

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 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, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Kevin Moore, Mark Schaafsma, Allison Willis

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

Public Comments

Allison Willis addressed council regarding the upcoming Farmers Market. To date, Willis has 12 committed vendors offering items such as honey, eggs, vegetables, and arts & crafts. The Market will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, at the depot pavilion, 138 N Bridge Street. There are however, a few Saturdays the depot pavilion is not available for use. The Market's alternate location is in the parking lot on Bridge Street, behind what used to be Germaine's restaurant. The last date the Market will be open, is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Planning Commission Report

The Village has received a number of inquiries regarding potential use of the vacant middle school property located at 234 Vosper Street. However, the lack of a specific Master Plan recommendation has made it difficult to determine a suitable re-use of the middle school. The Village decided to take a pro-active approach in order to guide the future re-development of the property in a manner that will be compatible with the neighborhood and be a benefit to the Village as a whole.

Council reviewed results of the Master Plan Joint Workshop, at which PC members and VC members identified potential uses for the vacant middle school property. Council also reviewed a Draft Amendment to the 2012 Master Plan, which incorporates the workshop results. The Planning Commission voted at their May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, to accept the Draft Amendment (with their changes) and forward the draft plan to the Village Council for approval and distribution.

The draft recommends that the middle school property be planned for an AR category (Adaptive Re-use of Old Building and Structures). Some specific items addressed in the amendment are permitted uses, density, access/traffic and screening/lighting.

Kevin Moore of Moore & Company and Mark Schaafsma of MSB LLC were in attendance, as they are interested in the middle school property. Moore commented that an AR district is warranted within a small community and flexibility is key. Moore further commented that they are receptive to working with the Village in determining the needs of its residents, should they decide to pursue their interest. Moore also stated that he appreciates the Village Council being proactive in the process.

Further discussion of the proposed amendment ensued.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to accept the Draft Amendment to the 2012 Village of Saranac Master Plan as presented, and recommended by the Planning Commission. Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Straubel will place the amendment on the Village website at [www.villageofsaranacmi.org](http://www.villageofsaranacmi.org).

Darby explained that the next step in the amendment process is to distribute the draft plan to Boston Township, Ionia County and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission for a 42-day comment period, as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Darby reported that Wesley Hackett recently resigned from the Planning Commission. Klutman commented that he will be missed.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2019 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept the Treasurer's Report of April 30, 2019. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of May 13, 2019, in the amount of \$90,312.25.

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

Council received a copy of the proposed Purchase/Sale Agreement between Saranac Library and the Village of Saranac. Village Attorney Jim Doezema made a few corrections on the Village's behalf and sent it back to the Library's attorney for review on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to reappoint Mrs. Eva Maile as Tenant Commissioner on the Saranac Housing Commission Board and as a Director of the Saranac Non-Profit Housing Corporation, with 5-year terms beginning May 1, 2019 and expiring May 1, 2024. All yeas.

The Zoning Administrators Report for April 2019 was reviewed.

Darby opened a discussion on the topic of recreational marijuana. If the Village doesn't pass an ordinance prohibiting recreational marijuana, commercial facilities will be allowed by law to operate in the Village. Straubel will forward to council members, two MML documents on the topic. The topic will be re-addressed after council members have had a chance to review the documents and formulate an opinion.

### Committee Reports

#### Parks & Recreation

DPW Simmons and Straubel reported on the progress of the Trailhead project. The project is expected to be complete by BridgeFest (August 24<sup>th</sup>).

DPW Simmons reported that the new t-ball field has been completed at Scheid Park and SYBL is working on a pony league field.

DPW Simmons requested a "Movies in the Park" schedule. Darby stated that Saranac Community Association has a new website, [www.saranaccommunityassociation.org](http://www.saranaccommunityassociation.org). The movie schedule can be found on the website, along with other pertinent Saranac information.

#### Streets

Klutman reported that the Village was not awarded 2019 TEDF funding for the Parsonage Street project. However, the 2020 TEDF funding application for Center Street is still on the table. MDOT is expected to announce 2020 funding recipients during the first week of June 2019.

Klutman reported that the Village will not be able to partner with Ionia County Road Commission this year for chip sealing Village streets. DPW Simmons is looking into alternatives.

Straubel reported that the Village received \$15,540 this week as a direct result of the 2018 Countywide Road Millage.

#### Buildings & Grounds

Straubel reported that Direct Imports recently purchased the property at 35 Division Street.

Water & Sewer – No report.

#### Public Safety

Council reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of April 2019.


Budget – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Becky A Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk