

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OCTOBER 17, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Village Council held at 442 N. Grand Street, was called to order by President Gunnett at 6:00 p.m.

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, Rob Peterson, Linda Barnes, Joe Beck, Ron Gammill, Tom Gill and John Gisler

NEW BUSINESS:

The ARPA Awards disbursement from Kalamazoo County was discussed.

Finance Director/Assistant Director Tammi Youngs explained a spread sheet depicting the amount of ARPA funds some communities received, if any, and money some communities matched.

Kalamazoo County Commissioner John Gisler made the following statements:

- He stated that during the process of receiving and reviewing applications for ARPA funds, there was a turnover and lack of staff.
- He stated \$5.8 million of the total ARPA fund received was allotted for water, sewer and broadband.
- He stated Village of Schoolcraft asked for more than this allotment. The \$5.8 million was never communicated.
- He stated all 131 applications were reviewed. Because of the number of applications, they divided them into six categories.
- He stated the committee reviewing the applications made up the process as they went along.
- He stated he agrees the process was not transparent. It was not transparent to Kalamazoo Commissioners.
- He stated he agrees the process was not done correctly.
- He stated Kalamazoo County Commissioners screwed up.
- He stated that Guidehouse Consulting Firm, did not create the scoring matrix, other consultants created it.
- He stated the scoring matrix was not used.
- He stated all applications were logged in.
- He stated the administrator in charge, finance director, and deputy director reviewed applications.
- He stated there was no protocol followed.
- He stated during the review of applications, the value of matching money from communities was not consistent.
- He stated that sanitary sewer is a contentious issue in the Village of Schoolcraft.
- He stated there is \$2-\$3 million left of the ARPA funds.
- He suggested some Council members attend the Kalamazoo County Commissioners Meeting tomorrow night.
- He stated he is hopeful the Kalamazoo County Commissions will reconsider Village of Schoolcraft's application.
- He stated the Village of Schoolcraft should ask for the grant again.
- He stated \$12 million was allocated to employees that had to work during the COVID pandemic.
- He stated there would no admission from the Kalamazoo County Commissioners of any wrong doing.
- He stated politicians do not apologize.

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Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She stated that lack of administration in Kalamazoo County should not be an excuse for the poor process and disbursement of ARPA funds.
- She stated there was no communication from Kalamazoo County regarding the ARPA fund. She received the information from the Village of Schoolcraft engineer.
- She stated some municipalities received grants without matching funds.
- She stated one municipality received funding for roads and they did not have the information on what roads the funding would be used for.
- She stated Kalamazoo Administrator Kevin Catlin could not confirm there was an email sent to her regarding ARPA funds.
- She asked what can Kalamazoo County do to make it right?
- She asked if the Kalamazoo County Commission going to publicly admit their wrong doings.
- She stated she has many years of experience, and a lot of experience writing grants. She has never seen anything like the way this was handled.

Trustee Rochholz made the following statements:

- He asked why the amounts of grants were not predetermined.
- He asked why the applications were split up into categories.
- He stated some decisions appeared to have been made by tossing a coin. Kalamazoo County Commissioner Gisler agreed.
- He asked why the process wasn't stopped when it was determined it wasn't fair, ethical, right, or equitable.
- He asked why some municipalities received grants in three different categories.

Trustee Mastenbrook made the following statements:

- She asked why Kalamazoo County kept \$12 million for employees
- She asked who reviewed the applications.
- She asked if the scoring matrix was used.
- She asked the Kalamazoo County Commissioners to reconsider the Village of Schoolcraft's application for ARPA grant money.
- She stated this is not our fault. If policies and procedures were followed, we would not be having this conversation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk