

ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, April 13, 2026
AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON

PRESENT: Pro-Tem Hopper, Lyle Perry, Mike Rebholz, Debra Seid, Dorothy Sharkey, President Pamela Coey

At 5:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Coey 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):

Resident inquired about the Consent Agreement and addressed Village Manager DuPont about an email.

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Seid (CARRIED) to close the Village Council meeting.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Rebholz, Seid, Hopper, Perry, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-02 TO AMEND CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE II, SECTION 22-39 THROUGH 22-64 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE VILLAGE OF ONTONAGON

A motion was made by Hopper, second by Perry (CARRIED) to open the public hearing for the Proposed Ordinance 2026-02

ROLL CALL

AYE: Hopper, Perry, Rebholz, Seid, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

Manager DuPont gave a background on the proposed ordinance. A resident inquired on the procedure for documenting cross connections. A discussion was held on procedures moving forward and getting the program in place.

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Sharkey (CARRIED) to close the public hearing for the Proposed Ordinance 2026-02

ROLL CALL

AYE: Rebholz, Sharkey, Hopper, Perry, Seid, President Coey

NAY: None.

A motion was made by Seid, second by Hopper (CARRIED) to open the Village Council meeting.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Seid, Hopper, Perry, Rebholz, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Finance Committee March 23, 2026, Updating Ordinances Ad Hoc March 23, 2026, Personnel Committee March 25, 2026, DDA Ad Hoc Committee March 27, 2026, Personnel Committee March 30, 2026, Infrastructure Committee April 07, 2026, Community Development April 08, 2026.

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Seid (CARRIED) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

AYE: Rebholz, Seid, Hopper, Perry, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Hopper, second by Perry (CARRIED), to approve the agenda as amended.

AYE: Hopper, Perry, Rebholz, Seid, Sharkey President Coey

NAY: None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

A motion was made by Seid, second by Sharkey (CARRIED), to approve the bills as presented.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Seid, Sharkey, Hopper, Perry, Rebholz, President Coey

NAY: None

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: March 23, 2026

A motion was made by Seid, second by Hopper (CARRIED), to approve March 23, 2026 Village Council Minutes as amended, March 23, 2026 Village Council Work Session – Pump Station Minutes as presented and April 06, 2026 Village Council Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

AYE: Seid, Hopper, Rebholz, Perry, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

REPORTS:

a. Manager's Report

Administrative Compliance Agreement: The Administrative Compliance Agreement that we will be discussing later in this meeting stems primarily because of the White Pine elevated storage tank. EGLE identified this as a Significant Deficiency on February 1,

2022. The Sanitary Survey which noted this deficiency was part of the Council packet of February 14, 2022 and has been publicly available since that time.

On December 12, 2022, the Village entered into a contract with Wickwire to prepare a project plan which included the replacement of the White Pine elevated storage tank. This project plan is good for five years and it was used to apply for a DWSRF Grant in 2023, 2024 and 2025. Unfortunately, we have not received any funding and most of the current funding is going to communities with lead line issues. We will apply this year and again next year.

We have also applied for Congressionally Directed Funding through the Office of Senator Gary Peters in 2025 and 2026 and through the Office of Senator Elissa Slotkin in 2026. Thus far, we have not received funding.

For the most part, EGLE has been patient but their patience has run out. They are now forcing the issue and the White Pine elevated storage tank must be repaired or replaced. The cost of either of these options are steep.

The White Pine elevated storage tank was again identified as a Significant Deficiency on December 15, 2025. The Sanitary Survey which noted this deficiency was part of the Council packet of December 22, 2025 and has been publicly available since that time.

We have had discussions with OHM and Bendzinski & Co. as part of the DWAM Grant regarding the White Pine elevated storage tank and other issues with the water system. The reality is that we have a very large and very old system. The Village of Ontonagon is looking at any and all options to resolve these issues. The Water Rate Study performed by Bendzinski on January 29, 2026. The report was included in the February 23, 2026 Village Council Packet and has been publicly available since that time.

Now, back to the Administrative Compliance Agreement. EGLE notified the Village of Ontonagon on December 15, 2025 that the agreement must be in place in 120 days to avoid a Treatment Technique Violation. Today is the 120th day. The Village received a draft of the agreement on March 26th which is day 102. We had a Special Meeting on April 6th to review the document. We also had a meeting that included EGLE, our attorney Patrick Greeley, Zane Hyrkas of OHM and the Infrastructure Committee.

I feel that meeting went about as well as it could have. The Village was able to change several items from the Administrative Consent Agreement which will help us resolve the identified deficiencies.

With that, I thank you for your time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. MERS Update

MERS April 20th payment of \$55,986.00 was made on March 27th. We are current with our MERS payments. The MERS May 20th payment is scheduled to be made later this month.

At this time, the Michigan Enhancement Grant that the Village received has been completed. We filed the last required report on March 27th. Current General Fund MERS payments are \$44,263 per month. The General Fund currently has over \$1.8 million in cash, certificates of deposit and accrued interest. This equates to over 40 payments.

Our current annual payments are \$531,156. The current tax roll exceeds this figure. For the year that ended March 31, 2026, the General Fund cash would have increased by over \$36,000 even without the Grant Funds that were used to make the required payments.

I received confirmation from MERS that we have \$1,952,964 in a surplus division which can be transferred to other divisions to lower their required payments. I won't suggest that we make this move at this time. I feel that we should wait until MERS payments increase to the point where the General Fund's cash position is decreasing.

b. Ordinance 2026-02: An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-39 through 22-64 of the Code of Ordinances for the Village of Ontonagon

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Hopper (CARRIED) to approve Ordinance 2026-02: An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-39 through 22-64 of the Code of Ordinances for the Village of Ontonagon.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Rebholz, Hopper, Seid, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: Perry

c. DDA Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations (DDA Assets)

A motion was made by Sharkey, second by Rebholz (CARRIED) to approve the DDA Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations to remove assets that do not belong to the Village and to transfer the remaining DDA funds to the General Fund to be used for downtown improvements.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Sharkey, Rebholz, Hopper, Perry, Seid, President Coey

NAY: None

d. Consent Agreement

A motion was made by Seid, second by Rebholz (CARRIED) to approve the Consent Agreement.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Seid, Rebholz, Hopper, Perry, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

e. Personnel Committee Recommendation

A motion was made by Seid, second by Perry to approve the Personnel Committee Recommendation of hiring two summer positions and one fulltime DPW position.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Seid, Perry, Hopper, Rebholz, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Master Plan

A motion was made by Seid, second by Sharkey (CARRIED) to approve the Village of Ontonagon Master Plan as revised 2026.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Seid, Sharkey, Hopper, Perry, Rebholz, President Coey

NAY: None

b. Gitchee Gumee Garden Group

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Perry (CARRIED) to approve the Gitchee Gumee Garden Group request.

AYE: Rebholz, Perry, Hopper, Seid, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

c. Gabridge & Co. Audit Engagement Letter

A motion was made by Hopper, second by Rebholz to approve signing the Gabridge & Co. Audit Engagement Letter.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Hopper, Rebholz, Perry, Seid, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

A motion was made by Perry, second by Sharkey (CARRIED) approve getting competitive bids in October of 2026 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year audit.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Perry, Sharkey, Hopper, Rebholz, Seid, President Coey

NAY: None

d. Ruotsala Payment Application #11

A motion was made by Rebholz, second by Perry (CARRIED) to approve Ruotsala Payment Application #11 as presented.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Rebholz, Perry, Hopper, Seid, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

John Reck from GEI was present to report that most of the SCADA system is in place tying the lift stations to the White Pine water plant allowing them the ability to remote in and see the level of the wet well as water comes in in real time. They will start the process of manhole restoration and sewer lining in the next couple of weeks and will be wrapped up by July, ahead of the August completion date.

e. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Letter of Support

A motion was made by Seid, second by Rebholz (CARRIED) to approve the Initiative Letter of Support for Great Lakes Restoration

AYE: Seid, Rebholz, Hopper, Perry Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

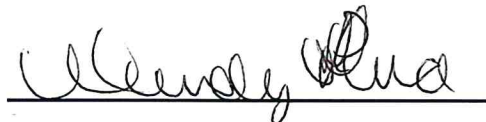
a. WUPPDR Western U.P. Leadership Academy-Adaptation Strategies for Coastal Hazards

The clerk informed Council that WUPPDR and the Michigan Coastal Management Program are hosting a workshop Tuesday, April 8th 28th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers. It is a free workshop that introduces coastal processes, coastal hazards, and adaptation strategies to enhance coastal resilience. Registration deadline is April 21st.

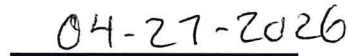
It was moved by Hopper, second by Rebholz to adjourn at 5:56 p.m.

AYE: Hopper, Rebholz, Perry, Seid, Sharkey, President Coey

NAY: None



Wendy Pence, Clerk



Approved