

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2026

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:03 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, Klutman, Talcott, Whorley
Absent: Doll, Mulnix
Guests: Deputy Alec Stewart

Motion was made by Whorley, 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 March 2026.

Deputy Alec Stewart was in attendance to provide council members with an update on village law enforcement items of interest, and to answer any questions they might have.

Motion was made by Talcott, supported by Day, to accept minutes of the March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing. All yeas.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Talcott, to accept the Treasurer's Report of March 31, 2026. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Whorley, supported by Klutman, to approve the Accounts Payable of April 13, 2026, in the amount of \$168,219.99.

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

Council members reviewed financial results for fiscal year ending 2/28/26, as prepared and presented by Straubel.

Per Straubel's financial reports for fiscal year ending 2/28/26, the village experienced a net increase in reserve funds (all funds combined) of \$342,727, with Sewer being the only fund with a net decrease in reserve funds.

Proposed budget amendments for fiscal year ending 2/28/26 were reviewed by council members.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Talcott, to approve the budget amendments as presented by Straubel.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for March 2026 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission's regular meeting for the month of April was cancelled due to lack of business.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report

Personnel

Darby reported that DPW Webster resigned. Discussion was had regarding whether to fill the position and if so, whether to continue it as part-time or full-time position. DPW Koster indicated that he would like to fill the position, with a part-time status. Straubel will work on a job posting.

DPW Darby is scheduled to take the water certification exam in May.

Public Safety

Chief Koster reported that the remodel project at the fire station is going well. He expects the project to come in under budget, due to donations of material and labor.

Darby asked Chief Koster to clarify which fire engine is being sold and why.

Chief Koster explained that 2013 Engine 6 (mini-pumper) is being sold because the appraised value is between \$140,000 and \$190,000, and it does not give us any ISO points. 2002 Engine 5 has reached its end of life and no longer provides us with ISO points, and is only valued at \$3,000. We are purchasing a new Class A Pumper to maintain our current ISO rating, and selling Engine 6 because it has a much greater residual value than Engine 5.

Parks & Recreation

Kayla Palmer with Fleis & VandenBrink submitted for the Parks Committee's review, an overall cost opinion on Scheid Park's concept plan, as well as bubble diagrams for the nature park, riverwalk, depot park, and boat launch.

Day reported that he will schedule a meeting with a forestry expert, once the river recedes.

Streets

Darby reported that she was contacted by the owner of 80 Bridge Street, inquiring whether the Village would be interested in purchasing the parking lot. Darby shared the purchase price with council members and all concurred that the cost is prohibitive.

Darby reported that the Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder event was successful and no injuries were reported.

Buildings & Grounds – No report

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Water & Sewer – No report

Public Comments – None

Additional Business – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Village Treasurer/Deputy Clerk