

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL
January 24, 2022**

The Special Meeting of the Village Council held at 442 N. Grand Street was called to order by President Gunnett at 7:00 p.m.

The Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Gunnett.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Gunnett, Trustees, Rochholz, Mastenbrook, Barnes, Stodola, Bergland and Carlin.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Finance Director/Assistant Manager Tammi Youngs, DPW Superintendent Rob Coffman, Water Supervisor Adam Wood, Sergeant Jamie Edwards, Linda Barnes, Joe Beck, Don Ulsh, Kim Parker, Ron Gammill, Frank LaPierre, Sarah Fedders, Tom Wheat and Mike Presta from Prein and Newhof, and Rob Peterson.

AGENDA

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Barnes to approve the agenda as presented. All aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Parker asked that meeting notices be posted on Village of Schoolcraft Website and on Facebook.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Wheat from Prein and Newhof presented a proposal for acquiring funding from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund.

He made the following statements:

- He stated a loan from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund is a low interest loan. There is a small possibility of loan forgiveness.
- He stated each lead pipe replacement will cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. There are approximately 364 residents that have lead piping.
- He stated the Village can apply for funding from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund once a year.
- He provided the following steps to apply for funding from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund:
 - Submit Letter of Intent.
 - Preliminary Engineering Report. This will identify the project. For example, how many lead pipes and transite pipes need to be replaced.
 - Submit Preliminary Engineering Report to DEQ. They will score and make notes.
 - In October, the Village of Schoolcraft will receive notice that funding has been approved.
- He stated the following issues should be considered:
 - It is state mandated that lead pipes be replaced. This should be the top priority.

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- What can the Village afford?
- Determine if all the pipes should be replaced at one time or spread out over time.
Keeping in mind every time a pipe is replaced, the road will be torn up. This begs the question: Should roads be replaced at the same time?
- He stated at this time, grants are available for communities that are “distressed”. However, the Village is not considered distressed.

Questions/Comments from Council Members and Village Manager Lutz

Trustee Rochholz:

Is it more likely that disadvantaged/low-income municipalities will get principal forgiveness?

Wheat: Yes. Schoolcraft is not considered a disadvantaged community.

Trustee Mastenbrook:

Can the Drinking Water Revolving Fund be used to purchase property for a well?

Wheat: Will do research and provide an answer and information.

What is the shelf life of the Engineering Report?

Wheat: As long as the project stays the same, the report is usable. The longer the project goes, chances are some aspects will change.

Will risk of contamination play a part in Principle Forgiveness?

Wheat: Much research has been done for Wellhead Protection in the Village of Schoolcraft. That will not be a consideration for the Village of Schoolcraft.

In the proposal it states Prein and Newhof will attend three meetings per year. Is that a total of three, or three meetings for each; water, roads and sanitary sewer?

Wheat: That is a total of three. There will be exceptions made if needed.

She stated the proposal is a plan or a study. It is not a project.

Trustee Stodola:

Is it appropriate to ask early and ask every year for funding from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund?

Wheat: Yes.

Who is contact person for this project?

Wheat: Village Manager and perhaps the Department of Public Works.

Is there an upfront cost for Baker Tilly and how do they set fees?

Wheat: No upfront cost. Fees are based on cost to operate.

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Are there any unique costs if we chose to move forward?

Wheat: No. However, if sanitary sewer is included, cost may change. Included in the fees (water) are:

- Insurance
- Chemicals
- Wages

President Gunnett

If consent is signed, and the Village Council decides to go with two out of the three plans, does Baker Tilly charge for all three?

Wheat: Baker Tilly will charge for the plans the Village wishes to pursue.

Village Manager Lutz

- She stated included in the cost of Prein and Newhof's proposal is
 - Asset Management Plan
 - Sanitary Sewer
 - Engineering Plan
- She made the following statements regarding asking Wightman for a proposal:
 - She stated Wightman may use Prein and Newhofs existing plans and determine what changes need to be made and make their own, or they can create their own plan.
 - She stated Prein and Newhof has been the Village's engineers for at least 18 years.
 - She stated she would like to accept Prein and Newhof's proposal and be able to get the projects started. Council members agreed with this statement.
- She stated she would like a motion made to approve submission of Notice of Intent by Prein and Newhof.

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Rochholz to approve submission Notice of Intent. All aye.

A motion by Mastenbrook to approve the proposal from Prein and Newhof was tabled until further information could be presented.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, President

Theresa O'Leary, Clerk