

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
February 19, 2024**

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

The Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America were led by President Rochholz.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President Rochholz, Trustees Mastenbrook, Beck, Bergland, Barnes, and Carlin.  
Absent: None.  
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Chief Scott Smith, Linda Barnes, Jenny Sportel, Don Ulsh, Frank LaPierre, Doug Kuhlman, Steve Waldron, and John Stears.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Bergland, seconded by Mastenbrook, to approve the agenda as presented. By Roll Call, all aye.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Barnes, to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2024, Village Council Meeting as follows: Change wording under New Business Section b) Motion by Beck, seconded by Barnes to adopt the Articles of Amendments of the South County Water and Sewer Authority. By Roll Call, all aye.

**CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Mr. John Stears appeared before the Village Council to express his concerns regarding public water and sewer utility issues.

Ms. Jennifer Sportel appeared before the Village Council regarding issues related to the Dangerous Structure located at 203 Pine Street.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Beck, to open the Public Hearing for the Purpose of Hearing Citizen Comments regarding the proposed 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget (7:10 p.m.).

- Mr. John Stears stated there are no line items in the proposed budget to accommodate new water service and/or sanitary sewer.

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Bergland, to close the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. By Roll Call, all aye.

Trustee Mastenbrook made the following comment regarding the proposed 2024/2025 Budget:

- She reviewed the proposed Budget Amendment Summary, explaining that it is customary to do at the end of every fiscal year to ensure a balanced budget.

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Carlin, to approve the proposed Budget Amendments as submitted. By Roll Call, all aye.

Motion by Beck, seconded by Barnes, to adopt the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget as presented. By Roll, all aye.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Mr. Drew Johnson, Executive Director of South County Community Services appeared before the Council to provide and update on programs, and to request the annual donation in the amount of \$3,100.00.

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Barnes, to approve the request of Mr. Drew Johnson in the amount of 3,100.00 as requested. By Roll Call, all aye. \_

- b) Mr. Frank Lapierre of South County Sewer and Water Authority and Mr. Doug Kulhman representing St. Joseph County appeared before the Village Council to provide preliminary information regarding a combined water system to accommodate potential businesses along the U.S. 131 Trunkline. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. \_\_\_\_\_

**TABULATION OF BIDS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS**

- a) Village President Rochholz stated that he plans to make new appointments as follows:

South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority for two-year terms beginning March 1, 2024, as follows:

Member: Kathy Mastenbrook

Secondary: Todd Carlin

South County Water and Sewer Authority.

Member: Mike Rochholz

Secondary: Cheri Lutz and Rob Coffman.

By Roll Call, all Aye.

- b) Mr. John Sterns questioned the involvement of the Village of Schoolcraft.  
c) Schoolcraft Township Supervisor Don Ulsh stated there is a specific process for sanitary sewer, and that the various municipalities cannot install sanitary sewer without the legal process.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.