

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2017

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, Klutman, Mulnix, Ricket, Simmons
Absent: Smith, Whorley
Guests: Mark Grieves

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

Public Comments

Mark Grieves, representing the “Friends of the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail” group (Friends Group), was in attendance to update council on recent and upcoming trail news.

Per Grieves, 2017 has been a good year for trail activity, with five more events taking place over last year. Grieves reported that a grant application was submitted to the MDNR for financial assistance to complete the Grand River Valley Rail Trail. If the grant is awarded, trail sections from Saranac to Lowell, Lowell to Belding, and Belding to Greenville will begin construction in 2018. Notification of grant application outcome, is expected on or around December 4th.

Per Grieves, the Friends Group members are excited about the construction of Trailheads in the Village of Saranac and the City of Ionia next year.

Darby inquired if the Friends Group has any specific amenity requests for Saranac's Trailhead project. Per Grieves, a bike repair station is encouraged and a bike rack with locking stations would also be well received.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2017 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Simmons, supported by Klutman, to approve the Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2017. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed, including recent expenses incurred to maintain the 2001 Ford. A timeframe for its replacement will be discussed at a Streets Committee meeting.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Simmons, to approve the Accounts Payable of November 13, 2017, in the amount of \$85,468.44.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report for October 2017 was reviewed. Discussions were held regarding zoning applications for 30 N Center and 136 Vosper.

The Planning Commission did not meet this month.

Pursuant to council's consensus to research the potential purchase of the vacant middle school building, Darby, Straubel, DPW Simmons, Ricket (as Planning Commission Chair) and Todd Richter of Fleis & VandenBrink met at the site with a school staff member and the listing realtor.

Richter submitted for council's review, a proposal to assist the Village with a site review for the potential purchase of the vacant middle school building located on Vosper Street, in the amount of \$2,850.00.

Darby requested discussion on whether or not to proceed with Richter's site review proposal.

Ricket expressed the opinion that it may be premature at this point, to expend the money for a professional site review. He suggested that maybe Village staff could provide council with enough information to make an informed decision.

DPW Simmons agreed with Ricket, and stated that given his construction background, he believes he can provide council with a rough project cost estimate, and with Straubel's assistance, a potential rate of return. Given this information, council could determine whether to move forward with a professional site review, such as that proposed by Richter. Council members concurred with this rationale and therefore tabled Richter's proposal.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

Council reviewed the October law enforcement reports submitted by Deputy Bindus.

Mulnix commended Deputy Bindus on the manner in which he conducts himself while serving our Village.

Budget

Straubel stated that she would appreciate having 2018/2019 budget requests submitted by 12/10/17.

Personnel

Darby reported that the Personnel Committee is recommending a budget allowance of up to 4% for performance increases, effective 3/1/18 (start of the new budget year). The committee is also recommending that retirement fund contributions, bonus pay, cellular stipend and health insurance opt-out pay remain as is. Council members concurred with Personnel Committee's recommendations.

Darby informed council members that two of the four Village DPW employees are no longer members of the Fire Department. This has created a shortage of personnel responding to Fire Department calls during daytime hours. Council members discussed the expectations of DPW employees who are no longer Fire Department members. The consensus was that it is desirable that all DPW employees maintain their Medical First Responder (MFR) Certification. Council members discussed incentives to encourage employees to maintain their MFR Certification. The final consensus was to pay for continuing education to maintain MFR Certification and to allow on-line classes to be taken during work hours. If DPW employees choose not to maintain their MFR Certification however, they will be expected to assist the department in a limited capacity (drive vehicles, administer CPR, fight fires), as Firefighter status never expires.

Darby informed council members of a proposed change in Village dental insurance provider. Switching from AlwaysCare to Delta Dental would save the Village over \$1,800.00/year. The only reduction in benefit for Village employees would be a \$75 deductible per person as opposed to a \$50 deductible per person.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Doll, to switch the Village dental insurance to Delta Dental, effective 1/1/18. All yeas.

Darby inquired if council members would be open to adding November 15th as an official holiday for Village employees, as currently all five employees take the day off.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to add November 15th as a holiday, effective this year. All yeas.

Darby will provide Straubel with language to update the Employee Handbook to reflect the preceding changes/additions, as approved by council.

Parks & Recreation

Mulnix reported on the committee's meeting with Rick Stout, Fleis & VandenBrink engineer for the Trailhead project and Recreation Plan update. Stout suggested providing bidders with two options for project start date, as this may bring in more competitive/attractive bids.

Mulnix spoke to Dave Ballone of SYBL, regarding a request for rental of the baseball fields at Scheid Park, by a travel tournament league. The requested date of use is over the 2018 July 4th weekend. Ballone will work on a rental cost and report back to Mulnix.

Streets

Straubel will be attending a Rural Task Force meeting November 27th in the Village of Muir. The Village received funding this year for Bridge Street (Church Street to north Village limits) and will receive additional funds next year for Bridge Street (Church Street to south Village limits), through this program.

Buildings & Grounds

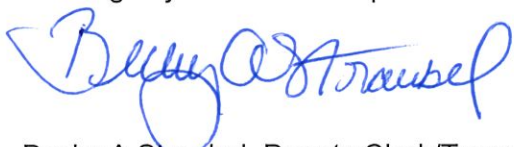
DPW Simmons informed council that the roof furnace at the Fire Department is not working. The extent of repairs needed, is not yet known.

Water & Sewer – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Becky A Straubel, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer