

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2014

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:04 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 Simmons

Absent: None

Guests: None

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

Public Comments – None.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2014 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to approve the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2014. All yeas.

Council discussed various accounts payable items.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mackey, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 14, 2014, in the amount of \$94,924.76.

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

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

Straubel provided council with an update on the status of property located at 168 Parsonage Street. The property is now vacant.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Council discussed Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering's Work Plan and Engineering Budget in the amount of \$900, to assist the village in preparing an application for MDOT bridge funding. The Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River is in need of preventative maintenance and the village is eligible to apply for funding assistance through MDOT's Local Bridge Funding Program. Applications are due by May 1, 2014, for potential funding beginning October 2016.

Council reviewed a proposed Resolution Approving the Submittal of an Application for Local Bridge Program Funds for Preventative Maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Doll, to adopt the Resolution Approving the Submittal of an Application for Local Bridge Program Funds for Preventative Maintenance of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Grand River, as presented. All yeas.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council members reviewed Deputy Charon's Status Report and "Tip of the Month" for March.

Budget – No Report.

Parks & Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Committee met to discuss rearrangement or removal of current playground equipment, to accommodate the new playground structure that is scheduled to be installed this week, weather permitting.

On the Northeast corner of the large (older) pavilion, there is a large tree. The committee recommends removal of the tree, as it creates an obstruction of view between the two playground areas. Council concurred. The DPW will remove the tree as time permits.

The committee also discussed the potential of extending a paved trail in Scheid Park, which currently ends near the Northeast corner of the large (new) pavilion. Park and trail users have created a natural path from the end of the paved trail, continuing along the east boundary of Scheid Park and connecting to the new Rail Trail. A culvert exists at the location where the park property and Rail Trail meet. Straubel will contact Fleis & VandenBrink to obtain a cost estimate for an improved trail connector from Scheid Park, to the Rail Trail.

The committee also discussed replacing the benches (4) around the large play area, as the existing ones are in poor condition. The committee suggests that individuals who wish to purchase a memorial bench, be informed of this location.

Council discussed memorial bench placement at parks, on trails and as recently requested, in the downtown business district. It was decided that the Streets Committee as well as the Parks Committee will meet to discuss the number of memorial benches desired in each location.

Straubel will contact the MDNR to inquire about proper procedure for placing signs and benches along the new Rail Trail.

Council discussed purchasing additional Mutt Mitt Stations (doggie waste clean up station) or possibly moving an existing one, to accommodate the new Rail Trail. Council concurred that one additional station should be purchased and the Parks Committee will discuss placement.

Straubel gave an update on the status of the property at 113 N Bridge Street.

Darby inquired if the restrooms were open at Scheid Park. They are not, per DPW Simmons, due to the fact that freezing weather is still in the forecast and if the water is turned on we run the risk of pipes freezing. DPW Simmons anticipates they should be opened by the end of April. He also noted that the Little League Association has placed two temporary restrooms at the park.

Mackey inquired if Jeanne Vandersloot, as Zoning Administrator, could enforce clean up of properties along the new Rail Trail. Straubel will contact Vandersloot. Darby suggested that a volunteer project might be a possibility for cleaning up the area, if the Zoning Ordinance is not applicable.

Buildings & Grounds

DPW Simmons reported that the monitors for the surveillance system at the wells and lagoon are up and running.

Whorley inquired if repairs had been made to the firebarn roof. Per DPW Simmons, they have not, as temperatures must be 50 degrees at night, before the work can be performed.

Whorley noted that the roof over the rear entrance door at the village office should be inspected for missing shingles. DPW Simmons will do so.

Streets

The committee did not meet. However, Klutman expressed concerns regarding Main Street and whether repairs can wait until 2017 when Rural Task Force funding may be available. The Street Committee will discuss further and report their recommendations to council.

The village received an additional \$5,900 from the State of Michigan, through the Act 51 formula, to be used on road maintenance, as a result of the 2013/2014 harsh winter.

Council discussed a resident's request to remove a messy tree on Church Street, which is located in the village right-of-way. Council members concurred, that if the tree is not dead or dying, is not heaving the sidewalk or impeding on electrical lines, it would not be prudent to remove the tree.

Spring Clean Up is scheduled for May 5th. DPW Simmons inquired if flyers could be mailed, as opposed to hand delivered, per Straubel. Trustee Simmons stated that she would be available to assist with the mailing. An Ionia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection flyer will be mailed along with the Spring Clean Up notice. Ionia County will be collecting hazardous waste on May 10th at Scheid Park, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Several other collection sites and dates are listed on the flyer as well.

Water & Sewer

Doll reported that he toured the village's water and wastewater facilities with DPW Simmons. Doll highly recommends that all council members take this tour, as a "visual" will assist in the capital outlay planning process. Per Doll, DPW Simmons has been diligently working on improving safety measures.

Straubel informed council that the village was not awarded the Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) grant this year. The grant however, is lottery based and per Fleis & VandenBrink, the village is in line to be funded at \$494,440 in fiscal year 2016. This is based on the assumption that MDEQ's funding level of approximately \$100,000,000 per year remains the same until the SAW money is depleted.

Personnel – No Report.

Additional Business

Darby informed council members of a “Trailing Thru Nature 5K (walk, run or bike)” event, sponsored by the Saranac Area Women’s Club. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Saranac Depot. The cost is \$15 per registrant, with proceeds going to Relay for Life of Ionia – American Cancer Society.

Straubel will be attending a Michigan Municipal Treasurer’s Association event May 4th through 9th. Straubel requested that May’s Village Council Regular Meeting be changed from May 12th, to May 19th, as she will not be in the office the first full week of May, to prepare for the meeting. Council concurred that the May meeting could be held on May 19th.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk