

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2023

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 Koster; Trustees – Doll, Klutman, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Day, Mulnix
Guests: Deputy Macklin, Dan Timmer

Motion was made by Talcott, supported by Doll, to approve the Regular Agenda. All yeas.

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of March 2023.

Deputy Macklin was in attendance to provide council members with an update on village law enforcement items of interest, and to answer any questions they may have.

Darby inquired about recent graffiti found on property located on Erv Taylor Avenue. Per Macklin, the State Police took the initial call, but he is reviewing video and believes he has identified a suspect.

Doll commented that he, and others, appreciate Macklin's increased presence at the schools.

Macklin and Darby concurred that the Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder event held Saturday, April 8th went well overall. There were a few minor injuries sustained by riders, and one serious injury at the curve where Parsonage Street and Division Street meet. According to Koster, there have been three injuries at that location over the six years the event has been held here. Event organizers will be looking at ways to create more awareness of that area, thereby making it safer for next years' event participants.

Dan Timmer was in attendance to discuss the possibility of purchasing an approximate .6-acre piece of village owned property which abuts the west side of his property located at 41 N Parsonage Street, Saranac.

Timmer explained that there is a yard drain on his property that allows water to run into his basement. He would like to reroute the drain to the west, through the piece of village property he is proposing to purchase. He is proposing to purchase the property for \$1.00 and pay for a survey of the property as well.

Straubel noted for informational purposes, that the village property being discussed is located in Boston Township, not the Village of Saranac.

Straubel will inquire if Mulder & Associates can survey just the approximate .6-acre piece, as opposed to the entire village parcel, which is approximately 60 acres.

Timmer informed council members, that according to the survey Mulder & Associates did of his property, he owns the road that the village uses to access the wastewater treatment facility. Straubel will confer with Mulder & Associates, to confirm that the village has an easement.

Council members indicated that they are not opposed to selling the approximate .6-acre piece of village owned property to Timmer, but that due diligence items need to be addressed first. Straubel will contact Mulder & Associates (surveyor) and David Klein (assessor) and report findings to the Village Council. Straubel will contact Timmer after providing council members with additional information and receiving their recommendation on how to proceed.

Klutman asked Timmer if he has plans for the other property he owns in the village, located at 49 Main Street. Timmer stated that he would like to create a storage center there.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Talcott, to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to accept the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2023. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 10, 2023, in the amount of \$89,058.40.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for March 2023 was reviewed/discussed.

Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission did not meet, as there was no new business to discuss.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Personnel

Darby reported that Koster completed annual reviews of the three Village DPW employees.

Public Safety

Koster reported that the Fire Department's new medical unit is currently being outfitted at Mark's Body Shop. After its return, the unit will be put into service and the 2012 Suburban can be sold.

Koster also reported that the Fire Department will be receiving \$87,146 from Ionia County, toward the purchase of 800 MHz radios and pagers. The remaining \$35,336 will be paid by the Fire Department entities (Village of Saranac, and Boston, Keene & Easton Townships).

Parks & Recreation

Koster reported that due to recent rainstorms that flooded the Boat Launch, the river overlook detached and floated into the woods. It appears that the overlook was lifted off its posts, but that cannot be confirmed until the water recedes and the DPW crew can get to where it came to rest.

Council members discussed a location at the Trailhead, for the new Christmas tree. Darby suggested the center of the circle parking area. Koster stated that electrical service would have to be extended to the area. Council concurred that is a good location for the tree. Darby will propose to the Saranac Community Association, that they share in the cost to run electrical service to the site.

Streets

Council members commented on how nice the streets looked after the street sweeper came through last week.

Koster shared with council, his thoughts for street maintenance this budget year. He is proposing to add a layer of tar on Vosper Street followed by a layer of chip/seal. He would also like to crack/seal Bridge Street and Parsonage Street. Koster would also like to crack/seal Main Street this year, to prevent further deterioration before it is resurfaced in 2024. Snyder Asphalt will attempt to repair a larger section of Cloverlane, because the trench for the Harker project is smaller than anticipated.

The Streets Committee will be meeting soon to discuss Koster's recommendations regarding 2023/2024 street maintenance, as well as review ordinance language pertaining to unlicensed/inoperable vehicles.

Buildings & Grounds

Koster reported that the roof on the Fire Station is leaking significantly in eight different areas. He has requested a quote from a local contractor, to repair/replace the roof.

Water & Sewer

Koster reported that well 5 is currently down for 4-6 weeks for scheduled rehabilitation.


Koster also reported that he has contacted Dixon Engineering, to discuss the water tower project that was budgeted for this fiscal year.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

Talcott inquired about the alleyway between 49 and 61 N Bridge Street, as it is overgrown and needs attention. Per Darby, a Master Gardner group used to take care of it, but it is ultimately the responsibility of the village.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk