

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2014

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:02 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 – Doll, Klutman, Mackey, Whorley, DPW Simmons
Absent: Trustee Simmons, Straubel
Guests: None

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

Public Comments – None.

Motion was made by Whorley at 7:03 p.m., supported by Klutman, to open the Public Hearing to set the property tax millage and approve the budget for fiscal year March 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015.

Darby presented highlights of the proposed budget, including the Personnel Committee's recommendations as follows; 3% cost of living wage increase for all employees effective 3/1/14, a \$5,000 discretionary bonus allotment for reward and recognition opportunities and an increase in council member's pay to \$40/council meeting (from \$30) and \$20/committee meeting (from \$10), effective 3/1/14.

No Public Comment was heard.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to close the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to approve the property tax millage for 2014 as follows: General Fund – 11.50 mills, Streets – 2.50 mills, for a total of 14.00 mills (1 % administrative fee will not be added). All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to approve the budget for fiscal year March 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015 in the amount of \$1,341,462.00, as presented.

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

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2014 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Council discussed various accounts payable items. Straubel answered questions via telephone conversation.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mackey, to approve the Accounts Payable of February 17, 2014 in the amount of \$198,830.70.

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

Straubel informed council that Jason Eppler, Ionia City Manager, had inquired whether the Village of Saranac was open to contributing \$5,000 to the second phase of the rail trail project (from M-66 to Prairie Creek on Ionia's east side).

Council discussed and concurred that no action would be taken at this time, in regard to contributing to the second phase of the rail trail project.

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet in February.

Committee Reports

Public Safety – No Report.

Budget

The committee met and recommended the budget that was approved at the conclusion of the Public Hearing that was held this evening.

Parks & Recreation

Straubel provided council with an update (via telephone) on the purchase of property at 113 N Bridge Street, for which the Village of Saranac has received a MDNR Trust Fund Grant.

An Offer to Purchase has been signed by both parties and Straubel is working toward scheduling a closing date.

Straubel has also applied for an extension of time with the MDNR, as the grant deadline is March 31, 2014. Due to the passing of Mike Hinkley, the closing process may be delayed, as paperwork is sorted out.

Buildings & Grounds

The committee did not meet.

Whorley checked on monitors with satellites and found some that would work for \$500 each. He also found others that cost less, but there was a compatibility problem. Five monitors are needed.

Darby inquired about snow build-up on the office and fire barn roofs. Simmons will check on the roofs and contact Overbeck Construction regarding any concerns about the amount of snow build-up.

Streets

The committee met and utilized the Street Improvements Plan as a guide to determine their recommendation for street repairs for the 2014/2015 budget. The committee recommended coldmilling and resurfacing Summit Street, at engineer's estimated cost of \$94,000.00.

Water & Sewer

The committee met and discussed the need for a back up pump at the WWTF. The committee recommended a budget amount of \$10,000.00 to purchase a back up pump.

Personnel

Doll inquired about Bowen's number of days left on the "Time Off" report. The report shows 26 days left. Per phone call to Straubel, his last check is this week for the period ending 2/15/14. The check will be for 20 hours, which is the remainder of his accrued time off.

Per Darby, Straubel is currently paid on an hourly basis and gets paid to attend council meetings (same as a Trustee). Simmons' position is salaried and currently he does not get paid to attend council meetings (considered part of his salary).

Darby stated that the Personnel Committee is recommending that Straubel's position become salaried effective 3/1/14, equivalent to what her hourly compensation is at that time. The committee also recommends compensating both Simmons and Straubel for council meeting attendance (same as a Trustee).

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mackey, to change Straubel's position to salaried effective 3/1/14, equivalent to her hourly compensation at that time and to compensate Straubel and Simmons per council meeting attended.

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

Additional Business

Darby stated that there are issues regarding repairs to the new fire engine. The insurance company recommends that the truck be repaired locally. A quote in the amount of \$13,784.00 has been obtained to repair the truck locally. Jim Doezema, village attorney, was contacted and suggested that the village submit a letter to the insurance company, requesting approval to have the truck repaired by the manufacturer, as the manufacturer's warranty will be void if repairs are completed at an unapproved repair facility. The manufacturer repair quote is for \$62,500.00.

Doezema stated that another option would be to have both parties agree on a mediator and accept the quote that the mediator recommends.

Doezema also stated that the village could take the matter to court for resolution.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk