Village of Sheffield
Village Board Mtg
Mtg date changed to October 8, 2026 - due to quorum issues
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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Yepsen invited James Hurley, who signed up to speak during Public Comment, to approach the lectern. Hurley commented it was not wise for the Village to build a new walking path at School Park. He questioned how many feet of sidewalk along residences has been replaced recently. He also inquired on Public Works involvement during the Concrete pour under the Pavillion a couple years ago at West Park. He initiated comments and questions directed towards the Public Works Superintendent Lanxon and was immediately asked by Village Trustees and President Yepsen to stop, and reminded that all public comments must be directed to the Village President. When Hurley continued, Officer DeValkenaere reiterated that Hurley needed to stop. Hurley chose to sit down before the end of his allotted 5 minutes. President Yepsen proceeded to Board Reports.

Board Reports: President Yepsen directed the Board to review the most recently completed audit for the Village, fiscal year 2026 by Hopkins & Associates. Yepsen read a brief statement from auditor Samantha Casey with Hopkins & Associates. Casey stated her appreciation for Village Office cooperation with all audit needs and also offered an overview of the current financial status of the Village.

President Yepsen continued with the remaining reports and mentioned petition packets are available at the Village office for the three seats, 4 year term, available for Village trustees. Trustees inquired of the progress of the tree removal. Ries and Lanxon supplied the most recent details regarding completion, reminding the board there was no deadline requirement and Lanxon also cited the tree service reported recent machinery issues. The board asked for clarification of collapsed storm drain near Adams and Atkinson streets. Superintendent Lanxon stated that due to fiber companies boring their service lines underground within the last couple years there have been potential damage to the pipes, as it is not noticeable that anything is being hit at the time of boring. With nothing further President Yepsen continued with the agenda.

Discussion/Action Items:

Yepsen requested board motion to approve the September 8, 2026 regular meeting minutes available in the trustee board packet. No discussion. Corwin, seconded by Adams, made a motion to **approve the September 8, 2026 regular 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, October 8, 2026. Trustee Taylor asked Public Works Superintendent Lanxon about the reason for hiring Wright Excavating for recent work

represented by a line item on the bill sheet. Lanxon offered to respond or to wait until the scheduled closed session pertaining to employees. Yepsen stated the approval of the bill sheet will be brought up again later in the meeting.

President Yepsen presented for board approval of the Regular meeting schedule for 2027. Same time and day of the week as in 2026, the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm with no adjustments due to any holiday conflict. DeVoss, seconded by Adams, made a motion **to approve the 2027 meeting schedule as presented- the second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm at the Sheffield Community Center.**

Roll Call:
AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The Board continued discussion from the September meeting regarding transitioning West Park's electrical service to underground wiring, including the addition of a light near the ball court. The proposed improvements would eliminate the overhead wiring and poles throughout the park and provide greater flexibility for future park use. The Village received three quotes for the work which required replacing rotted overhead poles with underground service to allow the park to be more usable in the future. The board was given the following explanation for why there was such a drastic difference between the low bid and the two others. Yepsen stated the quote differences resulted from one company hiring an additional contractor to actually do the work and another larger company vs. a local one man company, who will require Public Works employees to assist with the removal and setting of new poles. The board asked Superintendent Lanxon his opinion regarding hiring the local, low bidder. Lanxon stated he prefers local, as typically they are easier to work with and more easily accessible, if there are any future issues.

DeVoss, seconded by Corwin, made a motion **to approve JME HVAC & Electric proposal for new underground electrical in West Park in the amount of $12,900.**
Roll Call:
AYES: Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Adams
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1

President Yepsen informed the board that Sheffield Village Hall Alliance SVHA group is not interested in purchasing or being responsible for the old Village Hall at this time. Bureau County is also unable to provide any assistance. The building will be buttoned up as best that it can be for the upcoming winter and the Village will continue as it has in the previous years in regards to the building.

Previous to the meeting Public Works notified President Yepsen of the present state of the old shed, located at the cemetery and requested permission to tear it down, as the roof has already fallen in. Trustee Taylor inquired on the possibility of having it burned by the fire department to which Superintendent acting in his Fire Chief position stated, no burning is allowed and the state would not issue a training opportunity permit. Trustees also questioned the current operation of an old yard pump alongside the shed. Lanxon stated it does not work and it would be abandoned by the proper protocol. Taylor also questioned the cost of a dumpster vs having the employees use the Village dump truck for disposal. Ries explained per the Village contract they may be able to have LRS provide a roll off and will check on this possibility.

DeVoss, seconded by Adams, made a motion **to approve removal of the shed located at the Sheffield cemetery by the public works employees and disposing of the debris with a roll off dumpster.**
Roll Call:
AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Salt Spreader purchase for the upcoming winter season was discussed. Lanxon stated the trustees need to decide which Village vehicle it would be attached to - the 2020 F550 Ford Truck or 2001 IH Dump Truck, which is already 25 years old and quite rusty. DeVoss, seconded by Taylor, made a motion **to approve purchasing the salt spreader from Koenig Body & Equipment for the Ford F550 Truck based on the $6,100 quote with not install and Village Maintenance Mike Paulsen installing.**
Roll Call:
AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Yepsen presented the Pavement Maintenance bill as approved by IDOT for the street work done summer 2026. Yepsen explained the Village MFT Fund has a balance to allow a $33,000 payment. Ries reminded the board that either TIF Funds, which have been used in previous years or General Fund monies could be used for the remaining balance of $56,823.86. Corwin, seconded by Price, made a motion **to approve payment to Pavement Maintenance in the amount of $89,823.86, MFT Fund payment of $33,000 and the balance from TIF Funds in the amount of $56,823.86 for street work done summer 2026.**
Roll Call:
AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Yepsen asked the board for a motion to enter into a closed session to discuss employees. Adams, seconded by Taylor, 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 6:41 pm.**
Roll Call:
AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Adams, seconded by Corwin, made a motion to **close the executive session at 7:14 pm.**
Roll Call:
AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Roll Call @ 7:14 pm in Regular Session
PRESENT: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor, Yepsen
ABSENT: Barry
Clerk Ries also present.

No action taken regarding employees.

Yepsen presented agenda item 5.2, October 8, 2026 Regular Bills and Payroll, which was skipped earlier in the meeting and asked for a motion. Corwin, seconded by DeVoss, made a motion to **approve the October 8, 2026 Regular Bills & Payroll.**
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 7:15 pm.**
Roll Call:
AYES: Adams, Corwin, DeVoss, Price, Taylor
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Barry MOTION CARRIED 5-0