



VILLAGE OF SUTTONS BAY
420 N FRONT STREET, SUTTONS BAY, MI 49682
VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF October 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Colleen Christensen.

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

Absent: Lutke

Staff present: Larrea & Petroskey

Guests: 7

Consent Agenda

Yoder moved, Bahle seconded, CARRIED, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The September 17, 2025 Village Council meeting minutes are approved. The payments for invoices are approved. Ayes: 6 No: 0. 1 Absent

Conflict of Interest: None

Agenda approval

Perkins moved Yoder seconded, CARRIED to add Water Wheel Park discussion to the agenda.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1. 1 Absent

Smith moved, Yoder seconded, CARRIED to approve the agenda as amended.

Ayes: 6 No: 0. 1 Absent

Public comment/Communications: Will Case thanked the DPW for re-installing the sculpture that was created by Bob Sweeny. Will stated he was gifted with two by Bob and still has one he would like to donate.

Jared Pontius asked if his storm water runoff problem could be addressed at the same time as the St Mary's improvement on the 400 block.

New Business:

VSb 2025-28 On Street Parking St Mary's:

Rob stated that the committee has had this agenda item twice. The recommendation was to put the grass back in and return to parallel parking for a section of the 400 block. Rob added that we are waiting for a quote and he expected the project to begin in the Spring. He stated that the French drain will need to be removed prior to the improvement. Trustee Smith offered comments on the storm water runoff discussion that occurred at the planning commission meeting.

VS-2025-31 Manager's Update

Rob provided an update on a number of projects that staff is working on. He fielded a number of questions regarding future plans for Elm Street.

Waterwheel Park

Perkins stated that he felt the signs at waterwheel park were not welcoming and asked how long they needed to stay. He indicated that the plantings along the stream were not all indigenous to the area and that the autumn olive was taking over.

Perkins was reminded that their purpose was to stabilize the banks. The DPW intends to trim to about a foot high. In the spring, the intent is to eradicate the autumn olive and the purple loosestrife. In addition, the plan stated we would leave 4 feet of natural area around the creek.

Council members were pleased with the improvements to the park and would like to stick to the plan.

Staff Reports: The police states were presented. Deputy Neumann offered that the Village is a peaceful community.

Planning Commission Report: Smith stated that the planning commission talked about the lack of affordable housing, ADU's and allowing for two family housing.

Good of the Order: Pat Yoder thanked Deputy Neumann for his commitment to the Village.

Bill Perkins stated that there are too many red maples in the Village and felt basswood or sugar maples would be a better pick.

Karl Bahle stated it was nice to see the Deputy Neuman around. Roger Suppes noted it was nice to have public at the meetings.

Public Comment-

Will Case offered comments regarding the water wheel park conversation. He counted 9 waterfalls and 9 ponds and a total of an 11-foot drop. The purpose of the plantings along the stream is to make the embankment sturdy and prevent erosion. Once the invasive species is removed, he suggested we keep one side natural.

Bill Crackel feels waterwheel park should be a place for children. He liked the idea of keeping the southside of the park accessible. He thanked Deputy Neumann as he notices traffic slowing down. Lastly, he notes 5 houses will be disrupted with the St Mary's improvements. He will have to disrupt all his improvements he made to his backyard in order to provide for parking.

Jared Pontius indicated that previously an asphalt berm was installed and did not work. He thanked Deputy Neumann for being present in the Village. He stated he would like to see the pollinators remain near the creek bed and added the signs are doing what they need to do.

Chava Bahle also gave kudos to Deputy Neumann for his community policing. She stated she conducted an informal survey and found the following. 1) People found the Village friendly. 2) People cared about the Village 3) People feel safe in the Village. 4) People find the Village fun.

Deputy Neumann thanked Sheriff Borkovich and Under Sheriff Kiessel for letting him do his job in being part of the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dorothy Petroskey, Village Clerk.