Ontonagon

Harbor Town
Gateway to the Porcupine Mountains

VILLAGE OF ONTONAGON

Founded in 1843

315 Quartz Street
Ontonagon, Michigan 49953
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AGENDA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY – August 11, 2025
5:00 P.M. - 315 QUARTZ ST.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS AT 4:30 P.M.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Five Minute Limit Per Individual on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items)**
4. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Finance Committee July 28, 2025; Planning Commission July 16, 2025, Marina Commission July 17, 2025**
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
6. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
7. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: July 14, 2025, July 28, 2025**
8. **REPORTS:**
   a. **Manager Report**
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   a. **MERS Updates**
   b. **Request to purchase Village property (Community Development)**
   c. **OASD Bus Garage Lease (Community Development)**
   d. **Ontonagon Street Right-of-Way Request**
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
    a. **Community Development Committee Recommendations (DDA)**
11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS – OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

07/28/2025

Village of Ontonagon

Village Council Finance Committee

Called to order at 4:34PM

Present: Seid, Rebholz, Hopper

Review of Bills already paid $19,948.60

Total $96,222.24

Moved by Sseid seconded by Hopper.

Adjourned at 4:48PM

VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2025
AT 3:30 P.M. AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON

At 3:30 pm the meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT: John Hamm, Lyle Perry, Deb Seid, Chair-William Johnson
ABSENT: Dorothy Sharkey

AGENDA:
A motion was made by Perry, second by Hamm, (CARRIED) to approve the agenda as amended.
AYE: Perry, Hamm, Seid, Chair Johnson
NAY: None
ABSENT: Sharkey

MINUTES: June 18, 2025
A motion was made by Seid, second by Perry, (CARRIED) to approve the minutes of June 18, 2025, as presented with corrections.
AYE: Seid, Perry, Hamm, Chair Johnson
NAY: None
ABSENT: Sharkey

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:
None

BUSINESS:

a. **Ordinance Update**

The ordinance was approved by the council 05-27-2025 and can be found on the Village website under the Government tab.

b. **Report of Zoning Administrator**

Administrator Rebholz reported that we have received quite a few fence permits as well as multiple inquiries on the zoning possibilities of the Gorman house property as well as inquiries for garages.

A letter will be sent to a resident who currently has a hot tub in an alley right of way asking them to remove the hot tub. Perry offered to speak to the resident also.

Dusty Linder inquired about zoning for the building he is remodeling on Quartz Street. He is looking to do an expansion on the back side of the building. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided he can go ahead with his plans according to the Village zoning ordinance.

The Napa store is currently red tagged by the State HVAC, Electrical and Building Inspectors for various items. They were also given a variance by the Village for planting low lying shrubs rather than trees on their berm in front of the building but they have placed concrete barriers rather than an earth berm which is in violation of the variance. They will not get their completed zoning permit as it stands.

A letter will be sent to a Village resident for alley infringements including a chicken coop, wood piles, green house and chickens and ducks as well.

A survey has been completed on three separate Village right away beach access properties including Prehnite, Epidote and Amygdaloid streets. Letters will be sent concerning infringements on these properties as well. 4 x 4 posts have been installed for signage stating these areas are Village beach right of ways.

Joe Domitrovich will survey the M-38 and Greenland Rd property this week so the Village can move forward with resolving the blight on this property.

The new house on 3rd & Pennsylvania is making good progress.

c. Park Plans

The Zoning Administrator requested a FOIA in January for the Abbey/Radke plans which the Township has not yet produced.

A request was also made for the plans for the proposed assisted living facility.

The Township is suspending their building code and is looking to re-do their master plan. They will utilize the state inspector for the time being.

A discussion was held regarding updating the Recreation Plan.

d. Rock Shop Purchase

A round house discussion was held regarding the request to purchase the right of way in front of the Gitchee Gumee Rock Shop. It is unknown who owns the property and if it has been abandoned by MDOT.

Mike Rebholz informed the Council that he spoke with Steve Hamilton regarding the Polaris charging station and, at no cost to the Village, they are going to re-up their lease for two more years.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

See Business part b. above.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair at 4:06 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Wendy Pence.

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Wendy Pence, Clerk Approved

VILLAGE MARINA COMMISSION
HELD ON THURSDAY, July 17, 2025
AT 5:00 P.M. AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON

ORDER
At 5:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairperson Deb Seid.

PRESENT: Don Chastan, Willie DuPont, Vice-Chairperson Debra Seid, Chairperson Fred Chamberlain
ABSENT: Tom Colgin, Barb Kilmer

AGENDA:
A motion was made by Seid, second by DuPont, (CARRIED) to approve the agenda as amended.
AYE: Seid, DuPont, Chastan, Chamberlain
NAY: None
ABSENT: Colgin, Kilmer

MINUTES:
A motion was made by DuPont, second by Chastan (CARRIED), to approve the June 19, 2025 minutes
AYE: DuPont, Chastan, Seid, Chamberlain
NAY: None
ABSENT: Colgin, Kilmer

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:
None

FINANCIAL REPORT:
Chairperson Chamberlain had a question on the financial report concerning the SOM CRS Fee which Manager Dupont explained is the State of Michigan online register.

Manager DuPont reported we have received $25,000.00 from the Thriving Communities Grant which will be used for a feasibility study of the current accessibilities like silting and to look for a long-term, cost-effective plan to maintain the silt and mapping stakeholders to see who is using the marina and how we can utilize it.

DuPont also reported the seasonal berths and daily ramp fees are up from last year.

Chairperson Chamberlain inquired about fees being paid up to date,

HARBOR MASTER REPORT:
The Marina lift needs a cover as each time it rains; the rainwater runs into the exhaust and fills the cylinders with water requiring the plugs to be pulled and drained. Manager DuPont gave Harbormaster Paulick permission to purchase the materials needed to build a cover for the lift.

MARINA BUSINESS:
Manager DuPont will get a quote for new posts. Harbormaster Paulick mentioned some of the cleats are loose and many of the bolts are also in need of replacement as well as some of the deck boards. He asked for the materials and will do the repairs once the marina freezes over as it will be easier to access.

OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS: A motion was made by DuPont, second by Seid (CARRIED) to change the monthly Marina Commission meeting time from 5:00 pm to 3:30 pm.
AYE : DuPont, Seid, Chastan, Chamberlain
NAY : None
ABSENT : Colgin, Kilmer

ADJOURN:
Adjourned at 5:11 p.m.by call of the chair.

Wendy Pence, Clerk Approved

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

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Wendy Pence, Clerk Approved

ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, July 28, 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):
Marlene Broemer gave a shoutout to Copperfest and thanked the Village for their support of Copperfest and the All School Reunion and she also expressed her appreciation for the signage on the public kiosk facing US 45.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Finance Committee July 14, 2025; Infrastructure Committee Meeting July 16, 2025; Planning Commission June 18, 2025; Marina Commission June 19, 2025: Housing Commission June 17, 2025.
A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Perry (CARRIED), to approve the consent agenda as presented.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Rebholz, Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
ABSENT: President Coey

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

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

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: February 24, 2025, July 14, 2025
A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Wiesen (CARRIED), to approve the meeting minutes of February 24, 2025 as presented.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Rebholz, Wiesen, Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Wiesen (CARRIED) to return the July 14, 2025, minutes to staff for re-wording.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Rebholz, Wiesen, Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

REPORTS:

a. Financial Report

The financial reports are available on the Village website. Manager DuPont explained the mismatch of a checking account balance.

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.

Form 6163 was submitted to the Treasury on July 21st. Manager DuPont updated the council on the General Fund's ability to make future MERS payments. Manager Dupont also commented that the MERS actuarial report can be found on the Village website.

b. Request to purchase Village property (Community Development)

The title work has been completed. Joe Domitrovich will draw a map of the whole area and split the property descriptions as needed. No action.

c. OASD Bus Garage Lease (Community Development)

Deric Morris will complete the curb stop estimate to include the cost of going from the curb stop to the building as time allows. No action.

d. Steel Street Request (Planning Committee)
The title work is back but Randy does not yet own the property so no action will be taken at this time. Manager DuPont suggested we remove this item from the agenda as it will take some time for Randy to complete the transfer of ownership.

e. Signature Cards
A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Seid (CARRIED) to add Willie DuPont, Tanya Weisinger and Wendy Pence to the Village accounts at Citizens State Bank and Miners State Bank and to remove former Village Clerk, Kori Weisinger, from the Village accounts at Citizens State Bank and Miners State Bank.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Rebholz, Seid, Perry, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

f. CTE Building Water Service Request (Infrastructure Committee)
A motion was made by Perry, second by Rebholz (CARRIED) to approve the request for the CTE Building to hook up on Green Briar.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Perry, Rebholz, Seid, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

g. Ontonagon Street Right Of Way Request
After a round house discussion, the Council returned the request to staff for further investigation of the right of way situation. No action.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. GEI – DPW Garage Floor Replacement Project Bid Award Recommendation

A motion was made by Wiesen, second by Perry (FAILED) to award the DPW Garage Floor Replacement Project to D & E Critter Ranch
ROLL CALL
AYE: Wiesen, Perry
NAY: Rebholz, Seid, Sharkey, Pro-tem Hopper
Absent: President Coey

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Seid (CARRIED) to approve Ruotsala Construction for the DPW Garage Floor Replacement Project
ROLL CALL
AYE: Rebholz, Seid, Sharkey, Pro-tem Hopper
NAY: Perry, Wiesen
Absent: President Coey

b. **Ruotsala Payment Application #6**

A motion was made by Wiesen, second by Sharkey (CARRIED) to approve the request for payment for the sewer project in the amount of $907,528.54.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Wiesen, Sharkey, Perry, Rebholz, Seid, Pro-tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

John Reck was present to report that the project is 60% completed to date. The lift stations on Lake Street and River Road are in commission, they have started lining the sanitary sewer main along US-45 as well as Scovia Ave. and Parker Ave., and all manholes were completed and installed by 07/14/2025. The fence near the VFW will be installed this Wednesday and once the areas are cleaned up, Contractor Angelo Lapino plans to do the pavement patches.

c. **Community Development Recommendations (DDA & Food Truck Rally)**

A motion was made by Perry, second by Rebholz (CARRIED) to approve the food truck request for August 22, 2025, assessing a $50.00 fee per truck on Michigan Ave. between Quartz St. and Spar St. with a street closure.
ROLL CALL
AYE: Perry, Rebholz, Seid, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

Trustee Rebholz informed the council that there were serious structural issues with the DDA ordinance as it is written that need to be addressed and after a round house discussion by the council, no action was taken. Community Development will discuss the current DDA ordinance and the DDA Ordinance Status at their next meeting.

Announcements-Other Council Business

Dorothy Sharkey inquired about the Veterans Memorial ownership. The property is listed as a right of way, but it is unknown who owns the actual structure. Manager Dupont announced that there is a play at the theater this weekend with shows on Friday Aug 1st and Saturday August 2nd at 7 pm and on Sunday August 3rd at 3 pm.

It was moved by Seid, second by Rebholz to adjourn at 6:02 pm.
AYE: Seid, Rebholz, Perry, Sharkey, Wiesen, Pro-Tem Hopper
NAY: None
Absent: President Coey

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Wendy Pence, Clerk Approved

MERS UPDATE

To: Village Council

From: William DuPont, Village Manager

Date: August 11, 2025

Subject: Hospital MERS Update

We paid MERS $55,986 on July 31st. This payment was due on August 20th. We are current with our MERS payments and our next payment will be due on September 20th. We will be making this payment towards the end of August.

Thank you for your time.