

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2020

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: None

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

Public Comments – None.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer's Report of February 29, 2020. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to approve the Accounts Payable of March 9, 2020, in the amount of \$172,103.60.

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

Council reviewed financial results for fiscal year ending 2/29/20, as well as proposed budget amendments presented by Straubel.

Straubel provided a summary of the reports.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/29/20, as presented.

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

Council reviewed a Consumers Energy Company Electric Franchise Ordinance, proposed by Consumers Energy. Straubel reported that Jim Doezema, Village Attorney, reviewed and approved the proposed ordinance, as presented. The ordinance would replace Ordinance #57 dated March 19, 1990, expiring April 4, 2020. The proposed ordinance has a term of thirty (30) years as did its predecessor, Ordinance #57.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to accept Ordinance #106, an Ordinance granting to Consumers Energy Company, the right and authority to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines and related facilities in the Village of Saranac, for a period of thirty (30) years.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for February 2020 was reviewed.

Planning Commission Report

Klutman reported on the Planning Commission's March 4th meeting, at which a Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow dwelling units in the Central Business District as a permitted use. There was no public in attendance. The Planning Commission tabled the matter until the April 1st meeting, as a number of changes were suggested by PC members.

Klutman also reported that the PC approved a "Statement of Findings" document, relative to Mark Schaafsma's SUP for The Harker House. Council members received a copy of the document.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Public Safety

Council received Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for February 2020.

Parks & Recreation

DPW Simmons requested council's approval to add lighting at the Trailhead. Currently, nighttime trail users have to walk approximately 100 feet in the dark, from the parking lot to the restroom building. Council concurred that lighting the area would be useful.

Mulnix requested that DPW Simmons look at the restroom stall handle, as he has heard reports of users having difficulty with closing it.

Streets

DPW Simmons reported that the trees slated for take down prior to the Center Street reconstruction project, have been removed.

Spring Clean-up is scheduled for May 18th this year.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer

Doll reported that the committee met and discussed a potential permitting procedure suggested by Hooper, for contractors hired by Village homeowners. The committee is not recommending that the Village implement a procedure such as this, due to added liability and Village man hours, clerical as well as DPW. Council members concurred with the committee's recommendation.

DPW Simmons reported that the new alarm system for the water and sewer system is in place and working well. The new system will streamline the process of responding to an alarm and require less man hours.

DPW Simmons reported that he met with Mark Schaafsma regarding utility connections on Vosper Street and also with a property owner on Parsonage Street regarding utility connections for new home construction.

Personnel

Darby reported that she met with DPW employees individually regarding annual reviews, which provided an opportunity to discuss expectations and provide answers to any questions or concerns.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Darby reported that the Saranac Community Association (SCA) is considering a community-wide garage sale event, the weekend before Spring Clean-up. Council discussed potential pros and cons.

Darby also reported that the SCA has collected \$10,000 toward the purchase of an electronic sign, which they proposed to the Village several years ago. The cost of the sign is \$18,000. They are looking for potential donations from other organizations, to reach the \$18,000 goal. Council members discussed the possibility of the Village making a monetary donation toward their efforts. Straubel brought up the fact that there is \$1,000 in the 2020/2021 budget for donations. Hooper suggested that proceeds from the Dirty 30 Bike Race could be allocated toward the electronic sign.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to allocate the \$1,000 in the 2020/2021 Village donations budget to the SCA's purchase of an electronic sign, as well as any proceeds received from the Dirty 30 Bike Race.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk