

WNBZ

July 28, 2010

## Village nearing completion of sand/salt shed

The Saranac Lake Village Board of Trustees voted unanimously Monday night to transfer funds that will cover the construction of a new sand/salt shed on Van Buren Street.

Following threats of a lawsuit last year, the state Department of Environmental Conservation issued an order of consent to mitigate the seepage of salt into Lake Colby from its storage site near the village Department of Public Works.

The lawsuit threat came from the Adirondack Council and the Lake Colby Association. The two groups said the sand/salt pile was contaminating the lake via Colby Brook and demanded the pile be removed or covered.

The village received a \$175,000 grant from the DEC's Water Quality Improvement Program to cover some of the costs associated with purchasing and erecting a storage facility for sand and salt. Last night, trustees voted to transfer just under \$213,000 from the street and road reserve fund to cover the remaining costs.

John Sweeney is village manager for Saranac Lake.

"This goes to the overall purchase," he said. "The street and road reserve fund comes from the general fund. This is our reserve that we can use for projects like this."

The village must comply with the DEC consent order by August 1. Sweeney says the village has met all of its obligations so far.

"The consent order had some stipulations in it, such as the sand and salt had to be removed from the site in the interim, which we did," he said. "We're okay at this point in time. We're building and when that's complete, will move the sand and salt back in."

In May, trustees moved to accept a construction bid for the project. The village is not required to seek permissive referendum on the transfer of funds from the street and road reserve.

-Chris Morris, 7-28-10