

VILLAGE OF SARANAC  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 10, 2022

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; Trustees – Doll, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley  
Absent: DPW Simmons, Day, Klutman  
Guests: Deputy Jacob Sommer

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

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

Deputy Jacob Sommer introduced himself as the new daytime Village/Boston Township liaison for the Ionia County Sheriff's Office.

Sommer provided council members with stats for November 1, 2021 to date, and asked if council had any questions, and/or patrol requests.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Mulnix, to accept the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2021. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 10, 2022, in the amount of \$67,943.42.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for December 2021 was reviewed.

Planning Commission Report

Council members received a copy of the Planning Commission's January 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and public hearing minutes. After the close of the public hearing and after review/discussion of Jeanne Vandersloot's memo regarding the application, the Planning Commission approved a Home Occupation Special Use Permit submitted by Christopher and Michelle Adair, to operate a Gunsmithing business in the detached garage at their residence, 495 Mill Street, Saranac.

Council members reviewed a letter/memo provided by Alex Thibodeau, Foster Swift Attorney, regarding Point Broadband's Metro Act Application and Permit, in which Thibodeau recommends approval of the permit application. Point Broadband intends to bring fiberoptic internet to the Village of Saranac this year.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to adopt Resolution #011022, a Resolution to Approve Point Broadband Fiber Holding LLC's Metro Act Permit as submitted. Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Day, Klutman.

#### Committee Reports

##### Budget

Straubel requested 2022/2023 fiscal year budget numbers from committees by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

##### Public Safety

Straubel will schedule the annual Fire Board meeting for January 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.

##### Parks & Recreation

Straubel reported that the Village received an unsolicited \$1,500 contribution toward the Scheid Park Improvements project. Council members expressed their surprise and gratitude to the contributor.

##### Streets

Council members inquired as to why the radar speed sign isn't operational yet. Per DPW Simmons, the mother board was faulty when the unit arrived. The company was notified and is sending a replacement.

##### Buildings & Grounds – No report.

##### Water & Sewer

Council members discussed a vehicular accident that recently occurred, in which a transformer at the Village wellhouse was damaged. Consumers Energy owns the transformer and was able to replace it the same day, avoiding water service interruption.

Council discussed Straubel's proposal to increase sewer rates by 5% as of January 1, 2022 (3/31/22 billing). Straubel's rationale for the increase is based on a rate study performed by an outside company as part of the SAW grant project.

According to Straubel, a 5% rate increase for a household that uses 17,000 gallons per quarter (average usage) would see an increase in their quarterly bill of \$5.94.

Maintaining rates that adequately cover expenses is frequently a requirement to obtaining grant funding for sewer projects.

Motion by Mulnix, support by Whorley, to increase sewer rates by 5%, according to the spreadsheet presented by Straubel.

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

Personnel

Council members reviewed the DPW's proposal for alternate uniform service. Due to inconsistent service, the DPW is suggesting that council consider purchasing clothing for the DPW employees (as opposed to renting them), and the employees will launder their own clothing. The proposal depicts a \$637 savings in the first year, over what is being paid to the uniform service company, and an annual savings in subsequent years of \$1,397.

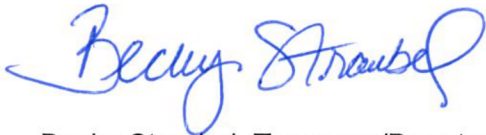
Motion was made by Doll, supported by Simmons, to move forward with the DPW's uniform proposal after discussion with DPW Simmons regarding the t-shirt logo and collared shirts. Roll call vote: yeas – Doll, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – Day, Klutman.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Council members concurred to reschedule the next council meeting from February 14<sup>th</sup> to February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



Becky Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk