

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 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, DPW Simmons; Trustees – Day, Doll, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: Klutman

Guests: Justin Mulford, Riley Mulford, Ryan Wilson, Deputy Sean Farrell, Sergeant Dion Sower, Todd Richter

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

Public Comments

Justin Mulford, lifetime resident of Saranac, and his daughter Riley were in attendance to request the use of the trailhead/boatlaunch park area to host a petting zoo. Mulford explained that his request is on behalf of the Barnyard Bunch, an Ionia County 4-H Club. The event would be on a Saturday this summer, one that corresponds with the Farmers Market, and would run the same hours as the Farmers Market. Mulford ensured council members that he and club members would clean up after the event.

President Darby stated that the boat launch itself cannot be used or blocked, and the Village does not allow parking on grassy areas.

Mulford stated that he doesn't have a specific date in mind yet. Darby requested that he check with the Village office before choosing a date, to avoid conflict with another event. Straubel provided Mulford with a "Notification of Events" form to fill out and return.

Council members concurred that the Barnyard Bunch petting zoo would be a welcome event.

Ryan Wilson, Executive Director (ED) of the Ionia County Economic Alliance (ICEA) was in attendance to introduce himself to council. Council members were provided with a copy of ICEA's 2020 Annual Report, along with other documents of interest and a letter requesting a financial commitment from the Village, as in past years.

Wilson stated that he took the position as ED for ICEA in November, although he had been with the organization in a different role for approximately three years. Wilson also stated that he has lived and worked in Ionia County his entire life.

Wilson went on to explain that the biggest change in the position of ED, is the amount of time spent focusing on Ionia County. For the last seven years, only 60% of the ED's time was allotted to Ionia County. Now, 100% of the ED's time is spent on Ionia County, allowing more time and freedom for non-traditional economic development.

Wilson noted that he has been working with the owner of 234 Vosper Street, Saranac, on potential grant opportunities for the Harker House project.

Council discussed the ICEA request for a financial commitment to the advancement of the ICEA. Darby noted that the Village has been giving \$500 for the last several years, but given the ICEA's involvement with the Harker House, she would support a \$1,000 investment.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to make a financial contribution to the ICEA in the amount of \$1,000 for the 2022 calendar year.

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

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of March 2022.

Deputy Sean Farrell was in attendance to introduce himself to council. Farrell has been assigned to Village daytime patrol while Deputy Sommer is off on medical leave.

Farrell graduated from the academy in the summer of 2021 and started his employment with Ionia County in January of this year.

Council members welcomed Farrell.

Motion was made by Mulnix at 7:23 p.m., supported by Simmons, to open the Public Hearing on a proposed application for a CDBG grant for the construction of a restroom/concession facility at Scheid Park. All yeas.

Todd Richter, Fleis & VandenBrink Engineer was in attendance to provide an overview of the proposed grant application and answer any questions that council or the public may have. The grant is a CDBG Public Gathering Spaces Initiative provided by the MEDC.

Richter explained that the grant is very competitive, with only \$5 million in funds available. However, if awarded, these funds would allow the Village to expand upon the Scheid Park project, as the requested funds would be matched with the MDNR Trust Fund Grant as well as Village local funds.

Richter provided council members with an ariel map of the site and a spreadsheet with previous costs and updated costs. The updated costs are reflective of cost increases due to inflation, and project additions, increasing the total cost from \$500,000 to \$750,000 (\$300,000 from MDNR, \$350,000 from MEDC/CDBG and \$100,000 from Village).

There was no public present at the meeting and no comments were received prior to the meeting.

Motion was made by Whorley at 7:47 p.m., supported by Day, to close the Public Hearing. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to adopt Resolution #041122 authorizing the submittal of a CDBG grant application for \$350,000 in CDBG funds with a \$100,000 Village match and designating an authorized signer.

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

DPW Simmons requested a correction to the 3/14/22 council minutes. Page two under Buildings & Grounds should read; "DPW Simmons reported that new security cameras have been purchased, but not yet installed."

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting, with the correction as noted above. All yeas.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to accept the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2022. 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 April 11, 2022, in the amount of \$79,306.66.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for March 2022 was reviewed.

Council members discussed an appropriate fee to charge for a food truck permit. Straubel suggested setting two different fees, a one-time fee and an annual fee.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to set the food truck permit fee as follows; a one-time fee of \$25 and \$150 for an annual fee.

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

Planning Commission Report – No report.

Council reviewed a resolution prepared by Straubel, to designate the use of SLRF funds for replacement and/or rehabilitation of utility infrastructure. The resolution is not required by the MI Department of Treasury. However, it provides an official document indicating council's unified consensus of how to best use the funds.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Day, to approve the Resolution to Designate the use of SLRF Funds, as presented.

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

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Public Safety – No report.

Chief Simmons reported that the Fire Department has brought on four new members in the last year.

Parks & Recreation

Darby spoke with Chadwick regarding a donation from the estate of a Village resident that recently passed away. Chadwick requested that the Village submit an idea with a dollar amount, for consideration.

DPW Simmons suggested dugouts for the new field at Scheid Park. He will draft a request.

Streets

Straubel informed council of a street grant opportunity that was recently announced by MDOT. The grant is a TEDF Category B grant, which is the same grant program utilized for the Center Street project. The maximum grant is 50% of eligible costs, up to \$250,000. Only costs directly associated with roadway construction are eligible for funding. Engineering costs are not eligible. Straubel will confer with Richter to see if any local streets would be a good fit for this grant.

Buildings & Grounds

DPW Simmons requested a committee meeting to discuss the tear down and replacement of the building that is attached to the current restroom facility at Scheid Park.

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported that well #4 is still undergoing rehabilitation.

Straubel reported that the DWAM project is out for bid with a bid opening scheduled for May 4th at 2:00 p.m.

Darby shared information from a letter she received from EGLE, regarding lead service line replacement and reporting requirements. Per DPW Simmons, he and his crew have identified zero lead service lines to date, and he has submitted the required report which is due April, 30, 2022.

Personnel – No report.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business

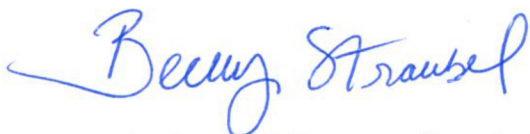
Council was asked for clarification of eligibility on the use of the electronic sign for two specific events, the Saranac Village Farmers Market and Jones' Meat Market Customer Appreciation Day. Council members concurred that the Farmers Market itself is not a for-profit business, whereas Jones' Meat Market is. Therefore, under the policy for use of the sign, Jones' Meat Market does not meet the criteria.

Straubel reported that she received a phone call complaint on the day of the Dirty 30 Bike Race, regarding the use of a loud speaker. Straubel passed the complaint along to the event organizer.

Darby noted that there was also a complaint regarding water bottles on a particular street, which was resolved the same day.

Per DPW Simmons, the new John Deere tractor was delivered today.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.



Becky Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk