

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2026

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, Talcott
Absent: Mulnix, Whorley
Guests: Ty Mason, 49 Main Street, Saranac – Custom Horsepower

Motion was made by Doll, 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 December 2025.

Council members reviewed a proposed Resolution to Accept Contract #25-5595 with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and to Authorize Village Officials to Sign said Contract. The contract covers the terms of a 50/50 grant the Village was awarded through MDOT for a 2026 street project. The project will consist of overband crack seal, chip seal and fog seal on portions of Liberty Street, Jackson Street, Washington Street, Fuller Street, Center Street and Vosper Street.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Talcott, to adopt the Resolution to Accept Contract #25-5595 with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and to Authorize Village Officials to Sign said Contract, as presented.

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

Council members reviewed a memo from Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, regarding a Variance application submitted by Ty Mason, owner of 49 Main Street, Saranac, for a building addition.

Mason was in attendance to answer any questions council may have for him.

Mason is proposing to construct an addition onto the existing building at 49 Main Street, closer to the east side lot line than allowed by zoning regulations. Mason is currently using the existing building as offices for his business, Custom Horsepower. Mason explained that he modifies high-end cars for peak performance. The proposed addition would be his shop area, where he performs this work. The existing building was constructed prior to the Village establishing zoning regulations, and is positioned within a few inches of the east side lot line. The proposed addition would extend north from the existing building, at the same east side setback. Due to the fact that his property abuts a residential district on its east side, a 20' setback is required per zoning regulations. Mason's variance request is for the building to be constructed less than 20' from the east side lot line.

Mason informed council that he spoke with his residential neighbors directly to the east of his property. They do not have an issue with the proposed addition, and plan to attend the Public Hearing to make that known.

Council members discussed with Mason, other aspects of his business and the proposed building addition, and set a date of February 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for a Public Hearing to accept comments on his request for a variance from east side lot line zoning requirements.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Talcott, to accept minutes of the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Doll, to accept the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2025. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Day, to approve the Accounts Payable of January 12, 2026, in the amount of \$233,263.09.

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

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for December 2025 was reviewed.

The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 13, in conjunction with their rescheduled regular meeting, to accept comments on Ty Mason's Special Use Permit application to construct an addition onto the existing building at 49 Main Street, Saranac. A Special Use Permit is required for the proposed use and size of the building. Should the Planning Commission approve Mason's Special Use Permit, it will be contingent on the Zoning Board of Appeals granting an east side lot line variance, as discussed earlier.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report

Personnel – No report

Public Safety

Chief Koster reported that the Saranac Community Fire Department ended 2025 with 741 runs. Koster also mentioned that they have responded to 29 calls so far this January.

Parks & Recreation

Talcott reported that the Parks Committee met with Kayla Palmer and Marlina O'Connell from Fleis & VandenBrink, to review three bubble diagrams they prepared for the Scheid Park portion of the Parks Concept Plan. Committee members offered feedback, which Palmer and O'Connell will incorporate into one plan to present to council in February and the public at a Public Hearing in March. The Committee also brainstormed ideas for the Nature Park, Riverwalk Park and the Trailhead/Boat Launch Park portion of the Parks Concept Plan.

Streets

Darby inquired about the annual Rural Task Force meeting. Per Straubel and Koster, they did not meet, as there were no proposed changes from last years' schedule of projects. The Village of Saranac has two street projects in line to receive Rural Task Force funding; Summit Street in 2026 and Mill Street in 2028.

Council members discussed recent legislature regarding ACT 51 allocations.

Per DPW Koster, after this years' street projects, all Village streets will have been improved (crack/chip/fog seal, asphalt overlay or complete reconstruction) within the last 10 years.

Darby stated that we should update the PASER ratings of our streets, to reflect these improvements.

Buildings & Grounds – No report

Water & Sewer – No report

Public Comments – None

Additional Business

The February Village Council meeting will be rescheduled from February 9 to February 16, to allow for additional time for budget preparation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Village Treasurer/Deputy Clerk