



VILLAGE OF SUTTONS BAY
420 N FRONT STREET, SUTTONS BAY, MI 49682
VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF August 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Lutke.

Present: Bahle, Christensen, Lutke, Perkins, Suppes & Yoder

Absent: Smith

Staff present: Larrea & Miller

Guests: 10

Consent Agenda

Bahle moved, Yoder seconded, CARRIED, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The July 20, 2026 Village Council meeting minutes are approved. The payments for invoices are approved. Ayes: 6 No: 0. Absent-1

Conflict of Interest: None

Agenda approval

Bahle moved, Suppes seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
Ayes: 6 No: 0 Absent 1

Public comment/Communications:

- Bill Queen spoke regarding the speed, traffic, condition of the Elm Street bridge and road.
- Mike Jarvis spoke regarding the condition of the Elm Street Bridge.
- Judy Walters read correspondence from Matt Farquhar regarding the Elm Street Bridge, pedestrian safety and traffic calming measures.
- Judy Walters spoke regarding pedestrian safety and slowing down the traffic.
- Chava Bahle spoke about communication, listening to each other and it is up to us to change the world and let go of judgment.
- Kathy Egan stressed collaboration with outside agencies.

New Business:

Report VSB-2026-18 Culvert Proposal-Manager's Update

President Lutke explained to the public the Manager's report, outlining the recommendation from the General Service Committee for a hydrological study; that this study does not affect the plans for Elm Street, the projected cost of the Elm Street project and funding sources as they apply to

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fish passages. Lutke noted that the culvert identified in the area of the flooding that occurred in April is not listed in the hydrological study.

Larrea stated that the Village has been working with an engineer on the Elm Street improvements and that no pedestrian improvements have been addressed on that area of Elm Street.

Bahle stated that he is not supportive of the hydrological study but he does want the conversations started with the various stakeholders.

Yoder noted a point of order and stated the item on the agenda is the proposal for a hydrological study.

Bahle moved, Perkins seconded, to move forward with a hydrological study.

Discussion:

Yoder noted that historically the policy of this office has been to research, review and recommend. He feels this has worked well in the past.

Christensen she is confident that the Manager and engineers are working towards the Elm Street improvements. She noted that pedestrian safety is a high priority and she is thankful for the comments made this evening. She knows there are infrastructure challenges and is a strong proponent of wetland protection. She stated she is open to a future study that focuses on hydrology but not this specific proposal from 2020. She would rather see a Village led study based on coordinated input from Village staff and Council Reps. to determine the scope of the project as it applies to the village.

Suppes recognizes the need for Elm Street repairs however is not in favor of a hydrological study and defers to the Village Manager.

Perkins stated that the study is step one to get the data.

Karl noted that at some point we will need to do the hydrological study but does not have anything to do with Elm Street.

Lutke stated he appreciated the public interaction but Elm Street is the focus.

Lutke called the question. Roll Call Vote: Yoder-No, Suppes-No, Perkins-Yes, Bahle-No, Christensen-No, Lutke -No. Ayes: 1 No: 6. Absent-1 Motion Failed.

Staff Reports: Manager stated the Village has received a grant towards the shoreline restoration project in the amount of \$91,877.00. He added he is negotiating with the Sheriff's Department on a three-year contract for services.

Planning Commission Report: No report.

Good of the Order: Trustee Christensen stated there was good conversation tonight and hopes for a solution on the pedestrian safety on Elm Street. Christensen was excused from the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Suppes would like to see a way to slow down traffic on Elm Street. Lutke would like to see this topic on the next meeting for more discussion.

Perkins would have liked to see the Hydrological study approved.

Bahle stated that the Township and the County would have helped fund the study in 2020. He also asked that council member requests for agenda items be allowed.

Public Comment- Bill Crackel asked if we contacted the drain commission for input on a hydrological study.

Kathy Egan does not support blocking topics and asked why the council was not looking at the whole watershed.

Kate Fairman is concerned with pedestrian safety on Elm Street especially if there is future development.

Sharon Sutterfield said her take is the council did not close the option of the study, just not right now.

Lynn Brach feels that the Village keeps kicking this can down the road. She would like to see more urgency.

Mike Jarvis appreciates the public service and the process in moving forward.

Bill Queen stressed collaboration and feels the Township will work with the Village

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dorothy Petroskey, Village Clerk.