

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 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: Deputy Rachel Ervin (ICSD), Todd Richter (Fleis & VandenBrink), Roman Wilson (Fishbeck), Mark Schaafsma (Harker House), Adam Plett & Keith Merryfield (Ionia Unlimited) and Mike Hooper (village resident)

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

Public Comments

Adam Plett and Keith Merryfield of Ionia Unlimited, were in attendance to share information on how their business can provide free public wi-fi to the Central Business District (CBD) of the Village of Saranac. Council members received a handout, explaining the concept. The service would be provided at no cost to the Village or the end user. Plett explained, that once they have addressed necessary permits and/or zoning concerns with the Village, they will reach out to local business and property owners to select suitable locations for Access Points and Point-to-Point links. If all goes well, they are looking at a spring 2020 deployment date.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Klutman, to support Ionia Unlimited's exploration of free public wi-fi services for the CBD of the Village of Saranac. All yeas.

Mike Hooper was in attendance to voice his interest in filling the vacant Trustee position on the Saranac Village Council.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to appoint Mike Hooper to fill the vacant Trustee position until the November 2020 election, at which time he would be required to run for a two-year term, should he wish to maintain his position.

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

Law Enforcement Report

Deputy Rachel Ervin with the Ionia County Sheriff Department, introduced herself as the deputy recently assigned to day patrol in the Village. Darby asked Ervin what her primary goals are for the Village. Ervin stated that she intends to keep a close watch on stop signs throughout the Village, which met with enthusiastic approval from Village council members. She also intends to interact with the schools in hopes of teaching a course, perhaps in CPR. Ervin is also a firefighter with Berlin/Orange Township and worked for Lake Odessa Police Department before coming to Ionia County. Darby encouraged Ervin to patrol Village parks, as this is where the majority of vandalism occurs in the Village.

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

Council reviewed Fleis & VandenBrink's Proposal for Center Street Design/Bid Engineering Services.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, to accept Fleis & VandenBrink's Proposal for Design/Bid Engineering Services for the Center Street Improvements project for an amount not to exceed \$49,700.

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

Roman Wilson, Brownfield Program Manager with Fishbeck, was in attendance on behalf of Mark Schaafsma, who recently purchased 234 Vosper Street and plans to repurpose the former Jean K Harker Middle School into a senior housing facility. Wilson was contacted by the Ionia County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) regarding the sale and redevelopment of the property. Wilson explained that the property qualifies as a brownfield based on its functional obsolescence, making it eligible for certain brownfield incentives regarding the capture of local taxes. If the Village concurs, a Brownfield Plan Amendment would be prepared for approval by the Ionia County BRA and Ionia County Board of Commissioners.

Wilson further explained that the eligible activities of the redevelopment project amount to approximately \$95,900 and include environmental assessment, demolition (interior) and mold abatement. If approved by the Village, property taxes would be captured for an estimated period of 3-3.25 years to allow for reimbursement of costs related to these activities.

Council members discussed the fact that the property, being a school, has never generated tax revenue. Given Schaafsma's projected investment of \$4.5 million in the project, the Village will see approximately \$25,000 in annual tax revenue once the capture period (3-3.25 years) has ended.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to concur with provisions of the Brownfield Plan Amendment as presented (amounts being estimated) and for Ionia County to facilitate the Plan Amendment.

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

Mark Schaafsma thanked the Village Council for their support of the Harker House project and mentioned that he would be hosting an open house as soon as initial renovations are complete.

Ervin inquired when Schaafsma and his work crew are typically at the site, so she knows what to expect during her patrol of the Village.

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

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Klutman, to accept the Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2019. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to approve the Accounts Payable of November 11, 2019, in the amount of \$246,290.37.

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

Council revisited the proposed District Library Agreement that was tabled at the October 14th council meeting.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to approve by Resolution, the District Library Agreement, as presented. All yeas.

The Zoning Administrators Report for October 2019 was reviewed.

Klutman reported that he was not in attendance at the Planning Commission's November 6th meeting, so could not comment on the business conducted.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to reappoint Elizabeth Bush to the Village of Saranac Planning Commission for a 3-year term expiring June 2022. All yeas.

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation – No report.

Streets

The committee met and discussed budget items for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Due to the cost of the project, committee members recommend that the reconstruction of Center Street from Mill Street to South Street, be the only Street Capital Outlay for the upcoming fiscal year.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Budget – No report.

Public Safety

Chief Simmons reported that the Fire Department is up to 469 calls for the 2019 calendar year, which puts them on pace for 538 calls for the year.

Chief Simmons reported on a recent Fire Department incident that resulted in a workers' compensation claim.

Personnel – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Straubel reported that the 2020 date for the Dirty Thirty bike race is March 28th.

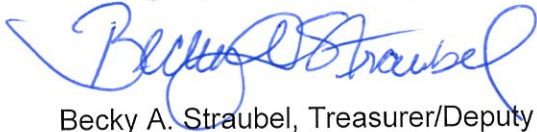
Straubel reported that she was contacted by an individual from Northville, Michigan, who is interested in purchasing commercial property in the Village. He is tentatively visiting the Village on Friday, November 2nd for a walk-through of the property(s) and to inquire about zoning/taxes, etc.

Straubel reported that she completed and submitted the Redevelopment Ready Communities Self-Evaluation and received correspondence from the MEDC that review of the submittal and drafting of a formal report will begin in the next couple of months.

Darby reported that Pat Raimer inquired whether council would once again be agreeable to allowing overnight camping at the boat launch, for the Grand River Expedition canoe trip planned for spring 2020.

Darby inquired as to when the DPW plans to hang Christmas lights. She would like to see them up prior to the annual lighting of the Christmas tree, which is planned for Sunday, December 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk