

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2014

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, Simmons, Whorley
Absent: Klutman, Mackey, DPW Simmons
Guests: Roy Rood

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

Public Comments – None.

Council reviewed Michigan Paving and Materials Co. Application for Payment #2 (Final) in the amount of \$4,993.80, for the Summit Street Improvements Project. The Application was submitted through F & V and approved by Todd Richter, F & V Engineer.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept Application for Payment #2 (Final) from Michigan Paving and Materials Co. in the amount of \$4,993.80, as presented.
Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman, Mackey.

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

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Darby, to approve the Treasurer's Report of November 30, 2014. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of December 8, 2014, in the amount of \$89,789.69.
Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Klutman, Mackey.

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission's December 3, 2014 minutes were reviewed.

Council reviewed Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal for engineering services for the Bridge Street Bridge Improvements Project. The village was recently notified by MDOT that this project was awarded funding at 95% of the estimated cost of \$366,000. The funding is scheduled to be released after October 1, 2016. The village is responsible for engineering fees, in addition to the 5% match. F & V has recommended that the village budget the Design Phase of the engineering, \$25,700, for the summer of 2016 and the Construction Phase of the engineering, \$43,600, for the summer of 2017. The 2017 budget should also include the 5% match of \$18,300. However, past experience with MDOT has shown that projects could be moved up if other projects come in under budget or are delayed. If the village would prefer to be ready for construction in 2016 as opposed to 2017, the Design Phase of the project could be completed in 2015.

Due to the fact that the Streets Committee has not completed its research of options and costs for the 2015/2016 Streets Budget, no action was taken on F & V's proposal for engineering services for the Bridge Street Bridge Improvements Project.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council members reviewed Deputy Charon's monthly status report.

Darby informed council members that Amy Byers, Clarksville Village President inquired if the Village of Saranac would have any interest in "sharing" the police officer that the village contracts for through Ionia County. Council concurred with Darby's response to Byers that it would be very difficult to manage a "sharing" relationship under our contract, as we would have to track time and bill accordingly. She referred Byers to Ionia County Sheriff, Dale Miller.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets

The Streets Committee met with Todd Richter, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer to discuss street priorities as well as the timing and costs of upcoming projects.

As it stands right now, Rural Task Force funding will be available in 2016 for the resurfacing of the entire length of Bridge Street (minus the north bridge over the Grand River). With the projection of construction costs in 2016 along with the current estimate of available Rural Task Force funding, the village match and engineering costs for this project would be approximately \$195,000.00.

Additionally, as discussed earlier this evening, the village received notice of funding approval in 2017 from MDOT's Local Bridge Program, for improvements to the north bridge over the Grand River. The village match and engineering costs for this project would be approximately \$88,000.00.

Due to the costly nature of these two street projects, the Streets Committee is suggesting that minimal money (crack seal only) be spent in the 2015/2016 budget year on street repairs. Further discussions of available cost saving options will be discussed with Ionia County and Todd Richter.

The Streets Committee discussed the possibility of increasing the tax mills levied for streets, in 2015. One additional mill would generate approximately \$19,500.00 annually, for specific use on village streets. Straubel is awaiting a response from Ionia County, confirming that there is a total of 2.0901 mills that can be levied for streets, before a vote of village residents would be required. Additionally, the village is allowed to add a 1% administrative fee to village tax bills, which based on 2014 numbers, would generate approximately \$2,500 per year. The Village of Saranac is currently the only village in Ionia County that does not charge the 1% administrative fee.

Council discussed a concern brought to Straubel's attention by a village resident. The property owners at 28 Vosper Street have a current retaining wall project in process, which will not be completed until next spring. The concern is with the ditch that has been dug and will be left open during the winter. A potential hazardous situation could be created when the ditch fills with snow. Straubel will contact the property owners to inquire about their intentions of making the area safe until such time that the project can be completed.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Personnel

Darby advised council members that a wage inequity exists between two DPW employees and that the intent is to eliminate that inequity over a two year period. No action can be taken at this time, as budget numbers have already been established for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. The Personnel Committee will provide their recommendations to rectify this situation, with the submittal of 2015/2016 budget numbers.

Darby informed council that the Personnel Committee has determined that a cellphone stipend for all village employees is preferred over village owned cell phones.

Darby also informed council that the Village of Saranac now has its own "Speedy Rewards" card, to be used when village employees are making purchases for village gas/supplies.

DPW Simmons will be conducting performance reviews for DPW employees, per Darby.

Additional Business

The village received a request from Republic Services, to submit a proposal for waste and recycle collection services in the Village of Saranac, when the current contract with Green Valley expires on 12/31/16.

Doll inquired if DPW Simmons would prefer to have an Agenda item for reporting to council, or continue to report during Committee Reports. Straubel will inquire of DPW Simmons.

Public Comments

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk