

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 12, 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, Ricket, Simmons, DPW Simmons

Absent: Klutman, Whorley

Guests: John VanTholen, Brenda VanTholen, Robert Brown, Kaitlyn Brown, Sam Soyka, Phillip Hughes, George Raimer

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

Public Comments

Phillip Hughes introduced himself as a Saranac Village resident and inquired about enforcement of the ordinance prohibiting refuse/debris in residential areas. There are two properties near his residence that he believes to be in violation of the ordinance. Per Darby, Village Zoning Administrator Jeanne Vandersloot, is currently working toward compliance with one of the properties. Straubel will contact Vandersloot regarding the other property in question.

Hughes voiced his concern regarding the safety of children walking to school, specifically at the intersections of Mill and Pleasant and Church and Pleasant. He suggested the possibility of a crossing guard and/or police officer patrol. Hughes is also concerned about residents not clearing their sidewalks in the winter. Students that walk to school are forced to walk in the street, which adds to the safety concern.

John VanTholen of Green Valley Disposal Service Inc. was in attendance to answer any additional questions that council members might have regarding his request that the Village extend the Residential Refuse Service Contract with his company, through December 31, 2018. The topic of extension was tabled at last month's council meeting, in order to provide the Streets Committee adequate time to research and discuss options and present a recommendation to council.

Darby informed VanTholen and council members that the Streets Committee met and are recommending that the Village extend the contract with Green Valley Disposal Service Inc. through December 31, 2018, as is allowed per terms of the Contract.

VanTholen agreed to maintain contract prices through December 31, 2017. During the second year of the extension, prices would be subject to increase, per terms of the original contract.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to extend the Village Contract with Green Valley Disposal Service Inc. through December 31, 2018, with rates remaining the same through December 31, 2017 and subject to increase per original contract terms in year two of the extension (see copy of Agreement Amendment attached).

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

Robert Brown, Chairperson for Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails, provided a slideshow presentation on the specifics of various Rail Trail sections and the positive effects of the trail on communities. Brown requested that the Village Council consider adopting a Resolution supporting the "Walkable Community Philosophy" of the Friends Group.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to adopt a Resolution Supporting the Friends of the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails Walkable Community Philosophy (see copy of Resolution attached).

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

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Ricket, to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2016 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of September 12, 2016, in the amount of \$62,288.57.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report was reviewed.

The Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing in conjunction with their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Per Jason Ricket, Planning Commission Acting Chairperson, the purpose of the hearing is to hear and accept public comments on adding proposed fine ranges to the Zoning Ordinance Violation Section. Upon conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission will send its recommendation for Zoning Ordinance amendments to the Village Council for approval, in the form of a proposed ordinance.

Council members reviewed Dixon Engineering's proposed contract in the amount of \$3,000.00, for services related to the water tower improvements project. Dixon's services include, but are not limited to, preparation of specifications and contract documents and reviewing of bids received. The project has a budget amount of \$72,000.00, per recommendations from Dixon Engineering (see attached).

Darby requested an explanation for Recommendation #5 (install a painter's rigging rail outside the existing roof handrail at an estimated cost of \$5,000). DPW Simmons will follow up with Dixon Engineering.

Council discussed Dixon's scope of services and questioned whether Dixon would provide such services as job supervision, periodic review of the job, and final review and approval of contractor's work.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Ricket, to accept Dixon Engineering's contract proposal in the amount of \$3,000.00, subject to clarification and further review of the project recommendations and scope of services to be provided by Dixon, as noted above.

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

Council members reviewed a request from Consumers Energy Company for an Easement on Village owned park property, as well as Straubel's notes regarding the same.

Discussion was held regarding Consumers Energy's potential disruption of or changes to the landscape of the park property. Darby inquired if the Village had a responsibility to contact the DNR regarding the proposed Easement, due to its proximity to a wetland. Straubel will consult with Village Attorney Jim Doezeema, to determine whether additional language needs to be added and/or the DNR contacted.

Whereas, Consumers Energy having requested that the Village of Saranac grant an Easement to permit the installation/maintenance of electrical facilities on Village owned property; and the Village Council having considered the request and reviewed the Easement, a copy of which shall be attached to the minutes, motion was made by Doll, supported by Ricket, that the Village Council approve the Easement and the Village Treasurer be authorized to execute the Easement, with the condition that the Indemnity language is revised to the Village Attorney's satisfaction and DNR/wetland concerns are resolved.

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

### Committee Reports

#### Public Safety

Darby requested that Straubel contact Deputy Pieters regarding monthly law enforcement reports for July and August.

Darby requested that DPW Simmons contact Deputy Pieters about additional patrol of Church, Mill and Pleasant Streets in response to safety concerns of students walking to/from school.

Mulnix inquired if Life EMS response times have improved since Simmons and Darby met with the Director. Ricket replied that response times, along with other topics, still need to be addressed.

Budget – No report.

#### Parks & Recreation

Council members concurred to keep the portable restroom in place at the trailhead property until October 28<sup>th</sup>.

DPW Simmons reported that an area of asphalt at Scheid Park is required to be patched, prior to crack filling the entire parking lot. Simmons has received an estimate from Great Lakes Paving for the patch work and from Asphalt Restoration for crack filling.

Straubel suggested that the Parks Committee consider "reserved" signage for Scheid Park pavilions to avoid conflicts between individuals with paid reservations and those without.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

#### Streets

The Streets Committee met to discuss extension of the Green Valley Disposal Service contract, as discussed earlier tonight.

Mulnix inquired about the bridge improvements project. Per Darby, the project is expected to take place in the summer of 2017. The bridge improvements project will not be done in conjunction with the Bridge Street project and DPW Simmons anticipates that one lane of the bridge will remain open during the project.

Straubel reported that Ryan Hesche, President of the Saranac Community Association, informed her that they intend to move Bridgefest activities off of Bridge Street next year. Per Darby, several options for relocation are being considered.

#### Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported on DEQ required tri-annual lead and copper testing of residential homes within the Village.

Council members discussed options available to homeowners for water testing. Darby requested that the Water & Sewer Committee look into the possibility of having test kits available at the Village office for homeowner's convenience.

DPW Simmons informed council members about a letter recently received from the DEQ. The letter was to notify the Village that the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) must be revised by September 30<sup>th</sup> to include copper test results from 2013. The CCR must be redistributed to Village water customers by this date as well. Simmons and Straubel are researching the most cost and time effective method in which to redistribute the CCR.

DPW Simmons is looking into the cost of a variable frequency drive for Village wells, which would decrease the cost of the upcoming water tower improvements project, as well as future water tower projects.

#### Personnel


Per Darby, Tony Koster has settled nicely into the DPW/Firefighter position which was vacated by Caleb Merrifield. Chief Simmons reported that Koster caught up required Fire Department reports within a few days of being back on the job.

Public Comments – None.

#### Additional Business

Straubel reported that Independent Bank inquired about a community service project in the Village. The bank is closed on Columbus Day, October 10<sup>th</sup> and bank employees would like to assist with a project that will benefit the Saranac community. Council members discussed various options. Darby suggested they might assist SCA members with downtown Halloween decorations. She will look into this option further.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk