

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2019

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, Straubel, DPW Simmons; Trustees – Doll, Hooper, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley
Absent: None
Guests: Mark Schaafsma – Harker House; John & Brenda VanTholen – Granger Waste Services

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

Michael R Hooper took the Oath of Office for the position of Village Trustee with term to expire November 2020.

Committee member changes were made as follows: Personnel – Mike Hooper added, Kevin Klutman removed; Public Safety – Mike Hooper added; Parks & Recreation – Kevin Klutman added.

Public Comments – None.

John VanTholen with Granger Waste Services, was in attendance to inform council of his upcoming retirement at the end of this year. He thanked council for having faith in his company, Green Valley Disposal, 16 years ago when the Village of Saranac became his first municipal client. VanTholen sold Green Valley to Granger Waste Services in 2017, but was retained by Granger and continued to serve as the Village of Saranac's point of contact.

Council members congratulated VanTholen on his upcoming retirement and commented on their satisfaction with his service to the Village over the last 16 years.

Planning Commission Report

Klutman reported on the Planning Commission's December 4th meeting. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing to consider adding Zoning Ordinance regulations for an Adaptive Re-Use Planned Unit Development (AR-PUD). One Village resident attended. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission recommended approval of Ordinance #105 with one change to the sign regulations.

Council members reviewed Ordinance #105.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Klutman, to approve Ordinance #105, an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Saranac to create a new article 15A, Adaptive Re-Use Planned Unit Development and to allow for this as a Special Land Use in the MDR-1 and MDR-2 Zoning Districts.

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

Schaafsma informed council that he has been approached by someone who is potentially interested in using the gym portion of the school for an after-school, church related program.

Straubel encouraged Schaafsma to include potential uses for the facility, on his application for Special Use Permit.

At the Planning Commission's request, council reviewed a proposal from Tim Johnson of MainStreet Planning, to prepare a ZO Amendment to allow live/work units on the street level in the Central Business District (CBD) and upper-floor dwelling units by right, in the CBD.

Council discussed potential pros and cons of allowing live/work arrangements in the CBD. Council members concurred that allowing live/work units on the street level could attract new business to the Village, however, off-street parking could become troublesome.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Hooper, to accept Johnson's proposal to prepare a Zoning Ordinance Amendment allowing live/work units on the street level and upper-floor dwelling units by right, both in the Central Business District, for an amount not to exceed \$950 plus expenses.

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

Council reviewed new language proposed by Consumers Energy for an Easement for Electric Facilities. Until now, Consumers Energy's attorney and Village Attorney Jim Doezeema, have been unable to agree on indemnity language. Straubel reported that Doezeema has reviewed the language proposed by Consumers Energy's new attorney and is in agreement that it indemnifies the Village from any claims arising from Consumers' use of the easement area.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to accept the revised indemnity language proposed by Consumers Energy and approved by Jim Doezeema, Village Attorney, and for Becky A. Straubel to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Village, as presented. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2019 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer's Report of November 30, 2019. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of December 9, 2019, in the amount of \$62,820.60.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for November 2019 was reviewed.

Committee Reports

Law Enforcement

Council reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for November 2019.

Public Safety

Chief Simmons reported that the Fire Department hit call #500 for 2019, on Sunday, 12/8.

Darby reported that Jani Millard, Life EMS Director, is retiring.

Chief Simmons spoke about a fundraiser that the Fire Department has been working on with the Lasby family. The proceeds of the fundraiser will go toward the purchase of a LUCAS machine which costs \$16,000. The Fire Department has secured a grant for \$2,500 of the \$16,000.

Parks & Recreation

DPW Simmons expressed that he would like to see the lighting of the Christmas tree moved to the Trailhead property. Darby will discuss the idea with the Saranac Community Association.

Streets – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

Doll reported that the committee met to discuss the 2020/2021 budget for water and sewer. The committee is proposing to replace two aerators at the WWTF (approx. \$16,000) and purchase a new generator for the water tower (approx. \$8,500), along with the utility portion of the Center Street project, which is projected to be \$350,000 - \$400,000.

Straubel and DPW Simmons informed council members of a report (Facility Monitoring Program) that is due to EGLE by 1/1/2020. Fleis & VandenBrink will assist Straubel and Simmons with the report at an estimated cost of \$1,600.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to accept F & V's proposal to prepare a Facility Monitoring Program pursuant to EGLE's requirement, for an amount not to exceed \$1,600.
Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Hooper, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Personnel – No report.

Budget – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby informed council of the ICSO's request that the Village participate in a County-wide mitigation plan. The Village's part would be strictly a time commitment to help gather statistics and attend planning meetings. Newly appointed Village Trustee Mike Hooper, expressed his interest in being the point person on this project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk