

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 19, 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: Dean Gage Sr. – V.P., Boston/Saranac Historical Society (BSHS)  
Ken Gasper – Commissioner, Ionia County Road Commission  
Dale Miller – Sheriff, Ionia County

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

Public Comments

Ionia County Sheriff Dale Miller, addressed the council regarding the Village of Saranac's Agreement with Ionia County for Sheriff's Office Services. The current 5-year Agreement expires 2/28/15. Miller inquired about the procedure for renewing the contract. Darby stated that the process should begin with Miller meeting with the Public Safety Committee. Mackey, Public Safety Chair will contact Miller to schedule a meeting date.

Ken Gasper, on behalf of the Ionia County Road Commission, addressed the council regarding the condition of primary paved roads in Ionia County. Gasper provided a handout with PASER ratings and estimated costs, per road or road section. It is estimated that \$47,570,000 is needed, to repair Ionia County roads. In the August 2014 Primary Election, Ionia County residents will be voting on a 2 mill property tax increase for the next six years, for road improvements. The additional 2 mills will generate \$3.1 million annually. Per Dorothy Pohl, Road Commission Director, approximately \$39,000 of that \$3.1 million would be dispersed to the Village of Saranac, for village street repairs.

Dean Gage Sr., BSHS member, provided council members with an overview of the BSHS's proposed building project at 138 N Bridge Street. They have received a permit from the DEQ to construct a 20 feet by 30 feet storage building, adjacent to an existing storage building of the same size. The additional storage space is needed to house historical artifacts. Gage and the BSHS have also received a Zoning Permit from Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator. Gage is requesting (per the terms of the Lease Agreement between the Village and the BSHS), that the Village Council approve the plans for the building and also approve the contractor.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to approve BSHS's plans to construct a 20 feet by 30 feet storage building at 138 N Bridge Street, upon receipt of building permit from Ionia County. Further approved, is BSHS's choice of contractor, Dean R Gage, Jr., who has provided a Certificate of Insurance in the Village of Saranac's name.

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

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2014 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of May 19, 2014, in the amount of \$85,006.29.

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

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission met May 7<sup>th</sup>, but did not have any business to conduct. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Angela Stephens, Executive Director of the Saranac Housing Commission, requested in correspondence dated April 30, 2014, that the Saranac Village Council re-appoint Sharon York to her position on the Saranac Housing Commission Board as well as the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to re-appoint Sharon York as Tenant Commissioner on the Saranac Housing Board and as Director on the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board, effective 5/1/14 with five year terms expiring 5/1/19. All yeas.

#### Committee Reports

##### Public Safety

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

Per Darby, the damaged fire engine will depart Tuesday morning for Florida, to be repaired. The Village's insurance company has agreed to pay all expenses, except for a \$3,000 inspection fee. The insurance company has opted instead, to send a Florida adjuster to the repair facility, to inspect the work. Mike Zahnen (Spartan Sales Rep. from whom the engine was purchased), will be in Florida at that time and will be available to oversee the engine repairs. Zahnen suggested to Darby, that council consider sending Chief Simmons to Florida to inspect the repaired truck, to protect the interests of the Saranac Fire Department. Council concurred to fly Chief Simmons to Florida upon completion of the truck repairs (which are expected to take approximately 30 days), provided the cost is included in the transportation fee as previously agreed upon by the insurance company. Simmons will then drive the truck back to Saranac.

##### Budget – No Report.

##### Parks & Recreation

The committee met with Annamarie Bauer of the State Trails Section of the MDNR, to discuss the placement of signage, benches and trash receptacles along the new rail trail (within the village limits). Bauer gave consent and provided guidelines. The committee inquired whether funding assistance might be available for the trail connector from Scheid Park to the new rail trail. Bauer will inquire and get back to Straubel.

The committee also discussed with Bauer, the ongoing maintenance of the rail trail within the village limits. She inquired if the village would be willing to provide mowing services. DPW Simmons feels that this can be done without extra man hours or gas expense to the village. The DPW travels the streets to get the mower from one location to another. It would be just as easy to travel the rail trail and mow while doing so. Council concurred with DPW Simmons' rationale regarding mowing along the rail trail.

The committee also discussed possible locations for memorial benches and determined that the six benches in Scheid Park are in poor condition and could be replaced with memorial benches. The loop in the Nature Park could use an additional bench or two and with Annamarie's consent, benches can now be placed along the new rail trail.

Per Mackey, the new playground equipment has been installed at Scheid Park and she has received positive feedback.

Straubel updated council members on the acquisition status of the property at 113 N Bridge Street. DPW Simmons is seeking bids for removal of the structure, once the purchase is complete.

### Buildings & Grounds

Council reviewed a quote submitted by Durk's Works in the amount of \$1,730.00, which includes the purchase of a Dell computer and monitor for the Treasurer's Office and software to update the Treasurer's existing computer to prep it for use by the DPW Director. The quote includes approximately five hours of labor to move data and programs.

Council inquired as to when Straubel's current computer was purchased. The system was purchased in 2008 and its operating system is no longer supported.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to approve Durk's Works proposal to upgrade the Village Office computer systems, in the amount of \$1,730.00.

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

### Streets

Council reviewed a Work Authorization letter submitted by Fleis & VandenBrink and approved by DPW Simmons, for engineering services pertaining to 2014 street maintenance. Combining the proposed crack sealing project with Ionia County will potentially result in cost savings in both engineering fees and contractor prices.

Klutman inquired about the need for engineering services with this type of project. Straubel will inquire and report back.

DPW Simmons informed council that a resident on Center Street believes that the street sweeper (SaniSweep) threw a piece of asphalt at his house, resulting in a broken window. He is requesting that the village pay his \$100 insurance deductible for replacement of the window. Council discussed the request and concurred that sufficient evidence was lacking in order to establish cause. Due to this fact, council concurred that the village will deny the request to pay the homeowner's \$100 deductible.

Whorley was approached by a resident in his neighborhood, regarding water that is coming into his basement, through the driveway. Whorley stated that village street projects may have contributed to this problem, which could affect others in the same area. Council discussed various options to rectify the situation. Darby requested that the Streets Committee discuss options and come back to council with a proposal.

The committee discussed placement of additional memorial benches in the downtown area. Possible placements discussed were: in front of the library, in front of the ice cream shop and in front of the village office. Requests have been made for a bench near Germaine's and also on the southeast corner of Bridge and Main Streets. DPW Simmons will determine if there is adequate room to accommodate a bench in those locations. Darby also suggested a bench on the senior housing trail, which is located off Parsonage Street.

#### Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons informed council that he will have to purchase Sonar this year, to combat the duckweed problem at the sewer lagoons.

DPW Simmons requested that council consider purchasing a mowing unit, strictly for use on the sewer pond banks. The current procedure for mowing the banks is not safe, due to the angle the riding lawn mower is at. Simmons presented 3 different options for mowers that could be used safely, ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

Darby inquired about contracting the job out to someone who might have the right equipment. Klutman suggested contacting Meadow Valley Lawncare, as they are located in Saranac.

Council concurred to contract the service out, until such time that the committee can recommend a safe, viable purchase option.

#### Personnel

The committee is working on generating a 6 month review for Tim Simmons. They are in the process of gathering feedback at this time. They are also looking at the Village of Saranac Employee Handbook, to ensure that it is up to date.

#### Additional Business

"Girl's Night Out" is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014. Wendy Hesche (one of the event coordinators) has requested approval to block Bridge Street, from Speedway's driveway, down to Main Street between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The event will run from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Council agreed to the road closure, as requested.

The election of Village Officers will take place November 4, 2014 in concurrence with the State General Election. The election will be conducted by Boston Township, as per Michigan Election Law, which became effective March 27, 2013. Village candidates, who wish to seek office, must file an Affidavit of Identity and a Nonpartisan Nominating Petition by 4:00 p.m., July 22, 2014. Forms can be obtained at the Boston Township Hall, located at 30 N Center Street.

#### Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.