

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
July 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 to the United States of America were led by President Gunnett.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Gunnett, Trustees Rochholz, Mastenbrook, Bergland, Barnes, Carlin and Beck.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Sergeant Jamie Edwards, Linda Barnes, Michelle Crawford, and Steve Waldron.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Village Manager Lutz introduced Michelle Crawford to the Council as the new part-time Office Assistant.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) A copy of the Articles of Incorporation for South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority were given to each Council member prior to the following discussion.

The memorandum from Trustee Todd Carlin regarding the SKCFA purchasing a Saber Chassis Dryside Tanker, was discussed.

Trustee Carlin read aloud a letter regarding the purchase of the tanker.

Trustee Rochholz made the following statements:

- He stated there was a special meeting of the SKCFA to discuss this purchase. Entities involved in the SKCFA was not aware of this meeting.
- He stated the process stated in the Articles of Incorporation was not followed when making this purchase.
- He stated SKCFA violated the Articles of Incorporation by not informing members/entities about the purchase or the special meeting.
- He asked the following:
 - Were there other options for financing?
 - Did they look for a used truck?

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
July 3, 2023
PAGE 2

Trustee Mastenbrook made the following statements:

- She stated a consultant could have been enlisted to help navigate the purchase and with financials.
- She stated a bank will not wait to take payments until the truck is received.
- She stated other financial options should have been explored.

President Gunnett made the following statements:

- He stated it is violation of the Articles of Incorporation to make a purchase without the entities knowing about it ahead of time.
- He stated perhaps Rural Development should have been considered for financing.
- He stated this violation is especially disturbing as the amended Articles of Incorporation was approved very recently.

Trustee Carlin made the following statement:

- He stated the SKCFA Finance Committee will meet July 6, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.

Village Manager Lutz asked each member of the Council to contact her with any questions or concerns regarding purchase of the tanker truck by the SKCFA. She will compile a list of concerns to give to Trustee Carlin to bring before the SKCFA Finance Committee meeting on July 6, 2023

- b) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding Review of Rules and Order Procedure for Village Council was discussed.

Village Manager Lutz made the following statement:

- She stated a representative from MML reviewed the Rules and Order Procedures for Village Council and thought they were very good.

The following amendments were recommended:

Rule 4. Agenda for Meeting.

No business shall be placed on the agenda by the Village Manager unless received not later than noon on Friday preceding the meeting. **Change day to Wednesday at noon.**

Rule 5. Time and Place of Regular Meetings:

Change address to Municipal Complex, 442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft, Michigan.

Rule 8. Statements of Citizens

No citizen shall speak for longer than four (4) minutes.. **Change to three (3) minutes.**

An amended copy of the Rules and Order Procedures for Village Council will be presented at a Council meeting for adoption.

TABULATION OF BIDS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

President Gunnett made the following statement:

- He stated his disappointment over critical comments about the 4th of July activities on social media, stating everyone has worked hard to make it a special and fun day.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She stated she will interview a candidate for the Finance Director position this week.
- She stated she and DPW Superintendent Rob Coffman are meeting with MDOT in October to discuss US 131 construction in the Village of Schoolcraft in 2024.
- She stated she would like to help businesses during the construction by applying for a grant from the Vicksburg Foundation. Her idea is to give each business on US 131/Grand St. help with probable financial hardship during construction.

Sergeant Jamie Edwards made the following statement:

- He thanked all the volunteers that help make the 4th of July celebration a fun and safe day for everyone.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, Village President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk