

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2013

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, Straubel, trustees – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley; DPW Bowen, DPW Simmons

Absent: None

Guests: Maury Geiger & David Price for Saranac Community Schools

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

Public Comments

Maury Geiger and David Price gave a presentation on “Promise Scholarship Programs”. Per handouts given to council members, a Promise program seeks to change the culture of a community, not simply award scholarships. Saranac Community Schools would like to implement this type of program, with involvement from businesses in the community, as well as governmental entities (village and townships). A steering committee has been organized and will attend a PromiseNet Conference on November 7, 2013 in Kalamazoo. Sharon Darby, Village President, is on the committee and will attend the event. Darby will report back to council, so further discussion can take place regarding the type and level of involvement needed from the Village Council.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2013. All yeas

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mackey, to approve the Treasurer’s Report of September 30, 2013. All yeas.

Council discussed various accounts payable items.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of October 14, 2013 in the amount of \$149,868.90.

Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

The Zoning Administrator’s report was reviewed.

Per council’s motion at September’s council meeting, Jim Doeza, Village Attorney, reviewed Jeanne Vandersloot’s proposed Independent Contractor Agreement, for Zoning Administrator services. Doeza stated that “it is a good, fair contract.” Darby suggested adding to the “Duties” section of the contract; “Additional assignments as requested by the Village Council that are deemed applicable by both parties and are within Contractor’s area of expertise.” Vandersloot concurred and added the language. Darby will sign the contract on behalf of the Village Council.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Council reviewed a proposed Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement, between the Village of Saranac and Ionia County. The Resolution and Agreement officially designates the Ionia County Building Code Department, as the enforcing agency for floodplain management regulations, on behalf of the Village of Saranac.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to approve the Michigan Community Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for the National Flood Insurance Program, as presented. All yeas.

Council reviewed Application for Payment No. 1, submitted and recommended by Fleis & VandenBrink Eng., on behalf of CL Trucking & Excavating, LLC, for the Dewitt and Parsonage Street Improvements Project, in the amount of \$83,940.26.

Bowen stated that his main concern is that grass seed is not normally planted after November 15th, so there is a need for the job to be completed soon.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to approve Application for Payment No. 1 from CL Trucking & Excavating, LLC, in the amount of \$83,940.26.

Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Council reviewed a proposed preventative maintenance contract for the Village of Saranac's Video Surveillance System (currently 14 security cameras and 6 DVR's), submitted by Grand Valley Automation, Inc., in the amount of \$1,540.00 annually. The proposed contract covers cleaning, checking and adjusting the equipment only. If repairs or replacement are necessary, the service rate would be \$80/hour.

Per Bowen, there are 4 cameras that do not have monitors, so DPW employees are unable to see if the cameras are operational. He stated that it might be worthwhile to purchase 4 monitors for these cameras. Darby and Doll will check on the availability of used monitors.

Grand Valley's proposed preventative maintenance contract was tabled for the time being. Bowen and DPW Simmons will pursue the purchase of monitors for the 4 cameras that are currently without.

Council reviewed a recommendation memo from Fleis & VandenBrink Eng., regarding the Influent Screening project at the Wastewater Treatment facility.

The 2013/2014 budget has an allowance of \$25,000.00 for this project. The quotes received are significantly higher than anticipated. The problem with the materials (rags, towels, etc.) however, persists at the WWTF and causes downtime and additional wear and tear on the system. Bowen voiced his concern over replacing the sewer pumps, which should be done next budget year, without putting an influent screen in place first. The screen would protect the longevity of the new pumps. Council concurred with this line of reasoning.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to award the Influent Screening project to Flat River Electric in the amount of \$880.00 and Franklin Holwerda Co. in the amount of \$42,880.00, as recommended by Fleis & VandenBrink Eng.

Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council received a copy of Deputy Charon's September stat report and Tip of the Month.

Darby informed council that the new fire engine has arrived and per Asst. Chief Simmons will be operational within 1-2 weeks. A "For Sale" add for the old fire truck has been placed in Nation-Wide Used Truck publication.

Darby inquired about whether the village should have an open house for the new fire truck, as Boston Township residents paid for the unit, through a tax mileage. Bowen suggested discussing a coordinated effort with Boston Township and Fire Department members.

Mackey suggested displaying the new pumper during the Pancake Supper on November 2nd.

Budget

Straubel provided to council members for review, Budget vs. Actual Reports for the period of March 2013 – September 3013.

Parks & Recreation

The committee met and chose a play structure to replace the aging one in Scheid Park. The 2013/2014 budget has an allowance of \$48,000.00 for this project. The cost of the structure, which is being offered at a 50% discount through All About Play Inc., is \$23,600.00 which includes delivery. Installation charges will be in addition to this and will be negotiated at a later date.

Council discussed the progression of the Rails to Trails project as well as the status of the acquisition grant.

Bowen is hopeful that the DPW will soon be able to work on removal of dead trees from the walkways.

Per Bowen, Scheid Park will be officially closed by Halloween, and the gate at the Nature Park will be closed by November 15th.

Buildings & Grounds

Straubel received a request to place a donation barrel for non-perishable food items at the village office. The donations received would benefit multiple area food pantries, per Darby. Council approved the request.

Streets

Mackey received a request from a Center Street resident, that Center Street be put on our repair list.

Two recent requests have been made, to place memorial benches in the downtown business district.

Bowen suggested polling the downtown businesses, to get their input on whether they would like additional benches in the business district.

Council discussed the possible need for bike racks in the downtown area, especially in light of the Rails to Trails project.

Doll inquired about developing a long-term plan regarding benches. Mackey suggested mapping out where the current memorial benches are placed and deciding how many more are feasible and the best location for them. Council concurred that the Parks & Recreation and the Streets Committee should both be involved in the planning process and bring their suggestions back to council.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Personnel

Darby summarized the Personnel Committee's recommendation for employee Health Insurance benefits, effective December 1, 2013 (the beginning of the new plan year). If the current plan is kept in place, the premium increase would be 26%. The committee reviewed several options which were presented by Bill Lewis of Pinnacle Insurance Partners. The committee recommends that the Village switch from the Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO plan that they currently offer, to a Priority Health HMO plan. The Priority Health plan offers benefits very similar to what is currently offered and the premium increase would be 13%, as opposed to 26%. They further recommend that village employee's contribution to the premium remain at 15%. A separate dental plan will be sought, as the current BCBS dental plan will not be available without the health plan. Vision insurance premiums through Ameritas will see a minimal increase, if any at all. The Village currently pays 100% of the employee's dental and vision premium.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to switch to Priority Health HMO (Option #6) as offered by Pinnacle Insurance Partners, effective December 1, 2013.

Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Darby informed council that a "Help Wanted" ad has been released, for the DPW/Firefighter position that will become available upon Dennis Bowen's retirement.

Motion made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to appoint Tim Simmons to the position of DPW Director, upon Dennis Bowen's retirement. All yeas.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.