

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 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, Mulnix, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Klutman
Guests: Deputy Jordan Luz

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

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

Deputy Jordan Luz introduced herself as the Village of Saranac's new daytime patrol officer. Luz 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.

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

Council members reviewed Grand River Excavation's Application for Payment #1, in the amount of \$41,119.69, for the Scheid Park Improvements Project. The application was reviewed for accuracy by Fleis & VandenBrink, prior to being submitted to the Village for payment.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Mulnix, to approve Grand River Excavation's Pay Application #1 for the Scheid Park Improvements Project, in the amount of \$41,119.69.

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

Council members reviewed a proposal submitted by Fleis & VandenBrink, to update the Village of Saranac's 5-year Park & Recreation Plan (\$6,100) and to prepare a MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application (\$3,200). The 5-year Plan must be current, to remain eligible for grant funding. The proposed grant application would be for funding assistance to install pickleball courts, site lighting, literacy elements and parking lot improvements at Scheid Park.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to accept Fleis & VandenBrink's proposal to provide the services noted above totaling \$9,300.

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

Motion was made by Talcott, supported by Day, to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2023 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

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

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Day, to approve the Accounts Payable of November 13, 2023, in the amount of \$144,528.91

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

Zoning Administrator Report

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

Vandersloot's potential solution to the parking situation in the Village lot located off Erv Taylor Avenue was tabled.

DPW Koster mentioned that the City of Lowell issues parking permits to residential tenants of downtown commercial buildings.

DPW Koster and Straubel will contact Lowell City Office for details on their parking permit process.

Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission's November 6th regularly scheduled monthly meeting was canceled, due to lack of business.

Committee Reports

Budget

Straubel requested that Committee Chairs submit their proposed budget items by 12/31/23, for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet on November 28th at 7 a.m.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Public Safety

Chief Koster informed council that the Fire Department recently formed a committee to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for the department.

Parks & Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Committee is scheduled to meet on November 28th at 8 a.m.

Streets

Straubel reported that the Village was not chosen to receive TEDF Category B grant funding in 2024, for the Church Street Reconstruction Project. However, it is being considered for funding in 2025, per a recent phone call from MDOT. If the project is approved for funding in 2025 (notification expected early 2024), the project will be pushed out another year. If this happens, DPW Koster will research and propose to council, a temporary fix for the street until early 2025.

DPW Koster will reach out to Todd Richter at Fleis & VandenBrink, to schedule a Streets Committee meeting to discuss 2024/2025 budget items.

Water & Sewer

Doll noted that the Water & Sewer Committee is requesting to carry-over to next years' budget, the water/sewer projects that have not started or will not be completed by the end of the current budget year.

Additional Business

Darby informed council that a local IT company is putting together a proposal to provide Wi-Fi service in downtown Saranac.

Darby also noted that Social House will be opening soon.

Whorley shared with council members, that a new bakery will also be opening soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Becky Straubel, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk