

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 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, Klutman, Mackey, Simmons, Whorley, DPW Simmons

Absent: None

Guests: Mary Lamphere – St. Anthony's Catholic Church

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

Public Comments – None.

Mary Lamphere, representing St. Anthony's Catholic Church which is located at 3936 Jackson Road, Saranac, addressed council about the possibility of placing a directional/informational sign on one of the corners at Bridge and Mill Street. She stated that there was a sign at this corner, many years ago. Lamphere has communicated with Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator on the topic (see email correspondence and Z.A. report), who advised her to bring the request to council. According to Vandersloot's report, only a government agency can place a non-commercial sign (2 square foot maximum) in a public right of way, with approval from the body that oversees roads. Lamphere pointed out that the church facility is used for elections for the Village of Saranac as well as the Township of Boston. The sign would aid voters in locating the proper site to vote. She also suggested that one sign post could hold multiple signs for the various churches in the community and Saranac Schools as well.

Straubel read from the November 9, 1998 council minutes, in which the following statement was made. "In fairness to all private sectors of the community, the council denied the request of Galilee Baptist Church to rehang a sign at the corner of Bridge and Mill Street. It was decided that signs within the public right of way should be for public entities only."

Mackey inquired if any council members would be willing to share their initial thoughts on the topic, as she would vote to uphold council's decision from 1998. She expressed concern over Lamphere expending time and energy gathering additional information, if council was not receptive to the idea.

Concerns were discussed regarding where to draw the line, should council receive requests to place signs in a public right of way from other non-public entities.

Darby requested that Lamphere gather more information regarding sign specifics and return at a later date.

Straubel will contact Vandersloot for a further understanding of how the process would work, should council approve St. Anthony's request. There was some confusion on whether the body that oversees roads is the Street Administrator for the Village (Tim Simmons), or the Ionia County Road Commission.

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

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

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of November 10, 2014, in the amount of \$65,702.20.

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

The Zoning Administrator's report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Deputy Charon's monthly report was reviewed.

Budget

Per Straubel, committees should be gathering information and setting meeting dates to discuss 2015/2016 budget requests.

Parks & Recreation

Per Mackey, the trail connecting Scheid Park to the Rail Trail is complete. Straubel has received the contractor's request for payment, but will withhold payment until certified payrolls have been submitted and DPW Simmons confirms that punch list items are complete.

Motion was made by Darby, supported by Mackey, to approve payment in the amount of \$24,600.00 to TJM Services for the Scheid Park Sidewalk Extension Project, upon submittal of certified payrolls and confirmation from DPW Simmons that punch list items are complete and satisfactory.

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

Per Straubel, larger signs have been placed at 113 N. Bridge Street, designating the cement pad area as "Trail User Parking."

Buildings & Grounds

The Saranac Community Association has requested use of either the conference room at 27 N. Bridge Street (Village Office) or 10 N. Bridge Street (Fire Department) for their monthly meetings. Fire Chief Simmons stated that they could use the Fire Department training room. Council concurred that this was the best scenario.

Streets

Klutman suggested that a committee meeting be tentatively scheduled for 11/18/14 at 7:00 p.m. He will contact Todd Richter, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer to confirm his availability.

Simmons inquired about renting a front end loader from Contract Dewatering for moving snow, in an effort to save wear and tear on village equipment that is not intended to move that much weight.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to rent a front end loader from Contract Dewatering for snow moving purposes, at the quoted amount of \$75 per hour, pending clarification on specific details such as equipment repairs/maintenance, gas, insurance and whether or not a minimum usage applies.

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

Water & Sewer – No report.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee received four dental insurance options (including renewal of the current plan with Ameritas) for review and consideration. The committee is recommending Option 2 with Alwayscare, as presented on the Dental Plan Analysis spreadsheet. Per Darby, the benefits are slightly better than the current plan and the premium is lower than the Ameritas renewal rates.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to approve Option 2 with Alwayscare as presented on the Dental Plan Analysis spreadsheet, effective January 1, 2015.

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

Additional Business

Bob Dutton, Boston Township Supervisor, inquired of Darby about the timing of the annual Fire Board Meeting. Straubel will review the terms of the new contract in regard to the timing of budget submittal and meeting requirements.

DPW Simmons inquired about when council would like to see Christmas lights put up on village street light poles. Council concurred that Simmons put them up at his discretion, as the DPW schedule permits.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk