

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2019

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:03 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, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Deputy Bindus

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

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

Council received Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of January 2019.

Deputy Bindus reported on Law Enforcement items of interest.

DPW Simmons expressed his gratitude for the caring and vigilant manner in which Deputy Kurt Bindus (day patrol) and Deputy Courtney Beard (night patrol) protect and serve the citizens of the Village of Saranac and Boston Township. Simmons provided examples of their actions during recent snow storms, both in assisting Village personnel and citizens.

DPW Simmons and Deputy Bindus both commented on the way in which Ionia County agencies (i.e. law enforcement, fire departments, road commission, ambulance, central dispatch, etc.) as well as citizens, worked together during recent weather-related emergency situations.

Motion was made by Klutman at 7:19 p.m., supported by Mulnix, to open the Public Hearing to set the 2019 property tax millage and approve the 2019/2020 budget. All yeas.

No public comments were offered on the proposed budget and millage rate to support it.

Motion was made by Whorley at 7:21 p.m., supported by Simmons, to close the Public Hearing to set the 2019 property tax millage and approve the 2019/2020 budget. All yeas.

Various questions were asked and answered regarding the proposed 2019/2020 budget.

Discussion was focused on proposed projects for the 2019/2020 fiscal year totally over \$500,000, including but not limited to; the Trailhead at the Boat Launch Park, Scheid Park improvements, and resurfacing of Parsonage Street from Summit to the south Village limit.

Much discussion was had regarding the potential impact of these projects on General Fund's reserve balance. The proposed budget for 2019/2020 reveals that General Fund could use up to \$323,000 in reserves to fund projects noted above.

Straubel reminded council members that a conservative approach is used when establishing the budget, by underestimating revenues and overestimating expenses. Therefore, the budget presented reflects a "worse case" scenario in terms of cash reserve estimates.

Council members reviewed additional reports provided by Straubel as follows: Reserve Balance (actuals & estimates) by Year and Fund from February 2005 through February 2020, Net Income/Loss Estimates for Fiscal Years Ending 2/28/19 and 2/29/20, and Projected Vehicle/Equipment Replacement Timeline and Cost.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to approve property tax mills for 2019 of 13.9321 as well as a 1% administrative fee and to approve the budget for fiscal year March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 in the amount of \$1,851,863 as presented.

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

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2019 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer's Report of January 31, 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 February 11, 2019, in the amount of \$141,351.24.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for January 2019 was reviewed.

Klutman reported on the February 6th Planning Commission meeting. Commission members voted to postpone appointing a Chairperson and Secretary, as two members were not in attendance at the meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission is March 6th.

Council discussed a potential joint training session with the Planning Commission, to review the basic roles and responsibilities of the Planning Commission as well as the Zoning Board of Appeals (Village Council). The two-hour training session would be led by Tim Johnson of MainStreet Planning and would cost \$400.00. Council members concurred with the idea and tentatively scheduled the session for Wednesday, March 6th from 6 – 8 p.m. Straubel will confirm date and time with PC members and Tim Johnson.

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation

Council reviewed a memo from Fleis & VandenBrink, outlining potential cost saving items for the Trailhead project. The Parks Committee will meet with F & V and JWK (the contractor awarded the building contract) and report their recommendations to council.

Streets

Darby inquired about the DPW's road salt supply. Per DPW Simmons, the supply is running low. An order was placed last week but the delivery date is unknown. If the road salt does not arrive timely, the contingency plan is to purchase in small quantities as needed, from Ionia County.

Buildings & Grounds

DPW Simmons suggested replacing all lightbulbs at the DPW buildings to LED. The cost is approximately \$950, with a projected 3-year payback period. Council members concurred to proceed with the replacement in the current budget year.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported that well #4 is back in service. The cost of repairs is unknown, as Peerless Midwest has not submitted an invoice yet. The 2019/2020 budget includes an estimated cost to rehab well #5, as both wells require rehabilitation every 5 to 7 years.

Public Safety

Darby reported on the annual Fire Board meeting. The proposed operating budget as well as the purchase of a new grass rig, was approved by the board.

Budget

The Budget Committee met and recommended the budget that was approved tonight after the Public Hearing that was held to receive comments on said budget.

Personnel

Darby reported that the Personnel Committee will meet March 7th to review a draft short-term disability policy as well as employee annual wage adjustments. Darby requested that DPW Simmons conduct annual reviews with DPW employees prior to the committee's meeting on March 7th.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Straubel shared with council, the official canvas results of Proposal 1 from the November 6, 2018 election. The Village of Saranac lies within Precinct 1 and Precinct 3 of Boston Township. 52% of Precinct 1 and 56% of Precinct 3 voted in favor of Proposal 1.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Becky A Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk