

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 9, 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 – Klutman, Mackey, Mulnix, Whorley, DPW Simmons

Absent: Doll, Simmons

Guests: Kerry Fountain, Jason Ricket, Lisa Sayers, Michele Westbrook

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

Public Comments

Kerry Fountain, Saranac Library Director, and Michele Westbrook, library board member, were in attendance to inform council of the Ionia County Library Millage, which will be voted on in the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election. Fountain provided council members with an informational pamphlet regarding the millage request (1.2339 mills). The millage assists in funding seven (7) libraries in Ionia County. The pamphlet states; "without the millage, cuts would have to be made...no Ionia County library would be open more than three days per week...some libraries would close their doors completely."

Lisa Sayers was in attendance to voice her disappointment and frustration regarding the handling of her nuisance complaint. Sayers chose to leave the meeting after addressing council, thereby not providing them an opportunity to comment.

Council considered various options provided by Village Attorney Jim Doezeema, for addressing nuisance complaints such as Sayers'.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to continue to rely upon the Ionia County Health Department to enforce and implement the policies of the Michigan Public Health Code within the Village of Saranac. All yeas.

Jason Ricket, member of the Saranac Community Volunteer Fire Department, was in attendance to present the department's proposal to purchase a live fire training container. The container provides a realistic and repeatable live fire training environment for firefighters. Ricket provided handouts with pictures and information identifying the need, benefits, risks and costs of having a live fire training container. Ricket was pleased to report that there would be no cost to the Village, as all costs have been absolved by donations and anonymous gifts to the Fire Department. According to Ricket, the only hurdle to moving forward, is placement of the container. He inquired about placing it near the training tower, which is located on Village owned park property near the boat launch.

Council asked questions of Ricket and discussed potential items that would need to be researched, such as; permits (state and village), liability insurance and the open burning ordinance. Additionally, Straubel informed council that due to the fact that the training tower (and potentially the container) is located on park property, the MDNR would have to be consulted. It's possible that a section of the park property could be excluded from the property description. Council supports the Fire Department's purchase of the container and their reasons behind it, but is concerned that it could jeopardize MDNR grant opportunities.

Straubel will research the potential of excluding a portion of the park property and Ricket will look into other items mentioned.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Treasurer's Report of April 30, 2016. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Accounts Payable of May 9, 2016, in the amount of \$61,784.46.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet. However, Mark Talcott, PC Chair requested a temporary leave from serving on the commission. He recommended to council that Jason Ricket be appointed as Chair, in his absence.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to accept Mark Talcott's request of a temporary leave as Planning Commission Chair, as well as his recommendation that the Planning Commission appoint Jason Ricket as PC Chair in his absence. All yeas.

### Committee Reports

#### Public Safety

Council reviewed the April Law Enforcement report submitted by Deputy Pieters. In his report, Pieters indicated that if council were entertaining the idea of a local fireworks ordinance, now would be a good time to discuss it. Straubel has obtained a few sample ordinances and is waiting on direction from Village Attorney, Jim Doezema.

Mackey inquired of Straubel if there had been any repercussions from repealing the UTC. Straubel stated that Doezema spoke with Dale Miller, Ionia County Sheriff, who indicated that there would be no issues with writing citations under the Michigan Vehicle Code.

Straubel further reported that Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, references the UTC when writing violation letters for driving over sidewalks. Vandersloot suggested that the Village consider amending the "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places" Ordinance to include a section regarding driving over sidewalks. Straubel has contacted Doezema regarding this topic.

Budget – No report.

#### Parks & Recreation

DPW Simmons reported that the Ionia Conservation District does not have an arborist on staff. However, Simmons has had a conversation with a tree specialist who is willing to inspect sickly trees and provide advice for future plantings.

Straubel inquired if council was agreeable to placing a portable restroom on the trailhead property, as was done last year. Having a restroom there was received very well by trail users and depot event goers. The cost is \$145 every four weeks for a handicap unit. Straubel suggested the restroom be placed June through October.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to place a portable restroom on the trailhead property, June through October. All yeas.

Straubel reported that the MDNR is requiring additional information, in order for the Village's grant application to be considered complete. There are two parcels of land that comprise the Boat Launch Park. The south parcel was purchased by the Village with an MDNR Acquisition Grant in 2014, so the deed to that piece is readily available. It appears however, from initial research Straubel has done, that the north parcel has been acquired in pieces, possibly since the Village was incorporated in 1869. Straubel will attempt to piece it together from Village documents, but may have to rely on a title search.

DPW Simmons reported that he received a complaint regarding a person or persons who are allowing their dogs to defecate on Village property west of Irv Taylor parking lot, and are not cleaning up after them.

Council discussed possible remedies to this situation. Due to the fact that the Village does not have an Animal Control Ordinance, Ionia County's Animal Control Ordinance applies within the Village. Per Straubel, there is a section in the county ordinance on defecation.

#### Buildings & Grounds

Per Whorley, the committee had an impromptu meeting regarding the sinking driveway pad (bay one) at the fire department. The pad was replaced soon after the committee was made aware of its condition.

Streets – No report.

Water & Sewer – No report.

#### Personnel

Darby stated that the Personnel Committee received a request for wage review for the Treasurer's position. The committee compared wages reported in Michigan Municipal League's Salary Survey. The information was inconclusive, as some of the comparisons showed that the Treasurer's position is currently underpaid, while others showed that it is comparable. The committee's main struggle is that the Village does not currently have a performance review system in place. Per Darby, the committee would like to enlist Straubel and DPW Simmons, to assist in creating a system that would adequately review employee's performance. Since the budget has already been passed and research was inconclusive, the committee is not recommending a wage adjustment to the Treasurer's position at this time.

Darby recommended that Straubel provide the Personnel Committee with a weekly report, as was recently requested of DPW Simmons. This will assist the committee in becoming more aware of duties performed and will provide a basis for performance reviews.

The Personnel Committee also received a request from the DPW Director, for additional vacation time.

After consideration of the request and review of the current policy, the committee is recommending that the current vacation schedule apply to hourly employees only and that a new schedule be implemented for salaried employees.

Council members discussed the committee's recommendation for salaried employees and suggestions for modification were heard.

Discussion was also held on the current policy for sick and personal days.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Mackey, to support the Personnel Committee's recommendation to increase vacation days for salaried employees as follows: 5 days after 1 year of completed service, 10 days after 2 – 4 years, 15 days after 5 – 10 years, 20 days after 11 – 15 years and 25 days after 16 or more years of completed service.

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

#### Additional Business

Straubel requested an invoice from Berger Chevrolet for the 2016 Chevy Silverado that is due to be delivered before June's council meeting. Berger has requested payment upon delivery of the vehicle, therefore Straubel is requesting payment approval tonight.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mulnix, to approve payment to Berger Chevrolet for a 2016 Chevrolet 2500 Silverado 4wd with plow, in the amount of \$32,156.00, as budgeted for.

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

Mackey informed council members that tonight will be her last council meeting. She is resigning from her position as Trustee, due to the fact that she is moving out of the Village. Council members thanked her for her years of service to the Village.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk