

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2018

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Village Office, 27 N Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Darby, Smith, Straubel, DPW Simmons; Trustees – Doll, Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: Klutman

Guests: Meghan Koorndyk (on behalf of Representative Julie Calley)
Jason Smith (Interim Superintendent – Saranac Community Schools)
Deputy Kurt Bindus (Ionia County Sheriff's Office)
Cheryl Knutson, Gwen Patten, Hope Harrison (Saranac Housing Commission)

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

Public Comments

Meghan Koorndyk from State Representative Julie Calley's office, provided council members with a summary of Representative Calley's recent political and community activities and accomplishments.

Jason Smith, Interim Superintendent for Saranac Community Schools was in attendance to inform council of the school's current bond proposal. Registered voters living within the Saranac Community School District can vote on the proposal May 8th. Per Smith, the proposal does not increase the current millage rate of 9 mills. It merely extends the term by 4 years, allowing for major upgrades to both schools. Smith provided council members with a "Frequently Asked Questions" handout and a brochure outlining the improvements that would be made with the revenue generated by the bond proposal.

Deputy Bindus provided council with a summary of law enforcement activity in the Village for the month of March. Bindus noted that he has recently increased patrol of the schools.

Cheryl Knutson, spokesperson for residents of the Saranac Housing Commission, informed council of her concerns with the rising cost of service provided by WOW Cable Company. A representative from WOW recently held a meeting at the Housing Commission at the residents' request. Per Knutson, nothing was accomplished as a result of the meeting. The representative would not discuss or did not have the authority to discuss, potential discounts for seniors or group rates.

Darby explained to Knutson, Patten and Harrison, that WOW owns the service lines and equipment within the Village of Saranac. The Village has a franchise agreement with WOW, but by state law cannot negotiate rates on behalf of Village residents. Also according to state law, the Village cannot refuse other service providers from establishing a franchise agreement with the Village, provided they install their own lines and equipment. Due to the size of the Village and small number of potential customers, no other service providers have shown interest in investing the infrastructure needed to provide their service to the Village of Saranac.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to accept the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2018. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 9, 2018, in the amount of \$142,057.39.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for March 2018 was reviewed.

Due to a recent request received by Village Zoning Administrator Jeanne Vandersloot, council discussed pros and cons of amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow (with standards), live/work space on street levels within the CBD. Darby requested that the Planning Commission meet to discuss the topic and make a recommendation. Ricket, Acting Planning Commission Chair, will schedule a meeting in May.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to re-appoint Bruce Chadwick as President Commissioner of the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as President of the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board, effective 5/1/2018 and expiring 5/1/2023.

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

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation

The P & R Committee met with F & V Project Engineer Rick Stout regarding the Trailhead Project. Mulnix informed council of two changes to the original plan. The restroom structure was raised to bring it above floodplain level. Also, the observation deck was relocated to an area near the boat launch where it would be 3-4 feet above water, as opposed to 8-9 feet above water at its original location.

The DEQ permit application for the Trailhead Project will be submitted this week. The next step will be getting the project out for bid.

Straubel informed council members of a potential gift of property from a Village resident. The property abuts Scheid Park and could potentially be used for additional parking. Straubel will provide additional information, as it becomes available.

DPW Simmons recommended the addition of 9 parallel parking spaces on the north side of Main Street, in front of Scheid Park. Council concurred with his recommendation. Simmons will proceed with painting the lines necessary to define the parking spaces.

Streets

DPW Simmons investigated the need for two 10-minute parking spaces in front of the post office. His recommendation is that they are not needed at this time. Council concurred.

Straubel stated that the village received a lump sum payment from MDOT for their share of the additional \$175 million provided by Public Act 82 of 2018. The additional \$10,432 is to be used for transportation projects.

DPW Simmons provided council with photos of damaged landscape bricks on Church Street. Council discussed various options for repair and/or replacement. DPW Simmons will seek estimates and report back to council.

Buildings & Grounds

Whorley shared with council, his thoughts on pursuing acquisition of additional park property as well as relocation of the Public Works Department.

Water & Sewer

Per DPW Simmons, SAW project activities have revealed that some of the Village storm drains are in rough shape. This will need to be addressed after the project is complete and a report is issued on the condition of the entire system.

Public Safety – No report.

Budget – No report.

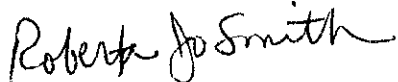
Personnel

Per Darby, the Personnel Committee is reviewing investment options offered by the administrator of the Village SEP Plan. It was brought to the committee's attention, that MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) may be a better option for Village employees.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberta Jo Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk