

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 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, Simmons, Whorley
Absent: DPW Simmons
Guests: David Bollone – Saranac Youth Baseball League
Jeanne Vandersloot – Zoning Administrator

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

Public Comments

David Bollone, spokesperson for the Saranac Youth Baseball League, inquired about placing a batting/pitching cage at Scheid Park. The cage would consist of a 14' x 70" steel frame on a cement pad, with Astro Turf covering the surface. The League is proposing to place the cage in the northwest area of the park, unless instructed otherwise by the Village, or a more suitable location in the park is found. Underground electrical wiring would need to be run from the building that houses the little league equipment. All installation and maintenance costs would be paid for by the League. They would like to have the cage set up and ready for use prior to April 1st, the beginning of baseball season.

Council instructed Bollone to confer with DPW Simmons on specifics and bring the request back to Council for vote, at their February meeting.

Bollone also inquired about placing sponsorship signs on field fencing, during the baseball season. Some discussion was held about signage as it relates to the Zoning Ordinance. Per the current ZO, as well as amendments that are being proposed, these types of signs are not allowed. The League could file a Request for Variance if they wish to pursue the topic.

The Zoning Administrator's Report was reviewed.

Council members reviewed and discussed correspondence from Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, in answer to President Darby's questions pertaining to proposed amendments to Sign Sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

Mackey inquired if there had been any public comment about the proposed amendments. Klutman reported that the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing for this purpose and no public was present to comment, nor were any written public comments received.

Vandersloot proposed adding "sandwich board signs" to Sec. 30.18.27 (A) of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Council concurred with the language addition.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Doll, to accept the Resolution to Adopt Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance Sign Sections 30.18.20 – 30.18.31, with additional language as proposed by Vandersloot above.

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

The Ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance will become effective eight (8) days after publication in the Sentinel Standard. After that time, Vandersloot will send letters of notification to those in violation of the new ordinance.

Doll inquired about unresolved residential issues in the Central Business District. Per Vandersloot, there is nothing additional to report at this time.

Council reviewed Allied Mechanical Service's Application for Payment #3 for the WWTF Pump Station Project.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to approve Allied Mechanical's Application for Payment #3, in the amount of \$6,300.

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

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mackey, supported by Klutman, to approve the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2015. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported Mackey, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 11, 2016, in the amount of \$64,508.11.

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

The Planning Commission did not meet.

Council reviewed correspondence from Lisa Sayers (154 Washington Street, Saranac), Tim Simmons, DPW Director and the Ionia County Health Department, regarding Sayer's verbal cockroach complaint at the December 14, 2015 council meeting. At council's direction, Straubel will contact Jim Doezema, Village Attorney, to inquire about village responsibility and/or level of involvement, should the issue arise in the future.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council members reviewed Deputy Jack Pieters Law Enforcement Report for December 2015.

A potential date for the annual Fire Board meeting was discussed.

Budget

Straubel provided council members with Budget vs Actual reports through 12/31/15, to aid committees in preparing proposed 2016/2017 budgets.

Straubel requested that February's Regular Council Meeting be held February 15th instead of February 8th, to allow additional time for budget preparation. Council concurred.

Straubel requested that council consider increasing water and sewer rates, as follows: Service Demand Charge (fixed portion) by 3% per year over the next 3 years, effective 4/1/16, 4/1/17 & 4/1/18; Usage Charge (variable portion) by .10 per 1,000 gallons per year over the next 3 years, effective 4/1/16, 4/1/17 & 4/1/18. Rates have not been increased since January 1, 2008. A Water and Sewer Rate Study will be performed as part of the SAW project, but not until the end of the project (fall of 2018). By increasing rates gradually over the next 3 years, the effect of potential rate increases post 2018 Rate Study, may be less overwhelming.

Straubel will prepare a spreadsheet for council members, showing the effects of possible water and sewer rate increases, as discussed above.

Water and Sewer Rates are established by Resolution of the Village Council and are required to be published within thirty (30) days of adoption.

Doll inquired about a rate comparison with other communities. Council concurred, that due to the many variable components of water and sewer systems and multitude of rate structures, a comparison with other communities would not result in useful information, relative to the time it would take to gather.

Parks & Recreation

Council members reviewed a proposed conceptual site plan prepared by Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, for the trailhead property at the boat launch. This plan represents draft #1 for the project. The Parks & Recreation Committee has not met with F & V to discuss the draft or suggest changes. Straubel will contact Aaron Catlin, F & V Engineer on the project, to schedule a committee meeting this month. Grant applications are due by April 1st.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Streets – No report.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Additional Business

Straubel received an email from Allison Willis, requesting use of the Village conference room on January 13th and 20th at 7 p.m. Willis is leading a community “focus group”, for purposes of aiding the Saranac School District with budget constraints. Village Council members Simmons and Darby, plan to attend the meetings. Council concurred to allow outside use of the conference room for meetings, provided there is a council member present and the requested dates of use do not conflict with Village scheduled meetings.

Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.