

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 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: Jami Anderson with Granger Waste Services

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Talcott, 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 September 2023.

Deputy Jordan Luz has replaced Deputy Kyle Macklin as the daytime patrol officer for the Village of Saranac.

Granger Waste Services Proposed Agreement

Jami Anderson, with Granger Waste Services, was in attendance to answer any questions council may have, regarding Granger's proposed new agreement, effective January 1, 2024. The current 5-year agreement expires December 31, 2023.

The new agreement has a 5-year option with an annual cost increase of 5%, and a 7-year option with an annual cost increase of 4%.

Anderson pointed out a few changes in the proposed new agreement, that residents will want to make note of, should the agreement be accepted by council, as presented tonight.

1. Three bags will still be allowed outside of a 96-gal. refuse cart, but only 2 will be "free". The 3rd bag must have a refuse tag on it, or it will not be picked up.
2. Refuse tags will increase from \$2/ea. to \$3/ea. The tag rate was last increased 1/1/2019.
3. A second 96-gal. refuse cart will be available at a reduced rate, \$16.65 less per quarter than the first cart. Currently, residents who have a 2nd 96-gal. refuse cart are charged the same rate for each cart.

Anderson answered council member's questions to their satisfaction.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Whorley, to accept Granger's Proposed Agreement, effective January 1, 2024, and expiring December 31, 2030 (7-year option), as presented.

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

Motion was made by Day, supported by Klutman, to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Talcott, to accept the Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2023. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to approve the Accounts Payable of October 9, 2023, in the amount of \$91,315.82.

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 September 2023 was reviewed/discussed.

Council members are not opposed to Vandersloot's potential solution to the parking situation in the Village lot located off Erv Taylor Avenue. However, they concurred that enforcement would be a challenge. Straubel will seek additional input from Vandersloot, and report back to council at the November 13, 2013 council meeting.

Planning Commission Report

Council members reviewed minutes from the Planning Commission's October 4th Regular Meeting.

Day reported that representatives from Branch Adventures, River's Edge Youth Center, and Young Life, were in attendance to discuss a potential new location (11 N Bridge Street) for the Youth Center which is currently located at 79 N Bridge Street.

The Planning Commission discussed and agreed that a Special Use Permit would be required, per Section 30.11.02 (B) of the Village Zoning Ordinance.

The parties noted above, were informed of the process involved in applying for and obtaining a Special Use Permit. The Planning Commission will await further communication, on whether they wish to apply for a Special Use Permit or not.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee (PC) met to review several options for Health Insurance coverage, as the current policy with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) expires November 30, 2023. Due to the large increase that BCBS will be imposing, the PC is recommending that the Village switch from BCBS to Priority Health (Option #3, \$500 Gold HMO) as shown in the spreadsheet prepared for the Village by Corrie McNeil, Account Manager/SBU with HUB International.

Council members reviewed/discussed options provided, and concurred with the PC's recommendation.

Motion made by Klutman, supported by Whorley, that effective 12/1/23, the Village will switch from BCBS health care coverage to Priority Health (Option #3, \$500 Gold HMO), as presented. Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Public Safety

Koster requested a meeting with the Public Safety Committee. Committee members set the meeting date for Tuesday, October 17th at 6 p.m.

Parks & Recreation

Council members discussed the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Scheid Park Improvements Project, which was held at 6 p.m. tonight. They were very pleased by how well attended the event was.

Straubel reported that the Village received notice that they were not awarded a Spark Grant, which would have funded additional improvements to Scheid Park.

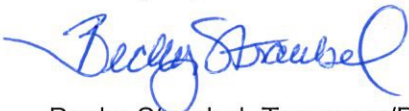
Streets – No report.

Water & Sewer

Doll reported that he and Koster met with Todd Richter to discuss a sanitary sewer project based on findings of the SAW Grant Project. The 2023/2024 sewer budget for this project is \$150,000. Council members were provided with maps showing proposed sewer main lining and repairs. Richter will prepare a bid package.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Becky Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk