

Village of Sheffield
Village Board Mtg
September 9, 2025
6:00 pm

Determining that a quorum was present, President Sheila Yepsen called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked Clerk Ries to call the roll.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Adams, Barry, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor, Yepsen

ABSENT: None

Also present - Village Attorney Jacob Frost & Village Engineer Mike Perry

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Yepsen greeted Mary Lanham as the first speaker during public comment. Lanham spoke to the progress of Sheffield highlighting the many positives versus the negatives that tend to be presented in the public comment forum. Lanham thanked the board for their continued efforts. James Hurley then addressed the Village President concerned with the OSLAD grant project, police investigations and a noticed water film in coffee cups at his residence versus when using filtered Royal Supermart water.

President Yepsen spoke to the public and trustees, responding with a factual statement regarding August's public comments as well as recent social media posts. Yepsen reviewed the legality of discharging water into a storm water basin vs. into a sanitary sewer connection which is illegal. Regarding trustee Barry's personal analysis of Sheffield's economic state, the President verified there is no plan now or in the future, for the Bureau Valley school district to build a school in Sheffield - she further stated everything is transitioning to one area, Manlius, for attendance. She affirmed the land Barry wanted the Village to acquire is currently not for sale. Furthermore, according to property sales and transfers there is not an indication of declining values, as Barry suggested. Yepsen reviewed TIF Facts - TIF does not raise taxes, it redistributes them among the taxing bodies over the life of the TIF. Property values are assessed and set through Bureau County, not Sheffield. Interested developers who enter into an agreement with the Village of Sheffield for TIF incentives currently receive an annual reimbursement from a portion of their property taxes paid. If the property during the life of the TIF is sold, the agreement ends. To set the record straight, the Senior Apartment duplex in Sheffield has not been sold. Lastly the Village clerk/office manager does not receive 10 weeks vacation.

Board Reports: Police, Clerk/Treasurer, and Superintendent Reports reviewed from board packet. President Yepsen read a letter from the Village auditor, as she had a conflict and could not attend the meeting. FY25 audit report was distributed to the trustees for personal review. Mike Perry, Chamlin Engineer updated the board on the current lagoon issues developing partially due to previous boards not being proactive or diligent with maintenance. The surfacing of solids and finding a cost effective way to remove the sludge that has built up over the past 30 years is being made a priority..

Discussion/Action Items:

Yepsen requested board motion to approve the August 12, 2025 Meeting minutes available in the trustee board packet. Trustee Barry presented concern with submitted minutes not containing enough details, per his recollection and offered an amended option. Attorney Frost reminded the board that the minutes are not intended to be a verbatim account of the meeting. Taylor, seconded by

DeVoss, made a motion to **approve the August 12, 2025 regular meeting minutes as originally presented in the board packet by Clerk Ries.**

Roll Call:

AYES:, Corwin, DeVoss, Taylor, Yepsen

NAYS: Barry

ABSTAIN: Adams, Price

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 4 (with Yespen)-1-2

Corwin, seconded by Price, made a motion to **approve the September 9, 2025 Regular Bills & Payroll.** Barry recommended holding Hopkins & Associates' check until the Village auditor could personally be present. Trustee Taylor questioned Barry's reason, and stated it is evident that Hopkins & Associates have fulfilled their obligation and supplied everything necessary as required, including a letter, stating there are no issues noted with the Village or the current audit FY25..

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: Barry

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 5-1

The board reviewed the cost of a portable solar powered speed radar system. After brief board discussion it was decided to take no action and discuss possible extra focus in the areas of concern with Officer Horrie in the months to come..

Yepsen chose to jump to Agenda item 5- possible Sheffield Sales Tax due to Attorney Frost's limited time available for attending the Sheffield's September meeting. The board discussed the necessity to recoup the state imposed 1% grocery tax going away in January and implementing a .50% sales tax as a replacement on all purchases within the incorporated Sheffield including purchases shipped to Sheffield addresses. The tax would begin January 2026 and could be reevaluated in 6 - 8 months if necessary. DeVoss seconded by Taylor, made a motion **to approve Ordinance 2025-09-09-01 an Ordinance Implementing a non home rule Municipal Tax in Sheffield.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: Barry

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 5-1

Before introducing Village engineer Mike Perry from Chamlin & Associates, Yepsen directed Clerk Ries to go over some of the matching fund options for the OSLAD Grant project. Ries explained match money can originate from General or TIF monies or CD's, future donations from local community organizations, which would hopefully would include Sheffield Baseball, as the Village added a restroom/concession building to the scope of the project per their request. Ries stated the current early 1990's building is no longer meeting the needs of the organization.

Perry reviewed the OSAD grant plans and stated the earthwork & civil engineering portions are ready for bid letting, which is phase 1 - of the OSLAD project. Adams, seconded by Price, made a motion **to begin the bid process with the plans previously approved for the OSLAD Grant project.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: Barry

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 5-1

Adams, seconded by Corwin, made a motion to **approve Resolution R2025-09-09-01 releasing closed minute sessions.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Barry, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Price, seconded by DeVoss, made a motion to **approve Resolution R2025-09-09-02 authorizing the destruction of audio recording of closed minute sessions.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Barry, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Yepsen opened discussion of the Village's current Sidewalk Replacement program. Ries stated that the current reimbursements to pay the cost of the concrete represents only about one quarter of total project costs. The proposed amendment would pay for a portion (\$4-5 ft²) of the total sidewalk project, resulting in 50-75% of the entire sidewalk. Trustees agreed that the bigger the incentive the more likely residents would take advantage of the reimbursement program. Corwin, seconded by DeVoss, made a motion to **approve the Amendment to the current sidewalk replacement policy as presented, reimbursing up to \$5 ft² with all paperwork and parameters completed as outlined in the Sidewalk Replacement program**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Barry, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Yepsen asked for a motion to accept the presented 2026 meeting dates noting there are no holidays in 2026 that interfere with the meeting nights. Adams, seconded by Price, made a motion to **approve the presented Meeting Schedule for 2026.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Barry, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Yepsen asked for board input regarding the Village purchase of Bricks in recognition of the Volunteers who helped with the W Park Improvements and Mike Paulsen for his work restoring the fountain in Veterans Park, as a show of appreciation. Adams, seconded by Corwin, made a motion to **approve purchasing 2 bricks at \$150 each to recognize the W Park Volunteers for the Park Improvement and Mike Paulsen for his efforts in restoring the fountain in Veterans Park.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Barry, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Adjournment: DeVoss seconded by Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm
MOTION CARRIED 6-0.