

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 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, Smith, Straubel, trustees – Doll, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, DPW Simmons

Absent: Klutman

Guests: Amanda Fox, Dale Hice, Deputy Jack Pieters, Kevin Beutler, Tony Koster, Ryan Hesche, Gerald Smith, Logan Race

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

Allison Blanchard-Willis, Chairperson of the Saranac Parent-Alumni Council (PAC) advised Straubel through email on Monday 6/13 at 3:34 p.m., that she would not be in attendance this evening. Blanchard-Willis was #4 on the Regular Agenda.

Ryan Hesche, Saranac Community Association (SCA) President, was in attendance on behalf of the SCA membership. He was placed on the Agenda as requested, to allow for comment at length if need be, on Blanchard-Willis's topic/request. In light of her absence, he instead informed council that "Girls Night Out" is scheduled for September 22nd this year and inquired if council had any questions about the event. He stated that the details (time and street closures) are to remain the same as last year.

Tony Koster, Saranac Community Volunteer Fire Department (SCVFD) member, was in attendance on behalf of the SCVFD membership. He stated that they are looking for clarification on granting public use of the fire station.

Council members were provided with a handout from the Fire Department's Standard Operating Guide (SOG). The "Fire Chief Job Description" section of the SOG states that the Fire Chief, "under the general authority of the fire board, plans, organizes, directs and administers all operations of the fire department including.....and structures."

In anticipation of this topic, Straubel contacted Village Attorney Jim Doezeema, for direction. Per Doezeema, the village has the option of saying no public use of municipal buildings, or "yes to all uses that are similar and can't pick and choose depending on the content of the message or the identity of the user."

A question was raised as to why the Village Council would be involved in this decision, if the Fire Department's SOG gives the Fire Chief (under the authority of the Fire Board) authority to make decisions regarding structures.

Straubel stated that the fire station is a Village owned building, so the Village Council is the authority in this situation. Additionally, even if the Fire Chief had final authority over the use of the fire station, he still must adhere to legal guidelines.

Council members voiced various concerns over allowing public use of the fire station, including but not limited to, safety issues, fire equipment and files protected by HIPPA.

Simmons read a letter she wrote to council, concerning her recent experience with a group who has been meeting at the village office and has asked to meet at the fire station. Simmons was a member of the group until recently, as described in her letter.

Motion was made by Mulnix, to allow groups to meet at the fire station, provided there is a member of the fire department in attendance at the meeting and the group is determined to be non-political and non-discriminatory.

Motion was made by Mulnix, to allow groups to meet at the village office, provided there is a member of the council in attendance at the meeting and the group is determined to be non-political and non-discriminatory.

Mulnix withdrew his two motions and suggested that the topic be tabled to allow for additional research and that no public meetings in municipal buildings be allowed until such time that a motion is passed.

Darby stated that she is not in favor of tabling the topic.

A recommendation was made to allow only 501c3 non-profit organizations to use Village owned buildings.

Further discussions ensued between council members and guests.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to discontinue public use of the fire station, except for meetings/events held by fire department members. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to allow only 501c3 non-profit organizations to meet at the village office, provided they are non-political and non-discriminatory in nature and a Village Council member is in attendance at the meeting.

Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Mulnix, Simmons, Darby; nays – Whorley; absent – Klutman.

Public Comments

Kevin Beutler introduced himself as one of three candidates for Ionia County Drain Commissioner. He distributed brochures to the council and spoke briefly about his qualifications.

Straubel reported that nine bids were received for the 1985 Dodge pickup truck that the Village advertised for sale. The highest bid received was in the amount of \$3,500.00.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the \$3,500.00 bid received from Kenneth Mitchell for the 1985 Dodge pickup truck owned by the Village of Saranac.

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

Darby informed council members that the 2016 property tax millage that was approved at the February 15, 2016 council meeting/public hearing requires adjustment, due to the Headlee Rollback. The millage reduction fraction (column 6 on form L-4029) is .9916 (less than 1), which permanently reduces the number of Operating Mills that the Village can assess, from 10.4321 (column 5), to 10.3444 (column 7). Due to the fact that council voted to assess 3 Street Mills and the maximum allowed is 4.5515 (column 7, row 2), the .0877 difference between 10.4321 and 10.3444 (Operating Mills approved versus Operating Mills allowed), can be added to approved Street Mills, increasing them to 3.0877.

This action would not change the total amount of mills approved by council on 2/15/16, which was 10.4321. It would decrease Operating Mills to 10.3444 and increase Street Mills to 3.0877 for a total of 13.4321 Mills, as previously approved by council.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Whorley, to adjust 2016 property tax millage to be levied, as follows: Operating Mills from 10.4321 to 10.3444 and Street Mills from 3.0000 to 3.0877, for a total of 13.4321 Mills, as submitted to the Ionia County Equalization Department on Form L-4029.

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

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to re-appoint Jason Ricket to the Saranac Planning Commission with a 3 year term expiring the 2nd Monday of June, 2019. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2016 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Accounts Payable of June 13, 2016, in the amount of \$82,549.76.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission plans to meet on August 3, 2016.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Deputy Pieters provided council members with his report for the month of May and inquired if council had any questions. Pieters stated that he will soon be spending some time patrolling the Village via pedal bike.

Chief Simmons stated that he is concerned about recent Life EMS Ambulance response times, which he believes is due to them being short-staffed.

Darby requested a copy of the Village's contract with Life EMS Ambulance and a report of recent response times. She will contact the Director of Life in Ionia and schedule a meeting to address the topic.

Darby volunteered to assume the position of Public Safety Committee Chair, due to Mackey's resignation from council in May.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix volunteered to assume the position of Parks & Recreation Committee Chair, due to Mackey's resignation from council in May.

Mulnix inquired if there was any new information on the Trailhead grant. Straubel stated that she had submitted additional deed information to the DNR as requested, and that it is still under review.

Buildings & Grounds

Two comparable bids were received to replace the evaporator coils in the central air systems (2) at the Village Office.

Council directed DPW Simmons to inquire if O'Mara would reduce their bid to meet that of the second bidder. The Village recently signed a separate maintenance agreement with O'Mara leading council to advise Simmons to work with them.

Streets

Per DPW Simmons, portions of 4 village streets are scheduled for crack/seal soon.

Water & Sewer

Council members received a copy of the Village of Saranac Water System Reliability Study as well as the Water System Capital Improvements Plan, both of which were recently completed by Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering. The documents were submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, as required.

DPW Simmons suggested that council consider testing the 3 school buildings for lead content, even though it is not currently required.

Council concurred that DPW Simmons should approach Superintendent Maury Geiger regarding lead testing.

Personnel – No report.

Additional Business

Darby shared information she received from WOW, regarding rate increases effective July 1st.

Council received an invitation to an Economic Development Partnership Event presented by the Ionia County Economic Alliance (ICEA) and hosted by Don Johnson, Manufacturing Manager of ADAC in Saranac. The event will be held at ADAC, 6138 Riverside Drive, Saranac.

The ICEA sent a letter of request for financial investment from the Village of Saranac, in the amount of \$550.00, which is the amount invested in 2015. Council members agreed to contribute \$550 again this year, as it has been budgeted for.

Straubel shared with council members, a hand drawn map of the Riverwalk and the Nature Park that shows the location of memorial benches and tree posts. Pat Raimer is the illustrator of the map and is also responsible for making and placing the tree posts. Several council members requested a copy of the map and wished to thank Pat for her time and investment in the community.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk