

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 8, 2016

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, Trustees – Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley, DPW Simmons  
Absent: Smith, Straubel  
Guests: John VanTholen

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

Public Comments – None.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mulnix, to appoint Jason Ricket to the Office of Village Trustee, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mackey, term to expire November 2018.

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

Jason Ricket took the Oath of Office for the position of Village Trustee, term to expire November 2018.

John VanTholen of Green Valley Recycling & Disposal Service Inc. thanked council members for the opportunity and privilege of serving the Village of Saranac for over 12 years now, as their contracted residential waste hauler. VanTholen provided a handout of Green Valley's Mission Statement, as well as their history with the Village of Saranac and facts regarding recycling.

VanTholen respectfully requested that council accept the two-year extension option offered in the current contract, which would extend the contract through December 31, 2018 at current rates.

VanTholen answered various questions from council members.

Darby inquired if council members had enough information to accept the contract extension now, or if they preferred to table the topic for further review. The contract allows the Village 30 days to respond to VanTholen's request for extension.

Klutman suggested that the Streets Committee meet to review the topic further and present their recommendation to accept the contract extension or go out for bid, at the September 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Mulnix voiced his support of Klutman's suggestion.

Hearing no other suggestions or motions, Darby turned the topic over to the Streets Committee for further review and recommendation to council.

Council reviewed proposed Ordinance No. 100 to amend Article III, Chapter 22 – Streets, Sidewalks & Other Public Places to Permit Display of Retail Sale Items on Sidewalks under Certain Conditions.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed new language of Ordinance No. 100, Sec. 22-61, final sentence, regarding the height restriction of suspended items.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to adopt Ordinance No. 100 to amend Article III, Chapter 22 – Street, Sidewalks & Other Public Places to Permit Display of Retail Sale Items on Sidewalks under Certain Conditions, with the following changes; strike the last sentence of Sec. 22-61 and change the language of the preceding sentence as follows: "Products for sale shall not be placed on the sidewalk, or suspended above it, further than 4 feet out from the building front wall and adequate space for pedestrians to walk past must be maintained."

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

Council reviewed language changes/additions to the Fire Department's Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) as proposed by Jim Doezenia, Village Attorney.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to revise the language of Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline Number 101.01, General Summary (see attached), as proposed by Jim Doezenia, Village Attorney. All yeas.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2016 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to approve the Treasurer's Report of July 31, 2016. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of August 8, 2016, in the amount of \$77,110.90.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission met August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Klutman reported that commission members reviewed Jeanne Vandersloot's proposed revisions (map overlays) to the Village of Saranac Zoning Map. Vandersloot will consult with Village Attorney Jim Doezenia, regarding adoption of the map amendments.

Klutman also reported that the Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing at their October 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, to discuss adding a "Fines Schedule" to the Zoning Ordinance Violation Section. After the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission will submit their recommendation to the Village Council for consideration.

Klutman and Ricket reported on the Planning Commission's discussion of establishing a zoning district for current properties that are considered Governmental, such as schools, village office, fire department, etc. Currently, they are zoned MDR (Medium Density Residential) or CBD (Central Business District). Vandersloot will research the topic.

#### Committee Reports

##### Public Safety

Darby reported that both Boston and Keene Township's Fire Millage proposals were successful in the August Primary Election.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

Darby reported that the Friends of the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trail (Friends Group) is sponsoring a 5k/10k half marathon “glow run” on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. The run, which will begin in Saranac, is projected to draw 150 – 200 participants. A condition of the Friends Group using the Rail Trail, is that the trail is left in better condition than what they found it. If all goes well, this could be an annual event for the Village of Saranac.

Darby reminded council members that the Friends Group will be holding their September 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting at the Saranac Village Office at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Village Council's 7:00 p.m. monthly meeting. Village Council members are encouraged to attend the Friends Group meeting and vice versa.

Buildings & Grounds

Council discussed the issue of paint peeling on the inside walls of the Village Office (at the bottom of the steps, west entrance). Per Whorley, variance in temperature is causing moisture in the door frame. The Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet to discuss repair options.

Streets

Klutman reported that the Streets Committee met and confirmed their recommendation to forego chip & seal of village streets this budget year. The rationale for this being monetary commitments to future projects.

Per Darby, the bridge deck on the north bridge over the Grand River is scheduled to be replaced in the 2017/2018 budget year. The project will be funded in part with a grant from the MDOT Local Bridge Program. Additionally, it is anticipated that Bridge Street will be resurfaced in the 2018/2019 budget year, funded in part through the MDOT Rural Task Force. It is unclear at this time however, how much funding will be available for this project.

Per Klutman, there is an issue of water pooling on the sidewalk on Main Street, causing water to run into his basement. DPW Simmons will investigate the issue.

Water & Sewer

The Water & Sewer Committee met and reviewed current operations. They discussed scheduling and obtaining bids for this year's budget items, specifically water tower maintenance items as recommended by Dixon Engineering. The committee also discussed potential water/sewer projects for the 2017/2018 budget year.

DPW Simmons provided printouts of tri-annual water test results and brought to council's attention the water hardness result, which is 305 mg/L. According to the DEQ, water hardness over 250 may be objectionable. At this level, the DEQ could step in and require the Village to remove iron from their water, which would be very costly. Simmons reported however, that he reviewed water hardness test results for the previous three cycles (back to 2007), and they were 309, 304 and 302.

DPW Simmons reported on lead and copper testing of 10 individual homes in the Village, which is currently in process. Simmons will report further at the September council meeting.

### Personnel

Darby recapped a handout of Priority Health's December 1, 2016 rate adjustment for the Village's health insurance plan. The handout also provided an alternate plan for council's consideration. The current plan at the new rate, would result in an approximate annual increase of \$148.00, whereas the alternate plan would result in an annual decrease of approximately \$788.00. The deductibles and prescription drug costs of the alternate plan would increase quite significantly. The Personnel Committee recommends maintaining the current plan.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to renew the current health insurance plan with Priority Health, effective December 1, 2016.

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

Per Darby, Caleb Merrifield put in his two-week notice on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Upon learning of the open DPW/Firefighter position, three Saranac Fire Department members submitted applications. One of the applicants was Tony Koster, who preceded Caleb in the position. The Personnel Committee interviewed all three applicants and is recommending that the Village re-hire Tony Koster, as he is already trained in the position. The committee also recommends that Koster be re-hired at the hourly rate of \$17.51 per hour, which was his rate of pay when he left the position less than one year ago.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Rickett, to re-hire Tony Koster effective August 9, 2016, to the open DPW/Firefighter position, at the rate of \$17.51 per hour.

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

### Additional Business

Darby reported that she and Chief Simmons met with Life EMS Ambulance regarding response times. They were assured that their concerns would be addressed.

Klutman inquired as to when the service agreement with Life expires and whether there are any other EMS providers that the Village could contract with, should issues not be adequately resolved with Life. Mulnix volunteered to research the topic.

Darby informed council members of a request to establish a link on the Village website, from Wheels For Wishes, a non-profit organization which is a car donation and recycling program. Council members agreed to refer them to the Saranac Community Association.

DPW Simmons inquired about allowing washer toss tournament participants to park on Village property at the WWTF during Bridgefest. Council members agreed to allow this.

Darby reviewed current committee appointments. Rickett was appointed to the Public Safety Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee. All other appointments remain status quo.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Becky Straubel, Deputy Clerk