman inquired if wood chips could be used for the fall zones. Bowen questioned if weeds would be an issue. The DPW will add more sand to the areas, for the time being.

Bowen will be seeking bids for replacing the cracked areas of cement at the skatepark.

Bowen stated that he will require assistance in putting together specifications to get bids for placing cameras in the Nature Park.

Darby reported on Governor Snyder's proposed modifications to Revenue Sharing. The village received approximately \$125,000.00 in Revenue Sharing this past budget year. Proposed cuts may reduce this amount by one third or more. Bowen stated that the cap is at 66% of what was received in the past. Darby suggested using restraint in spending General Fund dollars, until more information is made available.

Bowen reported that engineers representing Universal Gerwin notified him that areas of Scheid Park may have to be dug up to allow for removal of contaminants. One area that may be dug up would effect the west end of the skatepark. Bowen is waiting for further information of what action will be taken.

Bowen stated that a Little League representative notified him that they intend to build a new field this year after Little League season.

Water & Sewer

The committee did not meet.

McClellan stated that the Water Main Project would be starting in a month or so and would need to be completed by August due to funding timelines.

Per Bowen, there are only 18 residential water meters left to be replaced with a new “touch-read” meter. Bowen stated that the committee could begin research on a new water meter reading system that would eliminate manual reading of meters and entry of readings.

Public Safety – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

DPW Tim Simmons’ state contractor’s license is about to expire. He stated that he would let the license lapse, unless council felt it was beneficial for him to maintain it.

Motion was made by McClellan, supported by Klutman, to reimburse Tim Simmons up to \$250.00, for the renewal of his state contractor’s license and continuing education requirements. Roll call vote: yeas – Hendrick, Klutman, Mackey, McClellan, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Brown.

Fire Chief Darby reported on the annual meeting of the Saranac Community Volunteer Fire Department Board. Three budget proposals were presented at the meeting. Board members approved Proposal #1 (less the medical unit), which did not include renovation costs to 10 Bridge Street. Board members from the townships declined to pay for any building renovations, referring to the current contract.

The Fire Board will reconvene on April 20, 2011 to discuss the proposed purchase of a new medical unit in this budget year, as well as future planning for the purchase of a new pumper.

Bowen stated that it was his understanding that if the Saranac Village office moved from 10 Bridge St. to 27 Bridge St., the townships would contribute to maintaining 10 Bridge St.

Bowen stated that Rural Development may have loans available for the purchase of replacement fire department vehicles.

Council discussed proposed interior and exterior maintenance items to 10 Bridge St. presented by Chief Darby.

Motion was made by McClellan, supported by Klutman, to allocate up to \$15,000.00 for renovation of the interior of the fire building and to turn over the exterior repairs to the Building & Grounds Committee for recommendations.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Hendrick, to amend the motion above to include exterior renovations in the amount of \$20,250.00, with a total not to exceed \$35,250.00 for interior and exterior renovations combined.

Roll call vote (to include initial and amended motions): yeas – Hendrick, Klutman, Mackey, McClellan, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Brown.

The village was contacted by a Boy Scout looking for a potential Eagle Scout project. Bowen will contact him and suggest making bat houses.

Tim & Claire Vogelzang are moving and would like to leave a visual gift within the village. Suggestions were made including a picnic table at the boat launch, or a picnic table or bench behind the businesses near the creek. Darby will contact the Vogelzangs to discuss options.

The Lion's Club requested the use of a room either in the village office or the fire department, for children's eye screening during Bridgefest. The Fire Department has offered the space.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk