

REGULAR MEETING
SHERIDAN VILLAGE COUNCIL
November 11th, 2025

The regular meeting of the Sheridan Village Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President McKay.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: President McKay, Pro-Tem Edelman, and Trustees: Ritter, Wyckoff-McFarland, Pomranky and Wagner.

Absent: None

Guests in attendance: Liz Braddock, Shelley Treynor, Katie and Curt Sisson and Chief Pumford.

Public Comment: Shelley introduced herself as an oral health coordinator for the Montcalm County Health Department. She has been a hygienist for over 15 years and attended tonight to advocate for the retention of fluoride in Sheridan's water supply. She stated that fluoride is like a vitamin for your teeth, it helps prevent cavities before they start and adding fluoride to the water is like adding vitamin D to your milk or iodine to your table salt. Fluoride has been studied for decades and is recommended by over one hundred organizations nationwide, including the CDC, World Health organization, and the American Department of Pediatrics. There have been many studies and reviews done regarding adding fluoride to drinking water and no harmful effects have been found and have been studied more than anything else we add to our drinking systems. She states that one of her roles at the Health Department is to connect families, especially kiddos to dental care and resources and as we all know families in this area are experiencing hardships. She does about one thousand dental screenings on children a year in Montcalm County and daily has kids tell her they do not have toothbrushes at home. Shelley states that access to dental care is a significant barrier to dental health, there is also a shortage of dental providers in Montcalm County, especially that accept Medicaid and these are our highest risk populations for dental disease. She goes on to say that adding fluoride is the one preventive tool as it is accessible to everyone regardless of ability to afford dental care. Shelley says when you remove fluoride from the water, you will see an increase in dental diseases across all ages. She understands that it is Council's job to keep residents safe and healthy, so fluoride will help do that, it is safe and affordable, she urges us to keep fluoride in the water. President McKay inquires about how much a person must drink for the fluoride to be helpful. Shelley states that any amount is helpful. President McKay states that there is a natural amount of fluoride in the water and believes that is enough until the EPA can do further testing, which is why we would like to stop adding it until the EPA can finish testing and removing it while we are doing the water project seems like a good time. It can be added back in later. He goes on to say that fluoride is very corrosive, if you could see what it does to the pipes and feels that now is a good time to stop adding fluoride until the EPA can finish its studies. Shelley states that Liz may be better at answering that question,

but these organizations have reviewed the studies and still stand behind them. Liz states that the CDC website still is supporting adding fluoride to the water supply and that the amount we are adding is below the allowable amount and that what was being studied by the CDC is fluoride drops that could be given to kiddos that don't have fluoride in their water. Liz also stated that EGLE was supportive of fluoride being added, and they sent out a letter in March supporting communities fluoridating the water. She went on to say that the testing that is being done is in non-U.S. communities that do not have access to fluoride in their water. President McKay asked again who she was getting the information from the EPA or CDC as people get them confused and it is the EPA that has us concerned. Liz states that it is CDC as she has not checked the EPA website. President McKay says that yes we want to protect our residents, so when something contradicts all those studies, municipalities should be the first to protect them and shut the fluoride and we are going to talk about it tonight, it does not mean that we won't add it back in, but to protect everyone until it is determined to be safe it should be removed, as I'm sure you would agree, until we have all the facts, it is best to stop it. Liz agrees but goes on to restate that they have talked to our engineer at EGLE and from a public health standpoint they support the addition of fluoride to the water. Liz then offered to come back and bring others with her to answer any questions regarding fluoride. She goes on to say that in our county there is 1 dentist for every 2130 people, and the state average is one dentist for every 1310 people and that is why fluoridation is good for the entire community as it is cheap and effective. President McKay asks who can answer his question, how much water a child must drink for it to be effective, he says getting kids to drink water is difficult. Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland disagrees and feels that many kids only have water to drink. She goes on to say it was a big deal a few years ago and still is now, professionals came in and explained fluoride, it made sense then and still does now. She then goes on to ask if we can stop and start the addition of fluoride. Ed states that we can. He goes on to say that we are doing a huge project and why add something voluntarily that we do not have to, but we need to look at the side effects from these products, delayed learning is a concern with the addition of fluoride. He also says that the natural water right now has no toxins, so why add it if we are not required by the State. He spoke to EGLE on Monday and was told they were neutral on the subject, they encourage it but if you want to remove it, that is fine. Liz came back to say that they were notified by the State that we were considering removing fluoride and wanted to know what the Health Department was doing about it and if they didn't come and have a conversation with us the State would say they didn't care, so they are here and they have a Medical director on staff that you can send any questions to. President McKay asked if there were any more questions and thanked the ladies for coming.

Curt Sisson stated that he was attending to get an update on the water project and wondered if the dirt down by his residence could be cleaned up. Ed stated yes, it is already in the works. Curt went on to say that fluoride in the drinking water was a big thing when he was on council and he wanted to say that fluoride is very corrosive and very little water that is being drunk compared to cooking, taking a shower, etc. He goes on to say that with so little water being consumed it would be better to spend the money on fluoride treatments for the kids. Trustee Pomranky also asked about filters removing the fluoride and was told only specific filters will filter out the fluoride.

Pro-Tem Edelman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Pomranky supported. All ayes, motion passed.

Pro-Tem Edelman made a motion to approve the minutes from October 14th, 2025, regular meeting. Trustee Ritter supported. All ayes, motion passed.

The council reviewed paid bills as of November 3rd, 2025. Pro-Tem Edelman made a motion to approve the paid bills as presented. Trustee Pomranky supported. All ayes, motion passed.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report ending November 3rd, 2025. Pro-Tem Edelman made a motion to approve the report. Trustee Ritter supported. All ayes, Motion passed.

Ed Lingeman, Village Superintendent:

Ed begins with addressing Curt's question about the water project, they have most of Eisenhower and Pine done, working on St. Clair tomorrow then work on another part of Pine, between Grant and Evergreen St. Then they will be around the corner from you. He also mentions that the completed areas have not been pressurized or tested yet. That should be done by next week, then a line crew will come in and will start tying houses in and starting the abandonment process, restoration process will start, paving was to go to Thanksgiving, but he would prefer to wait until spring for asphalt, as it will cure better, it may be a little rough but worth it in the long run. The crew working is a good crew, they had a little problem with communication with management but have worked through that, the guy leading the crew is new, not to the work, he has worked for another company and has a good idea what is going on. The crew is working on cleaning up some of the dirt and cutting down a couple of trees. They will keep working on this side of M66 for as long as weather permits.

He also said that leaf pickup is going well, Dean is doing very good, we did hire his grandson to fill in part time, but he also has a full-time job, and they are working with that, he is doing a great job.

Ed then discussed the filtration building, there was a pre-construction meeting last week and Raymor will be here next week to pull well 3 to be cleaned, put a well curve on it and put it back together. Consumers will be coming a little after that to disconnect gas and power from the existing building and hook it up to the temporary gray building that will house well 3 during construction. Everything looks like it is on schedule, with the hope that footing and foundation will be in by mid-December, the building should arrive February 6th and work completed in July. Ed then went on to say that the State had conducted a sanitary survey last Friday and they had a conversation about the fluoride, and they were neutral on the removal of it.

Dan Wickes, Assistant Superintendent: Absent.

Cindy Patmore, Office Manager: Nothing to report.

Steve VanHolstyn, Code Enforcement Officer:

Steve reported on a couple of complaints of residents burning trash, but they are coming in after the fact, and he cannot do anything about those. He also discussed a resident's home that he has been working on, and some work has been done, and it is looking better, he will continue to work with the homeowner. Steve also stated that there are a few abandoned autos that he needs to take some action on but has been advised that removing cars is not always a good idea and that is part of the reason Chief Pumford is here. Chief Pumford addressed Council and stated that yes you can have the autos towed but he does not recommend it, as it will open the Village up to litigation since the auto is on private property and removing the auto may cause damage to that property. He states that it is better to go through all the steps and get a court order to remove the auto. He went on to say that he is willing to appear with Steve at resident's homes to see about having the autos removed. He has no problem with towing autos, but it would be his last resort. Steve goes on to say the other issue we have is speeding cars that are not obeying stop signs that we do have on video and while reviewing the video you can hear fireworks or gun shots. It is believed that they are gunshots that are being fired off late at night. President McKay asks if contact has been made with these individuals? Chief Pumford states that contact has not been made and that is also why he is here. With this type of activity taking place in Sheridan, he is willing to assist, however the action he would like to take is out of scope of our current contract. The Village has a problem; he has been informed of the problem and would love to help with the problem but came here tonight to ask permission. He does not want to perform traffic stops and have someone question his actions. The suspected auto has been identified, and he has no problem talking with the individual but would like to catch them in the act and take appropriate actions issuing citations. But he will not do anything without the blessing of Council. He would like to assign an officer here for whatever amount of time we deem necessary, a day, a week, whatever we want, or do nothing except for our ordinance enforcement. This action can be done under the current contact with Stanton Police Department, as the Village has a traffic ordinance. President McKay asked for thoughts. Pro-Tem Edelman feels that this is a good deal. Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland feels that this is a problem best overseen by police force and once it is taken care of, we can go back to the original set up. Trustee Wagner asks if the gunshots/fireworks came from the car or a home. Chief Pumford explains there is no way to tell for sure, but the car stops, you hear the pops and then the car takes off. Trustee Wagner thanks him for the clarification. Resident Curt Sisson asks to be heard on this topic; his household has been woken up at least twice by the sound of gunshots. Ed speaks up on the complaints he has heard regarding traffic issues and gunshots. He would like to see Stanton PD come down here and wake a few people up and feels that it is an inexpensive cost to protect residents. Chief Pumford would like to send an officer here on a regular basis to control traffic issues, the Village can set how many hours but lets get a car down here and get the lights on-police lights will cause the word to spread and get some of this action shut down. President McKay inquires on the amount of hours a week Chief Pumford feels may be necessary. Chief Pumford says we can start with 40 and go from there. President McKay wonders if 20 hours a week would work. Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland makes a motion to allow Stanton PD 20 hours a week and up to 30 hours with President's approval. Pro-Tem Edelman agrees. Trustee Wagner states that \$2000 is a good amount to allow for this issue but feels that we should allow 3 to 4 weeks to manage it.

Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland agrees with Trustee Wagner and withdraws her motion. Chief Pumford states no new contact is needed, and they will back off if we do not need assistance.

Pro-Tem Edelman makes a motion to allow Stanton PD to do traffic control over the next 4 weeks, and not over 60 hours in total. Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland supports. All ayes. Motion passed.

Brandon Stowell, Fire Chief: Absent. Report given by Steve Van Holstyn. The Fire Department has been on 143 calls so far this year, they had a total of 163 last year, so they expect it to exceed that amount this year. There are twenty-two members of the Fire Department, one quit due to family reasons, and they have received four applications that they plan to do interviews on. Steve also reported that Grant opportunities are scarce, but he still has a few in the works. The Fire Department is working on Community involvement; they visited several schools during fire prevention week including 2 Mennonite schools, reaching over one thousand students. They are also participating in the Stuff a bus again this year.

McKala Robert, Community Center: Absent.

Committee Reports:

Budget: Nothing to report.

Personnel/Community Center: Nothing to report.

Property/Ordinance: Nothing to report.

Equipment: Nothing to report. Nothing to report.

Old Business:

New Business:

Review Attorney Proposals.

The Village of Sheridan received proposals from three legal firms, after reviewing these proposals and comparing costs and services.

Trustee Pomranky made a motion to terminate our relationship with the law office of Trent Hilding, PLC and employ the law office of Bloom Sluggett, PC. Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland supports. All ayes. Motion passed.

Discuss Water Tower lease.

No response from Point Broadband, tabled until we hear from them.

Review Fire Department Easement.

Easement documents were never received, tabled until next month.

Chief Pumford enforcement discussion.
Discussion was held earlier in meeting.

President McKay's Comments:

President McKay reminded everyone that Winterfest is coming up on December 4th, and he hopes to see everyone there.

Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland states that we must revisit the fluoride discussion, it was not on the agenda this month, so we are unable to vote on a decision. President McKay suggests that everyone does any research they need to and get all the information that you can find, and we will look at this topic again at the December meeting. Ed states that this is not a new discussion and why add this to the water if we do not have to. Pro-Tem Edelman states that only the US and part of the United Kingdom add fluoride to their community water supply. He adds that there is no data that compares well water to community water but developmental delays in children are being proven. President McKay reminds them all to do research and come back in December with facts.

Trustee Wyckoff-McFarland made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ritter supported. All ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 9th, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Cindy Patmore
Office Manager