

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 14, 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, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: Klutman

Guests: Deputy Rachel Ervin

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

Public Comments – None.

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

Deputy Rachel Ervin was present to update council members on ICSO items of interest and answer any questions council might have.

Ervin reported that officers responded to a complaint of a cannon being set off near the river, but never found any evidence to support the complaint.

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

Darby pointed out that the \$8,548 shown as a General Fund receipt on the Treasurer's Report is federal grant monies distributed by the state under the Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grants (CRLGG) Program. The statutory portion of August Revenue Sharing was eliminated. Instead, but not in replacement of the eliminated statutory Revenue Sharing, Michigan cities, villages and townships received federal monies equal to approximately 150% of what they would have received in statutory Revenue Sharing. Straubel further explained that in order to keep the \$8,548 federal grant monies, the Village must prove that the funds were, or will be used, for eligible expenditures defined under the CARES Act, during the period of March 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. Straubel assured council members that Public Safety (firefighter) expenditures not reimbursed by the PSPHPR Program are eligible expenditures and will more than account for the \$8,548 received.

Motion was made by Hooper, supported by Mulnix, to accept the Treasurer's Report of August 31, 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 September 14, 2020, in the amount of \$234,245.58.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

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

Planning Commission Report

In Klutman's absence, Straubel reported that the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on Dan Timmer's AR-PUD SUP application and site plan for 41 Parsonage Street. Council members were provided with a copy of Tim Johnson's written review of the application. The Planning Commission approved Timmer's application, with a list of approved uses. Should Timmer wish to use the property for a use not on the approved list, he is required to come back to the Planning Commission.

Council reviewed Ordinance #107 to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow dwelling units in the CBD. Straubel explained that the Planning Commission did not understand what the Village Council wanted in regards to parking, so they did not make any changes before sending the ordinance back to council. Straubel contacted Johnson regarding this and he stated that the Village Council could make changes and adopt the ordinance without going back to the Planning Commission. Straubel made the change to exclude parking in a Village operated parking lot or another public off-street site.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to adopt Ordinance #107, an Ordinance to Amend the ZO to Allow Dwelling Units in the CBD Zoning District as a Permitted Use, to Allow Existing Dwelling Units to Continue and to Delete the Current Special Land Use Requirement of Such Uses.

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

Darby reported on a letter received from the Village of Clinton, regarding the state's new lead and copper rules. The Village of Clinton is spearheading an initiative of General Law Villages, to challenge the new rules, and are requesting financial support from other Michigan Villages. The letter states that the new rules are contrary to the General Law Village Charter and the Michigan Constitution because they require Villages to replace lines on private property.

DPW Simmons reported that the DPW crew did not find any lead piping on Center Street during reconstruction, nor have they found any during their ongoing Village-wide inspections. Per DPW Simmons, there is a higher probability of finding a lead goose neck, which would be on Village property, not private property.

Given DPW Simmons findings, council members concurred to decline, at this time, the Village of Clinton's invitation to join their initiative.

Council members briefly reviewed the "red-lined" Food Truck & ORV ordinances that were received from Doezema today, and tabled further discussion until the next council meeting to allow for time to review.

Council members received (3) proposed ordinances drafted by Laura Genovich, Foster/Swift Attorney, pertaining to medical and recreational marijuana. There are two regulatory ordinances (one for medical and one for recreational) and one for Zoning Ordinance amendments. The ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance must go through the Planning Commission first, and a public hearing must be held. Genovich recommends this as a first step in the process, so the Village Council can consider all three ordinances for approval at the same meeting.

The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance to regulate marijuana facilities and establishments at their September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, and set a public hearing date of October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

#### Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

#### Public Safety

Chief Simmons reported that Scott Rubin, a paramedic who has been with the Saranac Fire Department for 35 years, is retiring. Rubin is moving outside of the department's coverage area. He will be greatly missed and is commended for his many years of dedication.

#### Parks & Recreation

DPW Simmons reported that the Trailhead property is in desperate need of topsoil. Council members concurred, and noted that approval to purchase the topsoil is not needed as this is a normal repair/maintenance expense of Village parks.

#### Streets

DPW Simmons reported that the Center Street reconstruction project is going well and is on schedule for completion by or before the contract date of October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Village Office has received many inquiries regarding whether the Village is allowing trick-or-treating this year, due to COVID-19. Darby shared a Public Service Announcement from the City of Portland regarding their stance on the topic. In short, due to the fact that Halloween is a nationally recognized holiday and not a city sanctioned event, Portland states that they have no legal authority to cancel it. Council members concurred with this rationale. Straubel will prepare a notice similar to Portland's and share on the Village website and Facebook page. The notice will advise residents to watch for announcements from the Ionia County Health Department, the CDC or the Office of the Governor, as guidelines/rules may be published as October 31<sup>st</sup> approaches.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Water & Sewer – No report.

#### Personnel

DPW Simmons informed council members that Brad Wittenbach will be on medical leave for 2-4 weeks beginning October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Darby provided council members with a copy of "Duties of Village Officials", taken from Section 2, Chapter 3 of the Handbook for General Law Village Officials. Darby encouraged everyone to review the roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed officials. Darby read from page 19-20, "Words of Wisdom", suggestions provided by experienced village officials.

Darby noted that special meetings can be called by the Village President or by 3 members of the council, in writing. Hooper inquired if email is considered "in writing." Darby was not sure whether it is or not.

Council members also discussed appropriate Facebook representation by council members.

Public Comments – None.

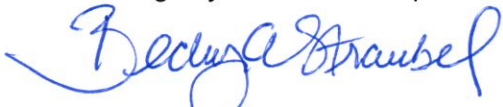
Additional Business

Darby encouraged council members to review Drake CPA's audit report for the Village of Saranac's fiscal year ending 2/29/20.

Darby reported that the Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder bike race has been tentatively rescheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>. Raymond Passchier, event coordinator, is currently working with Ionia County officials on logistics of the race as well as a COVID-19 Prevention Plan. Darby, DPW Simmons and Straubel have also been communicating with Passchier, as the start and finish locations are within the Village limits.

Due to COVID-19, the Village was unable to have a Spring Clean-Up this year. Council members received a copy of the Fall Clean-Up notice that will be mailed this week, to all Village residential property owners/occupants. The Clean-Up is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Council members speculate that this will most likely be a large collection year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Becky A. Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk