

ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Lyle Perry, Debra Seid, Dorothy Sharkey, Pro-Tem Sarah Hopper

ABSENT: President Pamela Coey, Michael Rebholz

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (Five Minute Limit per Individual on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items):

A resident asked for clarification on the tree and stump removal bids and tree replacement.

A resident expressed his concerns about the disagreements between the Township and Village and also spoke about the possibility of Village residents receiving reduced rates for use of Village facilities.

A resident complimented the fire department and the DPW for their clean up from the recent storm and expressed the need for further review of the trees to be removed.

A non-resident expressed her appreciation of the availability of the Rec Center and spoke of grant opportunities.

A non-resident expressed her support of the Recreation Center and fundraising for repairs.

A resident expressed her support of the Recreation Center and inquired about grants previously sought for the maintenance of the rec building.

A non-resident expressed her support of a previous resident's comments.

A resident expressed her concern about the rumors about the possible closure of the Rec Center and how that would negatively impact the youth in the Village, Township and County. She also commented on the lack of maintenance at the ball field and playground.

A resident commented on the tree removal, stating some just need trimming and the money saved should be put into the rink.

A resident asked for clarification as to why the Rec Center millage did not get put on the ballot.

A resident asked what can be done to keep the Rec Center viable, how much money is needed on a regular basis and what grants are being applied for.

A resident commented on how much of a blessing the Rec Center has been for her daughter's use and will help in any way to keep the center open.

A resident commented on how glad she was to see so many turn out in support of the Rec Center and encouraged them to attend more meetings to be informed of all the financial issues the Village is facing, such as water and sewer repairs as well as MERS.

A resident remarked on how under utilized the Rec Center is in the summer months and how allowing rental of the building during the summer months would raise more monies for building repairs and maintenance. He believes it is a vital part of our community.

A resident commented that she does not agree that the comments of MERS payments and the future of the children in our community should be combined.

A non-resident asked if there were options for sub-committees to help with things such as grants, clean up, the Rec Center and the youth playground.

A resident shared support for the Rec Center and the hockey and figure skating clubs. He believes transparency of the Rec Center finances will probably gain some support from the community.

A resident again suggested the trees slated for removal should be just trimmed up and the monies saved given to the Rec Center.

A resident commented on the previous repairs of the compressors and how they were paid for. She questioned the grants received for those repairs and if there have been grants applied for Rec Center repairs since. She also mentioned that they have asked to be on a ballot for years.

A non-resident commented that she attended a Village meeting and suggested the need for a Recreation Committee to work with local entities to write grants to build up our community. She also mentioned the tennis courts need resurfacing.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

ROLL CALL

AYE: Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Hopper

NAY: None

ABSENT: President Coey, Rebholz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

ROLL CALL

AYE: Sharkey, Perry, Seid, Hopper

NAY: None

ABSENT: President Coey, Rebholz

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

ROLL CALL

AYE: Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Hopper

NAY: None

ABSENT: President Coey, Rebholz

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES: July 13, 2026

A motion was made by Perry, second by Seid (CARRIED), to approve July 13, 2026 Village Council Meeting Minutes as amended.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Hopper

NAY: None

ABSENT: President Coey, Rebholz

REPORTS:

a. Finance Report

Manager Dupont reviewed the financial report with the Financial Committee and advised all financials are available on the Village website and have been for the last five years, fire department included. The rec center financials are also available online; they are listed under section 101 and have been for the last five years as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. MERS Update

We paid MERS \$58,532 on June 17th. This payment was due on July 20th. We are current with our MERS payments and our next payment will be due on August 20th. We will be making this payment later this week.

The General Fund portion of the payment was \$46,530 and the Payroll portion was \$12,002.

b. Administrative Consent Agreement Deficiency Tracker

Manager DuPont has submitted an extension to EGLE with no response. A contract has been signed with HydroCorp to do everything with the cross connections; we have a meeting scheduled with them for early next month. We have heard from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund that we have been selected as one of the communities to receive funding. They have offered us \$8.7 million, most of which is loans with some grants. EGLE is also going to give us an additional \$820,000.00. These funds will be used for the White Pine Water Tower repairs being required by EGLE.

c. Recreation Center Millage Request

Manager DuPont informed the Council that there will not be a township millage at this time. A round house discussion was then held on special elections, criteria, costs, timelines and grants.

Pro tem Hopper explained the finances of the Rec Center and the Village's options, and how MERS is affecting the current budget.

A discussion was held on getting the Rec Center Commission up and going again.

Pro tem Hopper asked Wendy Pence and Dorothy Sharkey if they would be willing to, along with her, meet with members of the Ontonagon Township to try to amend some of what has gone awry. Pence and Sharkey agreed to meet with the Township.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Brendon Presnell (WUPPDR) and Tracy Tomaszewski (EGLE) Recycling Options

Brendon Presnell, Materials Management Planning Coordinator for WUPPDR, asked the Council for a letter of support for facilitating a monthly recycling event for household hazardous waste. He then explained the plans for using a non-CDL truck to come to a designated area in the Village to pick up the waste.

Mr. Presnell will send a draft of the letter of support to Manager DuPont.

Tracy Tomaszewski was unable to attend the meeting.

b. Julie Schoberlein Memorial Tree Request

A motion was made by Perry, second by Seid (CARRIED) to ask the Planning Commission to look at the memorial tree request.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Hopper

NAY: None

ABSENT: President Coey, Rebholz

c. Village Housing Commission Resignation

A motion was made by Seid, second by Sharkey (CARRIED) to accept Sylvia Lehto's resignation from the Ontonagon Village Housing Commission effective August 01, 2026.

Pro-tem Hopper thanked Sylvia for her time on the Housing Commission and wished her well.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Seid, Sharkey, Perry, Hopper

NAY: None

ABSENT: President Coey, Rebholz

d. River Road Issue

Manager DuPont received a complaint from a resident that a resident is living in a camper on property that is lacking any utilities which violates Village Ordinance. The complaint has been forwarded to the Zoning Administrator.

e. Simple Jerry's Thank You

Manager DuPont read a thank you letter received from Simple Jerry's Event Coordinators thanking the community, businesses and organizations that support their annual Ontonagon County Cancer Association fundraiser.

Pro tem Hopper informed those in attendance that there are still funds available from the OCCA for those who may be in need. Their contact information can be found on their website www.ontctycancer.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Council member Seid suggested the trees scheduled for removal be looked at by an arborist or forester. Manager DuPont informed her that we have a retired forester coming to look at the trees next week. The Village will look into replacing those trees that may be removed

Council member Sharkey informed the Council that Ontonagon was selected for grant funding to address soil erosion along the dunes on Lakeshore Drive. Architects from WUPPDR and EGLE are currently drawing up plans to be presented to the Council for dune erosion prevention, plantings and ramp access points for viewing.

Pro tem Hopper thanked the organizers of Copperfest stating many people attended the event and it was a success.

Tony Basler, a Copperfest organizer, thanked the Village for all of their support for the event.

It was moved by Perry, second by Seid to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

AYE: Perry, Seid, Sharkey, Hopper

NAY: None

ABSENT: President Coey, Rebholz

Minutes recorded by Clerk Wendy Pence.

Wendy Pence
Wendy Pence, Clerk

08-10-2020
Approved