

Village of Sheffield
Village Board Mtg
May 12, 2026
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, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor, Yepsen

ABSENT: Barry

Village Attorney Jacob Frost was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Prior to public comment, President Yepsen reminded the Board and members of the public that speakers during public comment must remain civil toward Board members and Village employees and that disrespectful or rude behavior would not be tolerated.

The president welcomed the first speaker, Jim Hurley. Mr. Hurley advised the board that he would be recording himself. Jim Hurley addressed the Board regarding his dissatisfaction with the quality of rock used when the Village reconstructed his driveway earlier in 2026. He presented samples of rock from his driveway and from a water main break repair area, stating that the materials appeared different. He also expressed concern regarding his neighbor's driveway, to which President Yepsen responded that no complaint had been received from the neighbor. Hurley presented concern with the amount of water used during the summer at the Village splash pad previously, when he worked for the Village 10 years ago and amounts being used in present day. President Yepsen concluded Mr. Hurley's comments at the end of his allotted five minutes and thanked him for speaking.

Yepsen welcomed the next speaker, Terri Skiles. Terri Skiles addressed the Board regarding a request she submitted by email in late April 2026 to have a bush trimmed at the corner of Mason and Cook Streets where it was encroaching on the public sidewalk. She stated that the bush had not yet been trimmed. President Yepsen thanked Ms. Skiles and continued to Board Reports.

Board Reports: President Yepsen directed the Board to review the reports included in their meeting packets. President Yepsen directed the Board to review the reports included in their meeting packets. She introduced Jon Hornback, the Village's new Code Officer. Hornback provided a brief overview of his background, including his service before retirement, as a former deputy with the Henry County Sheriff's Department. He stated that he would begin identifying code violations and contacting residents regarding corrective actions.

Officer Horrie updated the Board regarding the incident involving a fire hydrant that was struck on School Street. He also stated that he would be checking for 2026 stickers displayed on UTVs and recreational vehicles and reminded residents that operators must possess a valid driver's license.

The board had nothing further and President Yepsen continued with the agenda.

Discussion/Action Items:

Yepsen requested board motion to approve the April 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes available in the trustee board packet. Adams, seconded by Corwin, made a motion to **approve the April 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes, as presented.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Yepsen asked for a motion to accept this month's bills and payroll. Taylor, seconded by Price, made a motion to **approve the May 12, 2026 Regular Bills & Payroll.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

President Yepsen introduced Connie Buchanan, NCICG representative. Buchanan provided information about a grant opportunity for Village Housing Rehabilitation. Village participation would include a survey distributed and an assessment through NCICG would be completed. Eventually a Public Hearing would be held and Village resident attendance would be a key factor in qualifying. Buchanan stated that in order to give Sheffield the best chance at the \$800,000 maximum grant to rehab 8-12 homes focusing on health and safety, the Village would need to pledge \$20,000 of Village funds. Price, seconded by DeVoss, made a motion **to approve participation in the Housing Rehabilitation Program with NCICG and commit \$20,000 of Village funds.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The Village board reviewed Superintendent Lanxon tree removal list. Taylor, seconded by Corwin, made a motion **to approve asking for bids using the supplied Tree Removal List with any bids received to be reviewed at the June 9, 2026 meeting.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Yepsen asked for board discussion regarding the 2010 Ordinance of the annual automatic 3% rate increase for water, sewer and surcharge. The Ordinance which automatically increases the rate 3% yearly is intended to help keep up with inflation costs in between bigger rate adjustments and to help those adjustments from being so extreme. This annual increase is set to take effect with the June 2026 billing. Trustee Taylor presented concerns of the current economy and residents ability to afford the increase. Other trustees agreed the timing for an increase was not ideal and options of re-evaluating the increase later in the year or waiting until the next annual increase in 2027 should be considered. Corwin, seconded by Taylor, made a motion **to abate the automatic June 3% increase for utility rates that would normally take place June 2026 and wait until 2027 automatic increase to reassess.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Yepsen informed the board the next agenda item regarding hiring is being moved to later in the meeting.

The Sheffield Library 2nd Annual Touch-a-Truck Event application was presented for approval. Adams, seconded by Corwin, made a motion **to approve the event application for the Sheffield Library Touch-a-Truck on August 8, 2026, with the stipulation that the IL National Guard would provide a Certificate of Insurance (COI) naming the Village, if they decide to bring in an inflatable obstacle course.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Taylor

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1

President Yepsen opened discussion regarding the naming of the old school property where the ball diamonds and OSLAD funded renovations are currently taking place. Although it is already being called the School Park in the OSLAD grant application, there has been no official designation. Superintendent Lanxon questioned possible confusion with the naming of area School Park when the official name of the Veteran's Park is Veteran/School Park. The board will consider options and discuss at the next meeting. No action taken.

Yepsen asked the board for a motion to enter into a closed session to discuss employees. Taylor, seconded by DeVoss, made a motion to **enter into executive session for the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of public employees Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) at 6:45 pm.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Taylor, seconded by Corwin, made a motion to **close the executive session at 7:25 pm.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Roll Call @ 7:26 pm in Regular Session

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

ABSENT: Barry

Clerk Ries was also present.

Price, seconded by Taylor, made a motion to **hire Jon Hornback as Village Code Officer at \$20 per hour and re-hire Anthony Forst for temporary summer mowing, as needed, by public works at \$15 per hour.**

Roll Call:

AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Adjournment: Adams, seconded by Corwin made a **motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm**

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.