



VILLAGE OF SUTTONS BAY
420 N FRONT STREET, SUTTONS BAY, MI 49682
VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF October 19, 2026

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

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

Absent: None

Staff present: Larrea, Miller & Petroskey

Guests: 2

Consent Agenda

Yoder moved, Suppes seconded, CARRIED, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The September 21, 2026 Village Council meeting minutes are approved. The payments for invoices are approved. Reports VSB-2026-33 Manager's Update and VSB-20226-34 Periard recognition.
Ayes: 7 No: 0. Absent-0

Conflict of Interest: None

Agenda approval

Yoder moved, Smith seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
Ayes: 7 No: 0 Absent 0

Public comment/Communications:

- Chava Bahle thanked the staff for all their hard work. She added that anger and vitriol have leached into public bodies and reminded Council that if they lead with grace, which allows for listening and wisdom which sees beyond the argument of the moment, those together will lead us forward.

New Business:

Report VSB-2026-031 Sewer Water Rates Proposed Increase for 2027

The Utilities committee reviewed the proposed rate increase of 10% for 2027 and 5% (over a three-year period) thereafter and has recommended the fees be incorporated in the 2027 budget. Staff noted that communities around the region have increased their rates as the cost of doing business has increased. It was the consensus of the council to add these increases to the 2027 budget.

Report VSB-2026-32 Marina Slip Fees Proposed Increase for 2027

The utilities committee reviewed the recommended slip fee increase proposed by the Harbor Master at their meeting and are recommending adoption of the same. The new rates would still keep the Village below most marinas in the area. The consensus of the Council is to recommend these new rates be reflected in the proposed 2027 budget.

Manager's Annual Review

President Lutke stated that the administrative committee met and discussed the manager's annual review. Lutke noted that the contract states that the manager shall qualify for an annual bonus based on the Employee's review and performance evaluation as Employer, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. Lutke stated that the committee is recommending a \$10,000 bonus based on the following: Rob's project management skills; moving capital projects forward; detailed timely reports; ability to seek grants; budgeting; professional relationships, staff stability and management style and his investment in this Village long term. Yoder commented on his value-added principals. Christensen stated that municipalities are seeking qualified managers everyday and recognized his ability to work with staff and keep the morale high. Suppes noted that he has brought in grant dollars and it is a tough job. Smith stated she supports his vision.

Yoder moved, Smith seconded, CARRIED, to approve the manager's annual bonus in the amount of \$10,000 based on the reasons stated above. Ayes: 7 No: 0. Absent-0

Staff Comments:

Larrea stated that the Comfort Station project is on schedule and the road has reopened.

Good of the Order: Perkins suggested BATA move their bus stop permanently to Fourth Street; an EV charging station be installed and signs removed at Waterwheel Park.

Christensen noted it was Deb Smith's last meeting and it has been a pleasure serving with her and stated she has been an asset to the Council. Smith stated it has been an honor working with all.

Public Comment- Bill Crackel commented on the slip rate and water increase.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dorothy Petroskey, Village Clerk.