ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, July 14, 2025

AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON

PRESENT: Pro-Tem Sarah Hopper, Lyle Perry, Mike Rebholz, Debra Seid, Dorothy Sharkey, Matt Wiesen
ABSENT: President Coey

At 5:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Pro-Tem Hopper and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT (Five Minute Limit per Individual on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items):
Rich Ernest and Geri Hawley inquired about cleaning up the downtown area in preparation for the Copperfest Celebration.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Finance Committee June 23, 2025; Marina Commission June 19, 2025; Planning Commission June 18, 2025
A motion was made by Seid, second by Rebholz (CARRIED), to approve the consent agendas as presented.
AYE: Seid, Rebholz, Perry, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
ABSENT: President Coey

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
A motion was made by Sharkey, second by Wiesen (CARRIED), to approve the agenda as amended.
AYE: Sharkey, Wiesen, Perry, Rebholz, Seid, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
ABSENT: President Coey

APPROVAL OF BILLS:
A motion was made by Perry, second by Seid (CARRIED), to approve the bills as presented.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Perry, Seid, Rebholz, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: June 23, 2025
A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Perry (CARRIED), to approve the meeting minutes of June 23, 2025 as presented.
AYE: Rebholz, Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

REPORTS:

a. Manager Report

The SRF Wastewater Improvements project is 42% completed, due to be completed by July 03, 2026, for project details please refer to the Plans/Reports page on the Village website.

The Gabridge & Co audit officially begins today, July 14, 2025, to be completed no later than September 19, 2025. We have submitted 25 of the 53 requested documents so far. This is the fifth year that Gabridge & Co. has conducted the annual Village audit.

The Village has received $25,000.00 from the $50,000.00 Thriving Communities Grant. We will receive the second half of the grant once Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 milestones are complete. The funds will be used to perform a Marina Study for current accessibility conditions, cost-effective maintenance options and stakeholder mapping.

The Village was awarded a Copper Shores Community Health Foundation Emergency Services Grant in the amount of $4,501.50 to purchase two Gas Detectors, a Gas Detector Kit and a Water Hose Tester. The Village's matching funds portion will be paid by the Ontonagon Volunteer Fire Department. The funds must be spent prior to December 31, 2025.

The Village tax bills have been mailed and over $50,000.00 has been collected to date. Tax revenues increased from $492,000.00 to over $533,000.00, reflecting an increase of 8.37%.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. MERS Update

MERS payment $55,986.00 due on 7/20/2025 was made 6/20/2025. Next payment is due 8/20/2025 and will be made towards the end of July. The Michigan Enhancement Grant will cover the next 9 months, and the grant will close out in March 2026.

The Village is also required to file Form 6163 by August 1st as part of the Protecting Michigan Pension Grant which is used to monitor retirement plans.

b. Request to purchase Village property (Community Development)

An appraisal was completed on 06/28/2025 which valued the property at $34,400.00. A survey has been ordered but has not yet been completed. It was discussed that once the survey and descriptions have been received, the Village will look into dividing the parcel as a portion of the site is a ravine with some infrastructure and unusable. The property will then be listed with a realtor. No action.

c. OASD Bus Garage Lease (Community Development)

Deric Morris completed the curb stop estimate at a cost of $8,066.34, the Council has requested an estimate to include the cost of going from the curb stop to the building. The estimate has yet to be completed. No action.

d. **Steel Street Request (Planning Committee)**

Randy Baker has agreed to the land swap offered on 06/06/2025. The manager has contacted Peninsula Title regarding the transfer which will take some time to complete. No action.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **/ b. GEI Proposal/Routsala Quote – Mill Road Watermain Replacement**

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Seid (CARRIED) to approve the GEI proposal for the Mill Road Watermain Replacement in the amount of $1,000.00 and the Routsala quote for the Mill Road Watermain Replacement in the amount of $49,500.00 as presented.

ROLL CALL
AYE: Rebholz, Seid, Perry, Sharkey, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: Wiesen
ABSENT: President Coey

c. **Silver City Pump Station**

Pro-Tem Hopper received a phone call from a concerned citizen regarding the appearance of the pump station. Following a round table discussion, the council declined to consider. No action.

d. **Booster Bonanza Request**

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Seid (CARRIED) to approve the Booster Bonanza request to rent the Rec Center from Friday August 8th to Sunday August 10th for $500.00.

ROLL CALL
AYE: Rebholz, Seid, Perry, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
ABSENT: President Coey

e. **Ontonagon Chamber of Commerce Request**

A motion was made by Wiesen, second by Seid (CARRIED) to approve Ontonagon Chamber of Commerce request to rent the Rec Center in case of inclement weather on Saturday July 26th for $250.00.

ROLL CALL
AYE: Wiesen, Seid, Perry, Rebholz, Sharkey, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
ABSENT: President Coey

Pro-tem Hopper referred to the public comment about the downtown cleanup and a round house discussion followed.

f. **Amtrak Letter of Support Request**

Manager DuPont received an email request for a resolution or a letter of support from Amtrak to extend their line to the U.P., this was referred to staff.

g. Asbestos Test – 317 River Street

Manager DuPont reported that ten samples were tested for asbestos and all came back negative.

h. Veteran's Monument

The VFW Auxiliary cleaned the monument and discovered it to be in serious disrepair. It was referred to staff to research who owns the property and is responsible for the monument upkeep.

i. DDA Ordinance Status

Trustee Wiesen ~~asked if the DDA ordinance status can be re-worded to reduce the required membership numbers by one person~~ inquired about the rewording of the ordinance to reduce the member number by one and to remove the portion that prevents an elected official from serving on the DDA. Rich Ernest will forward the applications he has received to the Manager. Referred to Community Development Committee.

j. Recreation Center Lease Agreement

Manager DuPont will contact Dallas Aho or Darien Morris to inquire if the Hockey Association intends to renew their lease for the Recreation Center.

k. CTE Building Water Service Request

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Perry (CARRIED) to refer the CTE Building Water Service Request to the Infrastructure Committee
AYE: Rebholz, Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

Announcements-Other Council Business

Dorothy Sharkey commented on how nice the new DPW truck looks.

It was moved by Seid, second by Rebholz to adjourn at 7:13 pm.
AYE: Seid, Rebholz, Perry, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
ABSENT: President Coey

Wendy Pence

Wendy Pence, Clerk

08-11-2025

Approved