

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 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, Klutman, Mackey, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, DPW Simmons

Absent: None

Guests: David Bollone, Kyle Butler, Emily Mulnix, Rick Stout

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

Public Comments

Dave Bollone, representing the Saranac Youth Baseball League, provided council members with handouts showing the League's proposed location for a batting cage at Scheid Park. He also handed out flyers for an opening day movie event at Scheid Park on April 30th. Sandlot will be shown that day. It will be the first movie shown on the new screen purchased by the Saranac Community Association.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons to allow the Saranac Youth Baseball League to install a batting cage at Scheid Park, as requested. All yeas.

Ballone inquired if the Village would consider installing a flagpole at Scheid Park, so baseball players and spectators could begin game days with the National Anthem. Darby inquired about location and Ballone suggested between the minor and the major fields, for best visibility. Darby pointed out that if they intend to leave the flag flying at all times, it would have to be lighted. DPW Simmons suggested a location near the concession stand, as there is electricity there.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Klutman, to purchase a flagpole for installation at Scheid Park.

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

Kyle Butler, Ionia County Assistant Prosecutor, introduced himself to council. He inquired whether there were any questions for him regarding current issues. Darby inquired about his knowledge of the traffic stop incident that council discussed at February's meeting. A discussion ensued, as Butler was aware of the incident, however he did not handle the case and did not have full knowledge of the details.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Doll, to appoint Brandon Dean Mulnix to the Office of Village Trustee, to fill the current vacancy, until November 2016. All yeas.

Brandon Dean Mulnix took the Oath of Office for the position of Village Trustee, term to expire November 2016.

Motion was made by Simmons at 7:20 p.m., supported by Mackey, to open the Public Hearing to receive public input and comment on a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application and Resolution for funding assistance to develop a Trailhead and make park improvements at the Boat Launch Park. All yeas.

Rick Stout, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer for the Boat Launch Park Improvements Project, was in attendance to present the project scope and answer questions from council and/or public regarding the project and the grant application process.

Per Stout, the most recent draft of the project includes, but is not limited to, a parking lot, a combined restroom/pavilion building, a fishing over-look, and a paved path under the bridge connecting to the Riverwalk Park trail. The Engineer's Estimate for the project is \$259,500. The Village is seeking a grant in the amount of \$192,000 (74%) and has pledged a Village match of \$67,500 (26%).

No public input or comments were received. Stout addressed questions from council.

Darby inquired if the project included any signage. Per Stout, signage is not shown as a separate line item on the Engineer's Estimate, but within the cost of other line items.

Darby inquired if the Village would be required to pay prevailing wage on the project. Per Stout, that will not be a requirement of this project.

Darby inquired if any support letters had been received. Straubel reported that 4 letters have been received to date and more are expected before the grant application deadline of 4/1/16.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Simmons, to close the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Mulnix, to adopt the Resolution of Support and Authorization for Submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application, as presented.

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

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2016 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Mackey, to approve the Treasurer's Report of February 29, 2016. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of March 14, 2016, in the amount of \$134,268.10.

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

Council reviewed the financial results for fiscal year ending 2/29/16. Straubel provided a brief narrative.

Council reviewed the proposed budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/29/16.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/29/16, as presented.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Mackey reported that she had not yet received a Law Enforcement Report for February 2016.

Council discussed Boston Township's upcoming request for renewal of the Fire Millage that supports capital outlay purchases for the Saranac Community Volunteer Fire Department. Darby requested that council members attend Boston Township's next Regular Board Meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday April 13, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Boston Township Hall.

Budget – No report.

Parks & Recreation

DPW Simmons was approached with a request to plant a tree in Scheid Park, in memory of an individual who recently passed away. Mackey reminded council members that they previously denied a similar request. DPW Simmons will suggest to the family, possibly purchasing the flag pole for Scheid Park instead of planting a tree.

Council discussed tree replacement along the Riverwalk where ash trees have died due to disease. Mackey suggested contacting a local college to inquire if a forestry student might be interested in researching, advising and/or planting new trees as part of an internship. Mulnix recommended contacting the Ionia Conservation District for direction.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets

Per DPW Simmons, the garland used to wrap Village light poles during the Christmas season, needs to be replaced. Straubel ordered one section of 100' garland prior to Christmas 2015 and according to DPW Simmons it worked well. He would like council's approval to purchase enough garland to wrap all 42 light poles. Straubel estimates the purchase will not exceed \$1,200. Council approved the purchase as a normal operating budget item.

Water & Sewer

Per Straubel, council members have discussed the topic of increasing water and sewer rates, at the last two council meetings. Straubel recently completed an analysis of water and sewer rates and provided council with her findings. The reports show the financial effect of proposed rate increases on water and sewer customers, as well as the effect on water and sewer fund balances. Straubel's handout proposes a water rate increase of 3% and a sewer rate increase of 10% on April 1, 2016, April 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018.

Per Straubel, rates have not been increased since January 2008. A complete rate study will be performed in late 2018, as part of the SAW project. Straubel is suggesting gradual rate increases until that time, as opposed to a potential large increase in 2018.

Council members expressed their concern over raising rates, as well as their concern over the potential for costly upcoming projects, which is very realistic and must be considered when establishing rates.

Mackey inquired whether Straubel had sought input from other communities regarding current water and sewer rates.

Per Straubel, a survey was recently compiled by another community. She will email results to council members, but cautioned not to rely entirely on comparison between communities. Due to the many variable components of water and sewer systems and multitude of rate structures, comparison with other communities is not always relative.

Mackey inquired about holding a Public Hearing regarding rate increases. Per Straubel, water and sewer rates are established by Resolution of the Village Council and are required to be published within 30 days of adoption. A Public Hearing is not required.

Klutman inquired about the possibility of holding a Q and A meeting regarding rate increases.

Darby suggested establishing rate increases (if any) on an annual basis, as a normal part of the budget process, as opposed to 3 years at a time as proposed by Straubel.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to pass a Resolution to increase water rates by 3% and sewer rates by 10%, effective April 1, 2016 (billed June 30, 2016).

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

Personnel – No report.

Additional Business

Darby reviewed the current Committee Appointments and inquired if council members are content with the committees they serve on. It was concluded that no changes will be made other than adding Mulnix to Parks and Recreation and Public Safety or Personnel.

DPW Simmons received three bids with comparable specifications, for a new DPW vehicle. The low bid was received from Berger Chevrolet Inc. in Grand Rapids, in the amount of \$32,156. Per Straubel, \$32,500 was budgeted for the vehicle in the 2016/2017 fiscal year.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mackey, to accept the bid from Berger Chevrolet Inc. in the amount of \$32,156 for a 2016 Chevrolet 2500 Silverado Regular Cab 4WD Pickup, with a Western Plow.

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

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk