

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 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, Klutman, Mulnix, Whorley

Absent: Simmons

Guests: Deputy Bindus, Todd Richter, David Shaw, Danny Richards

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

Public Comments

Danny Richards was present to request that council consider adopting an ordinance allowing ORV's on Village streets. Richards explained his plight in getting from north of the Village limits to south of the Village limits.

Deputy Bindus spoke to the legalities of ORV use.

Darby explained that the Streets Committee discussed a similar request in July of 2015 and recommended that council not adopt an ordinance allowing ORV's on Village streets. The reasons stated (see Village minutes from 7/13/15) included, but were not limited to the following; possible abuse at the parks and the boat launch, additional signage requirements, enforcement of the ordinance, ORV spots vs. car spots, true usage and current little demand.

Per Darby, no action would be taken at tonight's meeting. The Streets Committee could meet again to revisit the topic and bring their recommendation back to council.

Law Enforcement Report

Council received Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of December 2018.

Deputy Bindus shared law enforcement items of interest with council. The ICCIT recently held active shooter trainings at Saranac schools. Additionally, Deputy Bindus informed council of the Youth Tobacco Act as it relates to vaping, which has become a problem in schools.

Deputy Bindus stated that he has been looking for ways to get more involved in the Saranac community. He will be following up on a lead he recently received, to assist local Girl Scouts with their cookie drive.

Motion was made by Darby, supported by Doll, to appoint Kevin Klutman to the vacant office of Village Trustee with a 4-year term expiring November 2022. All yeas.

Kevin Klutman took the Oath of Office for Village Trustee, term to expire November 2022.

Todd Richter was in attendance to report on the 2nd bid opening for the Trailhead project. There were eight bidders this time around compared to two the first time. The total of the low bids for Contract A & B combined, was approximately \$9,000 less than the first round of bidding. However, the project is still approximately \$83,500 over engineer's estimate.

Richter stated that project costs could potentially be reduced by \$30,000, the bulk of which would be HMA paving (approximately \$20,000). The rest would have to come out of the building by way of removing features and/or changing materials.

Mulnix reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee met and recommend going forward with the project, including HMA paving. They also recommend a sit-down with the low bidders to look for potential cost savings as described by Richter.

Mulnix asked Richter to speculate on why there is such a disparity between engineer's estimate and bids received. Richter explained that it has been nearly 3 years since the Village submitted their grant application (engineer's cost estimate included) to the MDNR for this project. When the estimate was originally prepared (early 2016), the cost to build the structure was based upon similar past projects. Richter stated that their estimate may have been low to begin with, as they received good pricing from a contractor who is no longer in business. That, coupled with the fact that construction costs have increased over the last 3 years, are the major contributors to the disparity between engineer's cost estimate and bids received.

Richter recommends awarding contracts to the low bidders and then reviewing their bid with them for potential cost saving modifications. A change order could then be submitted for the agreed upon modifications, directly following the signing of the contracts.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Mulnix, to award Contract A (site work) to C.L Trucking in the amount of \$128,148.00 and Contract B (building) to JWK Construction in the amount of \$181,123.37, giving the Parks & Recreation Committee authority to accept a change order for cost savings modifications after review with contractors and Richter.

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

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2018 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 14, 2019, in the amount of \$60,442.20.

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

The Zoning Administrators Report for December 2018 was reviewed.

Council reviewed Ordinance No. 102 to change the number of Planning Commission members from seven to five, due to the difficulty in retaining seven members.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to adopt Ordinance No. 102, an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance Number 93 to Change the Number of Planning Commission Members of the Village of Saranac Planning Commission.

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

With the passing of Ordinance No. 102, the Planning Commission is currently short three members.

Darby reported that two applications for Planning Commission membership have been received and that Trustee Kevin Klutman is willing to be the ex officio member of the Planning Commission.

Motion was made by Darby, supported by Doll, to appoint Dave Shaw and Janet Tlappek to the Planning Commission to fill two vacancies with terms expiring the 2nd Monday of June 2020 and to appoint Trustee Kevin Klutman as the ex officio member of the Planning Commission, term to expire November 2022 (concurrent with trustee term).

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

Council discussed a proposed Agreement with Granger Waste Services for collection of residential refuse in the Village of Saranac for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021 with option to extend for an additional two years. The services and fees in the proposed Agreement reflect that of the bid submitted by Granger on 9/5/18 and accepted by council on 9/10/18.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the Agreement with Granger Waste Services for residential refuse collection, as presented.

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

Straubel will be working with Granger personnel to prepare an informational mailing for residents, informing them of cost increases, the new senior rate and other pertinent information.

Council discussed a proposed Lease Agreement with Saranac Public Library for lease of property owned by the Village and occupied by the Library.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to accept the Lease Agreement with Saranac Library as proposed and pending any changes suggested by the Saranac Library and approved by Village Attorney, James Doezeema.

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

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation

As suggested as last month's meeting, an informational letter was sent to residents on Main Street whose property abuts or is in close proximity to the new park property. One of the six recipients of the letter contacted DPW Simmons to discuss Village plans for the property located north of his residence and expressed his support of the project.

Per DPW Simmons, the Village crew has started clearing the new park property. He would like to see the Village improve the parking area in the upcoming budget year.

Streets – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

Per DPW Simmons, well 4 is still down, as new issues have been discovered. He is expecting Peerless Midwest to complete their rehab of the well this week.

Public Safety

Darby reported that the annual meeting of the Saranac Fire Board will be held Monday, January 21st, 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Village Office.

Budget – No report.

Personnel

Darby reported that the Personnel Committee met to discuss a potential short-term disability benefit for Village employees. Council was presented with information on a self-funded program as well as an Aflac policy. Committee members recommend the self-funded option which would provide full-time employees with 50% of their wages for a maximum of 13 weeks per rolling 12 months, after a waiting period of 7 days for accidents and 14 days for illnesses.

Discussion was had regarding the accrual of sick/personal days. Under the current policy, an employee can only accrue up to 96 hours (12 days). Darby stated that the Personnel Committee will review the current policy and bring their recommendation back to council.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to begin a self-funded short-term disability benefit for full-time employees as recommended by the Personnel Committee and described above. Said benefit to commence upon amendment of the Employee Handbook to include terms of the benefit.

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

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby shared information from a letter she received from WOW regarding rate increases that will become effective February 1, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Becky A Straubel, Deputy Clerk