

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 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, Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Maverick Musser, Todd Hoek, Allison Blanchard, Deputy Kurt Bindus
Chris Thelen & Stacy Ykimoff – Consumers Energy
Jim Doezeema, Village Attorney – Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC

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

Public Comments

Todd Hoek was in attendance to inform council of his interest in purchasing the Harker Middle School. He and his wife would live in and renovate the building, creating 22-35 condo units over a 3 to 5-year time period. He inquired if council would be open to the possibility, given the fact that amendments to the Zoning Ordinance would be required to allow this type of use. Darby stated that council is aware that Zoning Ordinance amendments will need to be made to accommodate any type of housing use on the property.

Allison Blanchard was in attendance to provide council with an update on her efforts to start a farmer's market in the Village. The Boston/Saranac Historical Society is allowing her to use the pavilion at the depot, free of charge. The farmer's market will be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month.

Chris Thelen, Community Affairs Manager for Consumers Energy, addressed council regarding a pending easement agreement between the Village of Saranac and Consumers Energy. In August of 2016, Consumers Energy requested that the Village sign an easement allowing them access to Village owned property located in the Nature Park, for purposes of transmitting and distributing electricity. Upon review of the document, Village Attorney Jim Doezeema advised the Village to request that an Indemnity Clause be added. Consumers Energy agreed to add an Indemnity Clause but would not use the language provided by Doezeema. The Village insisted on the indemnity language provided by Doezeema, to ensure the interests of the Village. A stalemate on the topic occurred in November 2016.

Email communication regarding the easement agreement was resumed by Consumers Energy in February of 2018, bringing us to tonight. Thelen and Doezeema stated their reasons for the indemnity language they are insisting upon. Consumers Energy's language would indemnify the Village if Consumers was negligent in their use of the property. Doezeema's language would indemnify the Village should something occur involving Consumers Energy's electrical equipment, whether Consumers was negligent or not.

Darby suggested that Consumers Energy remove the word "negligent" (2 locations) from their version of the language. Thelen will take the suggestion back to their legal department.

Deputy Bindus reported on law enforcement activity in the Village for the month of April. Deputy Bindus was instrumental in identifying and apprehending the individuals responsible for vandalism to over 50 car windows. The incidents took place in Saranac, Lake Odessa and Hastings area. DPW Simmons commended Deputy Bindus for his work on this case.

Motion was made by Ricket, supported by Simmons, to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to accept the Treasurer's Report of April 30, 2018. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed.

Motion was made by Ricket, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of May 14, 2018, in the amount of \$85,885.52.

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

Council members reviewed a letter received from Consumers Energy regarding their recent survey of company-owned streetlights in the Village of Saranac. Enclosed with the letter was Consumers Energy's Standard Lighting Contract for the Village to sign upon review of the map provided, showing the location of their streetlights. The letter states that as a result of survey findings, the Village is owed a \$23,693.50 refund, due to over-billing over the last 3 years. Once the Village signs Consumers Energy's Standard Lighting Contract, the refund will be remitted to the Village as a credit to future streetlight bills. Village Attorney Jim Doezema has reviewed and approved the lighting contract for Village signature.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to adopt a Resolution to enter into a contract with Consumers Energy for furnishing lighting service within the Village of Saranac (see Resolution attached).

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

Darby provided council members with an overview of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS). Darby and Straubel have been working with a MERS representative to determine if there would be a cost benefit for Village employees if MERS administered their retirement accounts as opposed to Deutsche Asset Management, the current administrator.

Council members received handouts comparing the differences in fees charged and performance of funds between MERS and Deutsche. MERS does not assess a sales charge, whereas Deutsche charges 5.62%. Additionally, MERS exceeds Deutsche in fund performance.

Darby explained that there are two options relative to contributions with the Defined Contribution Plan Agreement. Option A provides for an employer contribution of 6%, which is the amount that the Village is currently contributing to employee's retirement funds. Option B would allow the Village to match employee contributions up to 3%, in addition to the 6% they currently contribute. If all employees contributed 1%, 2% or 3%, the Village match would be \$2,786, \$5,573 or \$8,359, respectively.

Darby further explained that a Defined Contribution Plan and a 457 Plan are both needed, as employees cannot contribute to the Defined Contribution Plan. Any contributions that an employee makes on his/her own behalf, would be through the 457 Plan.

Darby also mentioned, that to maximize employee earnings, contributions from both the Village and the employee will be made weekly, as opposed to quarterly as is done currently.

Klutman stated that he would like to see the Personnel Committee investigate Option B further.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept the MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement (Option A), as presented.

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept the Resolution Adopting the MERS Defined Contribution Plan, as presented.

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept the MERS 457 Participation Agreement as presented.

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to accept the MERS Uniform 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Resolution, as presented.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for April 2018 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission met May 2nd. Upon council's request, Ricket asked the Planning Commission for a recommendation in regard to whether street-level live/work space should be allowed in the Central Business District. The Planning Commission decline to make a recommendation, pending formal application for Zoning Ordinance Variance or Amendment.

Per Ricket, the Planning Commission discussed a timeline for updating the Master Plan, as the 5-year document expired in December 2017.

Ricket voiced his concern over the fact that the Planning Commission's 7-member Board is currently at 5 members, 2 of which have terms expiring in June of this year.

Straubel revised the Planning Commission's Membership Application Form and posted it on the Village website. An invitation to apply for membership will also be placed on the Village Facebook page.

Straubel suggested that the Village Council consider compensating Planning Commission members \$30 per meeting, as they currently receive no pay. Per Village Ordinance #93, the Village Council can establish compensation for the Planning Commission, by Resolution.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons to compensate Planning Commission members \$30 per meeting, retroactive to March 1, 2018.

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

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation

Straubel reported that the Thompson property has been surveyed, but not appraised yet.

The DEQ permit for the Trailhead project has not been approved yet, however the plans have been submitted to the DNR for approval to bid the project, per Straubel.

Streets

Per DPW Simmons, the walkway that connects Erv Taylor Avenue and Bridge Street is overgrown and needs attention. The Master Gardeners maintained the area several years ago and volunteers have done so in recent years. Straubel and Darby will follow up on the topic.

DPW Simmons provided council with a quote from Meadow Valley Lawncare and Landscape to replace brick pavers on Church Street. Council members requested that Simmons seek additional bids as well as alternate methods for replacement.

Straubel stated that Vicki Kennedy will be parking her food truck on Main Street in front of Scheid Park on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She has received requests from Adac Automotive and others, to have her food truck available during the lunch hour.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons received a proposal from Dixon Engineering to inspect the exterior of the water tower, for a lump sum amount of \$1,000. Fedewa Inc. completed painting the exterior of the water tower on June 16, 2017. The paint job came with a 13-month warranty, expiring July 16, 2018. Dixon Engineering managed the project for the Village. DPW Simmons suggested that he could inspect the paint job and if he determines that a warranty issue exists, council could revisit Dixon's proposal. Council members concurred with this rationale.

DPW Simmons stated that he would like to be pro-active regarding the PFAS issue, which will most likely be addressed by the DEQ in the near future. Council members concurred.

DPW Simmons reported that he ordered 2 aerators for the sewer lagoon, as was budgeted for.

Public Safety – No report.

Budget – No report.

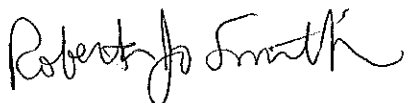
Personnel – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Ladies Night Out is Thursday, May 17th from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Bridge Street between Main Street and Church Street will be closed for the event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberta Jo Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roberta" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Roberta Jo Smith, Clerk