

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 13, 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, Klutman, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: Mulnix, Ricket

Guests: Ryan Hesche (SCA), Deputy Kurt Bindus (ICSO), Robert Brown (Friends of the FMRVRT), John VanTholen (Granger), and;  
Ed Brown, John Brown, Roger Brown, Darin Elliott, John Mileski (Public Hearing on Application for Variance)

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

Public Comments

Ryan Hesche, President of the Saranac Community Association (SCA), was in attendance to request use of Village streetlight poles for Bridgefest sponsorship signs. The 2' X 3' corrugated signs would be affixed to the light poles with zip ties, for a period of approximately 10 days. DPW Simmons stated that signage needs to be at least 7 feet from the ground.

Discussion was held regarding whether a formal agreement should be in place for placing signs on Village streetlight poles. Council members concurred that the Streets Committee should address the topic for future requests.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to allow the Saranac Community Association to place Bridgefest sponsorship signs on Village streetlight poles for an approximate 10-day period beginning 8/16/18. All yeas.

Motion was made by Klutman at 7:12 p.m., supported by Whorley, to open the Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing on an application for variance from Zoning Ordinance Section 30.4.04 and the Land Division Act 288 of 1967, amended 3/31/97, Section 560.109 (1) (b, c d), regarding the maximum permitted land division width to depth ratio. All yeas.

John Brown and Ed Brown applied for a variance to divide an unusual shaped parcel of land that is listed for sale; parcel #34-021-011-000-070-00, located on Parsonage Street at the south Village border, adjacent on two sides to 345 Parsonage Street. Various parties are interested in purchasing a portion of the land. The parcel has limited frontage in two places on Parsonage Street, and is very deep. Due to the unusual shape of the parcel, the applicants are requesting a variance from the 4:1 width to depth ratio maximum.

John Mileski was in attendance on behalf of his father-in-law Ronald Reagan who was unable to attend the Public Hearing. Reagan owns property on Parsonage Street, located within the Village and adjacent to the Brown property being discussed. Mileski read a letter (see attached) written by Reagan, in which he expresses concerns regarding the property being split through obtaining a variance as well as concerns about potential future impact of allowing the variance.

Darby stated that every variance request the Zoning Board of Appeals receives is given consideration, and decisions are made on each one individually. The parcel in question is over 15 acres in size and if the variance request is approved, the owners will apply for a parcel division that will result in only 3 parcels.

Motion was made by Simmons at 7:28 p.m., supported by Whorley, to close the Public Hearing. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to approve the Brown's application for variance from the 4:1 width to depth ratio maximum as presented, for property located on Parsonage Street; parcel #34-021-011-000-070-00.

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

Robert Brown, Board of Directors Chairperson for the Friends of the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails (FMRVRT), was in attendance to provide council with an update on proposed amendments to the organizations Master Plan. Brown stated that the crushed limestone surface of the trail from Ionia to Owosso is not holding up well. Due to this fact, two Public Hearings are scheduled (August 21<sup>st</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>) in regard to amending the Master Plan, utilizing crushed asphalt, as opposed to crushed limestone on trail surfaces. Per Brown, various trail events are scheduled to begin in the Village of Saranac. The Panda Bear Run will take place Bridgefest evening at 6:30. A Haunted Run will take place this October and a fat-tire bike event in December.

The Streets Committee met to discuss the refuse contract with Granger that expires 12/31/18. The committee is recommending that the Village invite qualified refuse haulers to submit a bid for a new contract beginning 1/1/19. Committee members feel that it would be in the best interest of Village residents to engage in the competitive bidding process. DPW Simmons and Straubel expressed their opinion on the matter, as they are involved in day-to-day interaction with Village residents and Granger personnel. They would prefer to extend the contract with Granger, as opposed to inviting other refuse haulers to bid. Straubel noted that the Village has contracted with Granger (formerly Green Valley) for 14 years. In that time there have been only a handful of customer complaints and they were always handled in person by John VanTholen (Green Valley owner and Granger Sales/Community Representative). Straubel and DPW Simmons are concerned about maintaining the level of customer service currently provided by Granger, as well as the seamless business relationship between Village personnel and Granger.

John VanTholen was in attendance to answer any questions that council may have. Darby asked if he believes that Granger's rates are fair in comparison to other refuse haulers. VanTholen stated that it can be challenging to compare rates, as each company's rate structure and community contracts are set up differently. However, he sincerely believes that the rates currently charged to the Village of Saranac are very fair.

VanTholen stated that he has appreciated and enjoyed the 14 years he and Granger (formerly Green Valley) have served the residents of the Village of Saranac and worked with Village personnel. He completely understands the committee's position. If council votes to bid the refuse contract, he has every intention of submitting a bid in the hopes of continuing the relationship he has developed with the Village of Saranac.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to formally invite qualified refuse haulers to submit a bid for a refuse contract with an effective date of January 1, 2019.

Roll call vote: yeas – Klutman, Whorley, Darby; nays – Doll, Simmons; absent – Mulnix, Ricket.

Council reviewed a real estate use policy prepared by the Boston-Saranac Historical Society (BSHS). Due to lack of representation by the BSHS at tonight's meeting, council members concurred to table the use policy at this time.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2018 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer's Report of July 31, 2018. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of August 13, 2018, in the amount of \$253,474.08.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for July 2018 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

#### Committee Reports

##### Parks & Recreation

The committee met to discuss future plans for Scheid Park and the adjacent Thompson property recently gifted to the Village. DPW Simmons provided council with a list of proposed projects by year, through 2021.

Straubel stated that the bid opening for the Trailhead project is scheduled for 8/16 at 3:00 p.m.

##### Streets

Straubel will prepare an Invitation to Bid for Refuse Contract and send it to Street Committee members for review prior to sending to refuse haulers.

Per DPW Simmons, the chip/seal portion of the street project is complete. He would like to see the Village seek their own bid on this type of street work in the future, as opposed to being a small portion of the Ionia County contract. This would allow for more flexibility with scheduling and for him to communicate directly with the contractor in the event of a less than satisfactory outcome. Council members are not opposed to this, dependent upon the cost differential.

Klutman inquired about repairing the driveway at 71 Main Street. According to Klutman, the driveway does not angle down between the sidewalk and the street, causing water to pool there when it rains. DPW Simmons will investigate, to determine the best route of action.

Straubel received a request to allow SHS seniors to park overnight in the Village lot on Erv Taylor Avenue next June, after their graduation ceremony. Vehicles would be parked there from approximately 6:30 p.m. Sunday (graduation day) to 6:30 a.m. Monday, when they return from their senior trip. Council concurred to allow this.

Klutman reported that two trees in front of the American Legion will soon be replaced due to the fact that they are overgrown and have started to make the sidewalk heave.

Buildings & Grounds

A pre-construction meeting for the Bridge Street project is scheduled for 8/16 at 10:00 a.m. The project will begin 8/28, with a completion date no later than 9/28.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Public Safety

Council received Ionia County Sheriff Office (ICSO) stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of July 2018.

Budget – No report.

Personnel

The committee met to discuss the 12/1/18 renewal of the employee's health care plan. Darby informed council members that Priority Health is increasing their rate by 1.34% and reducing their benefits. The committee was presented with 3 other options, one of which would result in a premium decrease of 3.39%, along with an increase in benefits. This plan is offered by Blue Care Network (BCN). The committee is recommending that council choose this plan, as long as employee's primary care doctors participate with BCN.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to discontinue employee health care coverage with Priority Health after 11/30/18 and implement a new plan with Blue Care Network effective 12/1/18, as offered. Acceptance of offer is contingent upon employee's primary care doctors participating with BCN.

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

Public Comments – None.

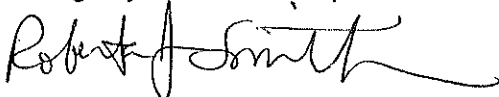
Additional Business

Darby mentioned that Straubel provided audited financial statements for fiscal year ended 2/28/18 for council's review.

DPW Simmons provided council with lab reports showing a history of the hardness level of Village water.

Per Chief Simmons, the Saranac Fire Department is sponsoring a duck race on Bridgefest day. Tickets are \$10 each and they hope to sell 100 tickets. 1<sup>st</sup> place prize is \$400, 2<sup>nd</sup> is \$100 and 3<sup>rd</sup> is a ride in a fire truck. The remaining \$500 will be donated to the food pantry at Saranac Community Church.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk