

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
April 3, 2023**

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

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Gunnett, Trustees Rochholz, Mastenbrook, Bergland, Carlin, Barnes and Beck.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Officer Eric Ray, Linda Barnes, and Kalamazoo County Commissioner Wendy Mazer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Barnes, to approve the agenda with the following addition:
New Business 8b. ARPA Funding.
All aye.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Village Council welcomed Kalamazoo County Commissioner Wendy Mazer.

- a) The memorandum from Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary regarding Resolution 2023-05. A Resolution to Set the Water System Rates and Charges for the Purpose of Funding the Village's Water System, was discussed.

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Carlin to adopt Resolution 2023-05 as presented. All aye.

- b) Discussion of ARPA Funding.

Village Manager Lutz made the following statements:

- She expressed her concern over the way ARPA funds were distributed.
- She stated, previous Kalamazoo County Commissioner John Gisler told the Council, that in his scoring process to determine which entities received ARPA funds, he would not support any application without some amount of matching monies. However, on the list of entities that received ARPA funding, six of them did not have matching monies.
- She stated there was no scoring mechanism or matrix used to assist Kalamazoo County in distribution of ARPA Funding.
- She stated the Kalamazoo County Commissioners did not score the applications.

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
April 3, 2023
PAGE 2

- She stated the Committees did not adhere to their own rules and regulations when determining distribution of ARPA funds.
- She asked why private entities were awarded grants versus municipalities with unfunded mandates.
- She stated the amount of taxes paid to Kalamazoo is disproportionate to the amount of services the Village receives.

President Gunnett made the following statements:

- He stated the sub-committees did not use the methodology that was given to them to assist in distributing ARPA funds.
- He stated there is a state-mandate that the Village of Schoolcraft has to replace all lead water pipes which is non-funded.

Trustee Rochholz made the following statements:

- He stated that in the criteria to apply for ARPA funding, it states it is unlikely that one entity will receive more than one grant. However, there are entities that received more than one grant.
- He stated his concern over the process Kalamazoo County used to determine the distribution of ARPA funds.
- He stated the Village of Schoolcraft has to put money into the infrastructure, specifically for the state-mandated lead pipe replacement. This leaves no money to assist with the growth of South County.

Trustee Mastenbrook made the following statements:

- She stated the Kalamazoo County Commission staff made recommendations for distribution of ARPA funds.
- She reviewed, with Kalamazoo County Commissioner Mazer, highlighted portions of the criteria booklet to apply for ARPA funding stating many of the criteria were not followed.
- She stated she would like a letter from the Kalamazoo County Commission stating the reason(s) the Village of Schoolcraft was not awarded ARPA funding.

Trustee Carlin made the following statement:

- He stated the non-funded, state mandated replacement of lead water pipes will cause financial hardship on the community.

Kalamazoo County Commissioner Mazer stated there is a Commission Meeting tomorrow (April 4, 2023) at 4:00 p.m. and she will be discussing these issues at the meeting.

The Council thanked Commissioner Mazer for attending the meeting.

TABULATION OF BIDS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

President Keith Gunnett made the following statement:

- He stated he is meeting with Josh Baird, Manager of the Golf Dome, April 4, 2023, to discuss a possible well site.

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
April 3, 2023
PAGE 3

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She stated Toni Rafferty from the 4th of July Committee told her the committee is having a difficult time finding a location to shoot off fireworks.
- She stated she will be on vacation beginning April 21, 2023. In her absence, from this point and in the future, Chief Scott Smith will be the contact person should anything urgent arise.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, Village President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk