

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS September 6, 2022

The Regular 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 were led by President Gunnett.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Gunnett, Trustees Mastenbrook, Rochholz, Bergland, Carlin, and Barnes.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Finance Director/Assistant Manager Tammi Youngs, Chief Scott Smith, Adam Wood, Rob Peterson, Linda Barnes, Joe Beck, Hollie Posey, Eric Clapp, Erin Holmes, Nick Perez, Jennifer Lint, Robert Lint, Keith Baird, Julie Baird, Danielle Luteyn, Lucas Furney, Chelsea Meyer, Kathy Aivars, Ron and Lina Lambe, Sue Glasheen, Erica Rice Williams, Tom Gill, Bret Willis, Sy Spears, Scott Goddard, Chelsea Musselman, Eric McGehee, Brian Evans, and Brian Julian.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Bergland to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All aye.

CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Residents of the Village of Schoolcraft expressed their concern over the enforcement of the Parking in the Right of Way Ordinance. The following statements were made:

- Some people are not financially able to replace the gravel in the right of way.
- Driveways are short and will not accommodate the number of cars owned.
- How do we accommodate the cars in the driveway when young adults in a household start driving?
- It is difficult to shuffle cars around in the driveway when members of the household work different shifts.
- Parking on the road slows down traffic.
- It is unconstitutional to enforce this ordinance.
- What are the solutions?
- Parking is limited because everyone has drain fields.
- How does an ordinance get changed?
- What other communities do not allow parking in the right of way?
- This ordinance does not benefit the well-being of anyone.

President Keith Gunnett made the following statements:

- He stated this ordinance is not a new ordinance.
- He stated reasons for not parking in right of way:
 - It is a safety issue. It is sometimes difficult to see around a car if backing out of a driveway.
 - Parking in the right of way can damage the infrastructure. The right of way contains water lines and other utility service lines.
- He stated the Village Manager will look into how to change an ordinance.
- He stated enforcing the ordinance is not unconstitutional.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding Trick or Treat Hours on Halloween, Monday, October 31, 2022 was discussed.

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Barnes to approve the hours of 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. for Trick or Treat hours on Halloween 2022. All aye.

- b) The memorandum from Finance Director/Assistant Manager Tammi Youngs regarding Resolution 2022-08. A Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget to Allow the Transfer of Funds to Create a Balanced Budget was discussed.

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Mastenbrook to adopt Resolution 2022-08 as presented. All aye.

- c) The Draft Audit from South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority was discussed.

Finance Director/Assistant Manager Tammi Youngs made the following statements describing deficiencies in the draft audit:

1. Beginning balances needed to be corrected by the auditors, which means that not all correcting journal entries were made when they closed their books the previous year (Fiscal year 2021).
2. The year-end accounting process to close the books for the Fiscal Year was not done by SKCFA. The year-end closing process needed to be done by the auditors as SKCFA did not complete this very important task. This compromises the auditor's objectivity and independence, when they are essentially auditing their own work.
3. There was an audit adjustment of \$109K (\$108,782) for cash. (Not sure how this can happen, to lose \$109k?) The conclusion here would be that bank reconciliations are not being done.
4. There were no disclosures or notes in the Financial Statements for related party transactions. Jason Gatlin is the Chairman on the South Kalamazoo County Authority Board and is also a Business Partner with the Authority that is the sole provider of IT services and equipment for the South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority.
5. On a side note, the Village of Schoolcraft has not been invoiced for six months now, for their fire services provided by SKCFA.

Motion by Carlin, seconded by Barnes to accept the Draft Audit of South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority as presented.

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By Roll Call:

Barnes	Yea
Carlin	Yea
Mastenbrook	Nay
Rochholz	Nay
Bergland	Nay
Gunnnett	Nay

Motion did not pass.

TABULATION OF BIDS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS:

Village President Keith Gunnnett made the following statements:

- He stated at a prior meeting, it was questioned by the Council if a member of the Village of Schoolcraft should represent the Village on the South Kalamazoo County Water and Sewer board because the village does not have a stake in it.
- He stated an attorney has suggested that the Village of Schoolcraft should have an investment in SCWSA in order to be a member.
- He stated Vicksburg also does not qualify to be on the board.
- He stated the SCWSA board has decided to leave the board the way it is, to allow adequate membership.
- He stated as a board member, he does not vote on rates or any issues pertaining to costs affecting individual users.
- He stated that if the Village of Schoolcraft gets sanitary sewer, connecting to Kalamazoo would not be a wise move.
- He stated after the court case regarding misappropriated funds was settled, members from sixteen communities are involved in setting rates.
- He stated St. Joseph County is looking into installing sanitary sewer along US 131. This might possibly make it more affordable for the Village of Schoolcraft.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She stated the Village of Schoolcraft did not receive any funding from the Kalamazoo County ARPA funds. The reason being there was no match of funds.
- She stated the parking lot in back of Kalamazoo County State Bank, the Antique Store and the building previously know as Schnauzers has ruts and potholes. She has been told by the businesses that the person who plows the snow in the parking lot will not plow unless the potholes are fixed.

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Bergland to allow funding up to \$2,000 for Schoolcraft Paving to asphalt the parking lot. All aye.

- She stated Prein and Newhof are always trying to find grant monies.
- She stated over the last 15-16 years, over \$1.5 million has been acquired.
- She stated staff have shaved benefits and are always looking for ways to save money.

Trustee Kathy Mastenbrook made the following statement:

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- She stated she would like to extend an invitation to Prein and Newhof to attend the next Council meeting to discuss the status of the Comprehensive Plan

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk