

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 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 – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Brendon Lake, Deputy Macklin, Raymond Passchier, David Washburn

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

Public Comments

David Washburn, Saranac Village resident, was in attendance to voice his concerns over a recent social media post on Saranac Community Association's (SCA) Facebook page, regarding the Saranac Farmers' Market which recently shut down. Per Washburn, he was disturbed by the post, in which the author of the post stated (not verbatim) that the Saranac Community Association and the Village Council have been in discussions for over a year about replacing the Farmers' Market. Washburn interpreted the post as potential evidence of inappropriate behavior by the Village Council, as there is no reference to these conversations in Village Council minutes over the last year. Washburn requested that council members confirm or deny that any such conversations took place and suggested that if they did not, that the Village Council make a statement on record (in their minutes) stating as such.

Discussions ensued and questions were asked and answered. Council members assured Washburn that the Village Council has never had conversations during a council meeting regarding plans to replace the Farmers' Market or regarding the Farmers' Market in general, that have not been included in the minutes on record.

Council members thanked Washburn for bringing this situation to their attention, thus allowing them to publicly set the record straight.

Raymond Passchier, organizer of Dirty 30 Gravel Events, was in attendance to present the Village Council with a life-size check in the amount of \$1,500.00. Each year the event has been held in Saranac, Passchier has contributed back to the community. He thanked the Village for their support, saying that the event would not be possible without the assistance from DPW employees, volunteers from the community and the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Passchier noted that 2023 was the 6th year the event has been held in Saranac. The first year there were 100 participants and this year there were approximately 800 participants. Passchier expects the event to continue to grow, as new events are added to draw participants of all ages. He talked about adding an event next year for young children, using the Railtrail as their course.

Mulnix complemented Passchier on the behavior of participants and volunteers along the course, stating that the event is very well run.

Deputy Macklin inquired about partnering with Passchier on an event with Saranac Community Schools. The two will put their thoughts together and approach the school with their ideas.

Darby suggested the use of yard signs next year, several days prior to the event, announcing when the race will take place.

Council members thanked Passchier for the \$1,500 contribution, which will go toward Scheid Park improvements.

Law Enforcement Report

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

Macklin brought up the topic of dirt bikes and quads operating in the Village. He noted that he attempts to stop them when they are on the Railtrail or at the Nature Park. He asked for council's direction on how best to handle instances when they are operating on Village streets. Council members concurred that safety is the number one priority.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2023 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Talcott, to accept the Treasurer's Report of May 31, 2023. 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 May 8, 2023, in the amount of \$216,378.86.

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

Zoning Administrator Report

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

Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission met June 7th and appointed their Chairperson (Dave Shaw), Vice-Chairperson (Janet Tlappek) and Secretary (Steve Trierweiler) for one-year terms.

Dave Shaw and Janet Tlappek's 3-year term as Planning Commission member expires today, June 12, 2023. At their June 7th meeting, both Shaw and Tlappek agreed to accept another 3-year term, should the Village Council choose to reappoint them.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Talcott, to reappoint Dave Shaw and Janet Tlappek as Planning Commission members with a 3-year term to expire the 2nd Monday of June, 2024.

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

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Public Safety

Per Fire Chief Koster, the department's new 2023 Med 5 Unit is now in service. The Fire Department now has 3 units certified to run medical calls. Koster also reported that they are working with a broker to sell the old Med 5 Unit.

Parks & Recreation

Straubel and Koster provided council members with an update on the Scheid Park project. Fleis & VandenBrink expect to advertise for bids by the end of this month, with bidding to conclude the first week of August. Pending satisfactory bids, construction will begin this fall and be completed no later than June 2024.

Streets

Per DPW Koster, street maintenance (chip-seal) has been completed. Snyder Asphalt will crack-seal Erv Taylor Ave. and Bridge Street next.

A few complaints were relayed to council members, regarding the chip-seal process.

Council members concurred to hand-deliver advance notice of street maintenance (chip-seal) next year in the hopes of circumventing similar complaints going forward.

Straubel provided council members with a Spring Clean-up cost history for informational purposes.

Water & Sewer

Koster reported that he is waiting to hear from Dixon Engineering on the proposed water tower project.

Straubel reported that she completed the update of this years' Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and EGLE approved it for distribution to all water customers, by 6/30/23.

Also per Straubel, a URL has been created for the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report. The 2nd quarter water/sewer bills (to be mailed on or around 6/27/30) will include a statement saying "see water quality report at <https://villageofsaranacmi.org/ccr.pdf> or call 642.6324 for paper copy". This form of notification of the CCR's availability, is acceptable to EGLE.

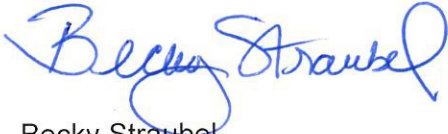
In past years, the Village has mailed the 5-page report to all water customers (over 500). This process is quite costly, considering the time it takes to complete a manual mailing, as well as the supplies used (paper, envelopes, labels, stamps).

Public Comments

Washburn inquired whether there would be a household hazardous waste collection day in the Village this year. Per Straubel, Ionia Conservation District organizes this service and current year dates/locations can be found on their website.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Becky Straubel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Becky" and last name "Straubel" clearly distinguishable.

Becky Straubel,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk