

1. What motivated you to become a candidate for Village Council?
2. What do you think is the Village's greatest asset and how would you change or enhance it, if at all?
3. What experience/education/training do you possess that would separate you from others as the best candidate?
4. What do you see as the three most important things to accomplish in the Village for 2021?
5. Regarding the Village, our businesses and residents, what concerns/issues do you see as the most pressing for 2021?
6. The Village Council contemplates and addresses numerous issues yearly. How would you convince a council member having an opposing view to agree with your point of view?
7. What would you consider a "top priority" for the Village Council to initiate, address or improve upon?
8. Being a Council member is difficult, especially if the council majority disagrees with something you are passionate about. In the past, members have spoken negatively about a committee/council decision to members of the public. How would you handle disappointment?
9. Identify one change to current Village practices that you feel could be implemented to further protect our natural resources?
10. Our parks system is an important part of the "quality of life" we have grown accustomed to in the Village. Please identify an improvement you would like to see that would advance that quality of life?

Debra Smith

1. What motivated you to become a candidate for Village Council?
I grew up in Suttons Bay and have lived in many beautiful areas around the country, but none as spectacular as Suttons Bay. I recently moved back home and will be retiring here within the next year. I want to give back to this community by helping the town prosper but also preserving the great small-town atmosphere.
2. What do you think is the Village's greatest asset and how would you change or enhance it, if at all?
I believe the greatest asset is the charm and variety of recreational activities—this is a huge tourist draw. I have friends in other states that have been to the area and love Suttons Bay. The downtown shops (well, except for the old Morey's building) are beautiful and picturesque. I would continue to encourage the expansion of what we have.
3. What experience/education/training do you possess that would separate you from others as the best candidate?
I have not previously held any village council position and do not know the other candidates. I have been active in an HOA in the state of Washington with over 800 houses; there I held positions as Landscape Director and as Vice President and President. Most of my professional experience has been in corporate marketing and as a Learning Leader (Philips Medical and GE Healthcare). I know how to negotiate and compromise. I know how to listen to all viewpoints and make a decision that is in the majority best interest, without bias. I have the highest of ethics. I encourage strategic thinking and listen respectfully. I also get things done.
4. What do you see as the three most important things to accomplish in the Village for 2021?
 - a. Increase community involvement and interest in Village priorities and projects
 - b. Expand the parks and places of recreation
 - c. Fix the roads and other infrastructure (i.e., internet access)
 - d. Encourage growth while at the same time protecting the land and water
5. Regarding the Village, our businesses and residents, what concerns/issues do you see as the most pressing for 2021?
 - a. Recovering from the small business catastrophe that COVID has created
 - b. Affordable housing and well-being of those affected by COVID/economically disadvantaged
 - c. Expand and enhance recreational areas and activities, particularly the beaches. Now that the water level is (finally!) coming down, the community and visitors will want to utilize this important resource. Find activities that will bring in funding.

6. The Village Council contemplates and addresses numerous issues yearly. How would you convince a council member having an opposing view to agree with your point of view?
 - a. First make sure that my point of view matches that of the community. The council members should be in tune with what the community needs and wants
 - b. Back up claims and points of view with facts
 - c. Understand that there may be a middle ground/compromise

7. What would you consider a “top priority” for the Village Council to initiate, address or improve upon? Recovering from the COVID economic situation. This includes not only our small businesses but helping families in need. Another top priority is infrastructure and area recreation. Ok, another top priority is increasing communication and obtaining more community involvement. (Sorry, I guess that is three)

8. Being a Council member is difficult, especially if the council majority disagrees with something you are passionate about. In the past, members have spoken negatively about a committee/council decision to members of the public. How would you handle disappointment? Take the high road and act professional. I would not react negatively but meet with the members to discuss differences and potential compromises. The council should be cohesive and act as a unit, with one face to the community.

9. Identify one change to current Village practices that you feel could be implemented to further protect our natural resources? I would need to review the current Village practices in more detail.

10. Our parks system is an important part of the “quality of life” we have grown accustomed to in the Village. Please identify an improvement you would like to see that would advance that quality of life? I moved back 2 years ago. I would send a survey out to the community, asking them what they want.

Bill Perkins

1. I was motivated to be a candidate for the Suttons Bay village council because it is our civic duty to do that kind of thing. I also have some ideas that will help the village run smoothly.

2. I think the village's greatest asset is being on Lake Michigan/west Bay/Suttons Bay. I would continue to look for ways to monetize that for businesses and the village while preserving the aesthetics of the water front and the water quality.

3. I am currently on the Suttons Bay Village zoning board of appeals. I have been on the village planning committee. I help take care of the village ice rink. I am the current chair of the Leelanau County solid waste board. I am on the Suttons Bay art fair committee that runs the summer art fair and I am on the Friends of Fine Arts committee at Suttons Bay Schools. I also drove the school bus for Suttons Bay schools for three years. Being on the Suttons Bay Village planning committee has given me insight into how planning helps shape our community. Being a member of the Leelanau County solid waste board gives me an inside track on what is going on with recycling in our village. Suttons Bay Village has a very busy recycling site. It also has taught me how to run a meeting — a useful skill in local government. Helping run the Suttons Bay Village ice rink, which is run by Suttons Bay Township, gives me the cross-political-boundaries insights with the township. The Suttons Bay art fair committee helps local artists have markets to sell their works and be able to make a living here in the arts. It also creates a festival for the village — the traffic that the festival generates brings a lot of people to town, which helps local businesses. Driving the school bus, and being on the Suttons Bay schools Friends of Fine Arts gives me a perspective on what's going on in Suttons Bay schools.

4. I think the three things that need to be accomplished in the village in 2021 are getting the marina park usable again for park users. I think another important thing that needs to be accomplished is holding the line on spending, to keep village taxes from going up. I also think parking is an issue in the summer for the downtown businesses and needs a remedy. Getting affordable housing in the village is also very important.

5. What concerns and issues are most pressing for 2021? Many of the things are the same as in my previous response. Fixing the marina park, getting more parking for the downtown businesses, and keeping a lid on our spending by holding the line on our need to raise taxes, and getting affordable housing in the Village again.

6. I think the way to convince a fellow councilmember to my point of view is to research the issue carefully, talk to a lot of people about the issue carefully, know the history of the issue, and then have constructive solutions.

7. My response to this question is the same as question four.

8. How would I handle disappointment? I am interested in working with others and finding compromises, and I would research the issues that could be controversial.

9. A change to our current village practices that would implement protection of our natural resources would be to plant native trees in the village. We have been planting trees that are native to China. I

would also look for ways to implement solar power in the village, plant a lot of willow trees in Marina Park, and other waterfront parks to provide shade and absorb water.

11. Improvements in our parks that would improve our quality of life are number one: plant willow trees in the marina and other waterfront parks because they absorb a lot of water and transpire that water out through their leaves. They provide shade and they thrive in those wet environments. Another improvement I think we could do is to look into re-opening the ski hill in Bahle park. Many of the expensive elements of a ski hill have already been done: All the earth change has been done, and having a town ski hill would provide an outdoor activity for kids in the winter and would bring people into town in the winter helping our businesses that in the winter need more customers.

Jared Pontius

1. What motivated you to become a candidate for Village Council?
When I saw the vacancy, I wanted to take the next step from my planning commission position to the Council.
2. What do you think is the Village's greatest asset and how would you change or enhance it, if at all?
The bay. It changes enough on its own, but we can always do better as it relates to the bay's cleanliness and the environmental integrity of this resource and the indigenous species that rely on this body of water.
3. What experience/education/training do you possess that would separate you from others as the best candidate?
As an Eagle Scout, I humbly would not claim to be the best candidate as we were taught humility when speaking of ourselves. This "best candidate" label would be for others on the Council to make this determination.

I graduated from the Great Lakes Culinary Institute in Traverse City many years ago and spent seven years in Park City, Utah, a town with very similar challenges when compared to Suttons Bay. Challenges like affordable housing and a lack of a younger year-round population to support its schools and future.

I will state that I have been coming to Suttons Bay my entire life, first as a visitor and now as a full-time resident and business owner and operator for 3 years. I'm currently a Planning Commissioner for the Village, a role I know I would have to concede if I were selected to be on the Council.

This September I became a father for the first time with my wife, Jillian. I now have a much longer outlook when it comes to thinking about the future of our life in the Village. So I would like to see Suttons Bay flourish, but in the thoughtful way, for the generations to come.

4. What do you see as the three most important things to accomplish in the Village for 2021?
Obtainable park improvements, continued shoreline and Village management/clean-up, road/sidewalk improvements.
5. Regarding the Village, our businesses and residents, what concerns/issues do you see as the most pressing for 2021?
Moving forward on ordinances regarding affordable housing, environmental preservation/conservation (i.e. updating rain gardens to work properly and efficiently), a move towards clean energy, and keeping village infrastructure updated.
6. The Village Council contemplates and addresses numerous issues yearly. How would you convince a council member having an opposing view to agree with your point of view?

I don't believe it would be my duty to convince a fellow council member to change their mind. An issue that has any controversy surrounding it should be debated respectfully, looked at from multiple perspectives, and then voted on. If my comments were to sway another council member to alter their perspective, then that should be their decision, one that they arrived at themselves.

7. What would you consider a "top priority" for the Village Council to initiate, address or improve upon?

Affordable housing for workforce.

8. Being a Council member is difficult, especially if the council majority disagrees with something you are passionate about. In the past, members have spoken negatively about a committee/council decision to members of the public. How would you handle disappointment?

(Question 8) Similar to question #6. It's OK to be passionate about something but passion shouldn't necessarily translate directly. Each issue should be heard, debated, and voted on respectfully. Once that vote is passed, it should be acknowledged by everyone on the Council. Many times, members of the public enter the discourse at a time that circumvents all of the work that preceded that moment in time of a decision. They do not always have all the information to make a fully informed determination of the Council's action. The Council should maintain its resolve and then be able to educate and inform those that would disagree with a decision as to why this determination was made. Not everyone will agree and that's OK, but the Council must stand together.

9. Identify one change to current Village practices that you feel could be implemented to further protect our natural resources?

Plan/Organize/Collaborate Village clean-up days in the spring and fall with residents and local businesses to help keep our village and water clean.

10. Our parks system is an important part of the "quality of life" we have grown accustomed to in the Village. Please identify an improvement you would like to see that would advance that quality of life?

ADA improvements, new year-round public restrooms, bottle filling stations, clean-up days, more recycle bins, minor park improvements (tree trimming, re-painting, more landscaping and flowers).