

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
March 6, 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, Finance Director Carin Louis, DPW Superintendent Rob Coffman, Mike Presta, Andy Campbell, Kathy Forsythe, and Rob Peterson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Barnes, to approve the agenda with the following amendment:

Add: 11a. Closed Session

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:

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding Resolution 2023-04. A Resolution to Allow MDOT to Install Sidewalks on US 131 from South St. to North of the Railroad, was discussed.

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Barnes to adopt Resolution 2023-04 as presented. All aye.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following comment:

- She stated the Village of Schoolcraft received an invoice for \$110,000, from MDOT, for the cost to repave the ROW located in the CBD. She stated after making several calls to MDOT to question the charge, MDOT has agreed to waive the cost, saving the Village of Schoolcraft \$110,000.
- b) Mr. Mike Presta from Prein and Newhof provided a progress report on Water, Sewer, Roads and potential grant money for water and sewer. He made the following statements:
- He stated the Grant from the State of Michigan Drinking Water Asset Program will help cover costs associated with lead pipe replacement.
 - He stated the Grant can be used for mapping, water rate study, asset management, and for expenses already incurred.
 - He stated he is working on another funding opportunity through the local government, specifically Senator Peters' Office.

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
March 6, 2023
PAGE 2

- He stated the Village of Schoolcraft is eligible. It is an 80/20% grant, meaning the Village would have to pay 20% of the cost of the project.
- He stated it would be advantageous to attach a letter from both the Council and Schoolcraft Township to the application.

c) Mr. Andy Campbell from Baker Tilly presented ways to finance infrastructure.

He made the following statements regarding water projects:

- He stated the Village of Schoolcraft does not qualify for the Drinking Water Revolving fund for water related projects as the Village is not considered overburdened.
- He stated that although the Village of Schoolcraft is not considered overburdened, it doesn't hurt to apply for DWRP grant.
- He stated applications for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund are due May 1, 2023. Will get notification in October, and in November the Village can decide if they want to move forward.
- He stated USDA-RD funding cannot be used for lead line replacement.
- He suggested applying for an open market loan.
- He suggested replacing 5% of lead lines every year.
- He stated all costs must come out of the water fund.
- He stated the cost of replacement of lead lines cannot be assessed and cannot target certain areas. It must be the same throughout the Village.
- He stated when applying for a grant, include costs for well site, water tower maintenance, etc., as only stating costs for lead line replacement would not score high enough. It is scored 0-100, and the closer to 100 the better.

He made the following statements regarding sanitary sewer:

- He stated the Revolving Fund will not fund new systems. They will fund maintenance costs on existing systems.
- He stated USDA-RD is the best option. They have a good interest rate that changes quarterly, there is no scoring table, and it is prepayable.
- He stated applying for a USDA-RD loan can be done at any time and on any timeframe.
- He stated he would like direction from the Council for what to look at; i.e. special assessments, cost for installing sanitary sewer just on US 131, and/or cost for the entire Village.

It was the consensus of the Council, to make water projects the priority.

TABULATION OF BIDS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

President Keith Gunneth made the following statement:

- He stated he will meet with Josh Baird, manager of the Golf Dome, to discuss the potential of acquiring a new well site near that area.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She asked the Council if they want to continue Citizen of the Year Awards. The Council stated they do want to continue the Citizen of the Year Award.
- She stated Clark Logic is requesting their property on Lee Street be designated as an Industrial District. A Public Hearing will be held at a later date.

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
March 6, 2023
PAGE 3

DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL PERSONNEL ISSUES

Motion by Barnes seconded by Mastenbrook to convene into Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss Council Personnel issues. By Roll Call, All aye.

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Carlin to reconvene into Regular Session at 9:05 p.m. All aye.

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Mastenbrook to approve the minutes of the Closed Session. By Roll Call, All aye.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, Village President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk