

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS August 4, 2025

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

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, Doorn and Rance and Carlin.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Chief Scott Smith, DPW Superintendent Rob Coffman, Linda Barnes, Nathan Barnes, Russell Barnes, Rich Ogrizovich, Logan Roe, Phyllis Rose, Wendy Mazer, Ron and Martha Gammill, Brian Julian, Mollie Hartlieb, Jennifer Sportel, Brianna Wurtsmith, Lori kiing, Abby Brown, Kim and Mark Parker, Mike Presta and Andy Campbell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Beck, seconded by Bergland to approve the agenda as presented. All Aye.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Carlin seconded by Mastenbrook, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
By Roll Call, all aye.

CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Ms. Wendy Mazer, Kalamazoo County Commissioner, provided an update on activities in Kalamazoo County.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz, regarding Ordinance 249. An Ordinance to Regulate Golf Carts on Streets of the Village of Schoolcraft, was discussed.

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Beck to adopt Ordinance 249 as presented. By Roll Call

President Rochholz	Aye
Trustee Mastenbrook	Aye
Trustee Doorn	Aye
Trustee Beck	Aye
Trustee Rance	Nay
Trustee Bergland	Aye
Trustee Carlin	Aye

Motion passed 6-1.

TABULATION OF BIDS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) President Mike Rochholz appointed Trustees Mastenbrook, Beck and Rance to the 4th of July Ad Hoc Committee. They will be the liaison between the 4th of July Committee and the Village Council.

Motion to approve the appointments made by Carlin, seconded by Beck. By Roll Call, all aye.

- b) Mr. Mike Presta from Prein and Newhof, presented the Capital Improvement Projects for the Water Department.

He made the following statements:

- He stated not all lead services are related to the capital improvement plan. The lead lines connected to water mains that need to be replaced are included in the plan.
- Water mains are going to be replaced if they are undersized or they are old.
- He stated that approximately 100 lines are included in the capital improvement plan.
- He stated 2041 is the deadline to replace all lead lines.

- c) Mr. Andy Campbell from Bendzinski & Co. presented financing options for the Capital Improvements Projects.

He made the following statements:

- He stated there are three options for financing, State funding – SRF (State Revolving Fund), Federal Funding-USDA, and Open Market-Loan institutions.

He provided the following information regarding the SRF:

- The portion of the funds that pertains to water is underfunded.
- Less than 30% of applicants are approved.
- The funding is allocated by the mean income of families in a municipality. Village of Schoolcraft's mean household income is \$83,000 which is above the State's threshold of \$63,000.
- The State is changing the scoring system in the next year, possibly sooner.
- Overburdened communities are more likely to receive funding from the SRF.

He provided the following information regarding USDA:

- Funding is allocated on a first come first serve basis.
- Village of Schoolcraft is not eligible for grants based on the mean household income.
- The interest is based on market interest. Currently interest rate for USDA funding is 5 ¼%. It is expected go down next quarter.
- The Federal Government's fiscal year is October 1 – September 30.
- Once an application is submitted, it could take longer than a year to go through the process. If it is the intention of the Village to begin construction in 2026, it is imperative to get application in as soon as possible.
- USDA probably will not allocate funding for lead line replacement unless a water main replacement is also done at the same time.
- USDA loans can include engineering costs, construction, legal costs, etc.
- USDA patrols the work being done to make sure it can be completed in two years. They may allow more time if an unforeseen issue occurs, i.e. cannot get material in a timely manner.
- Can pay off loan early.
- Have to reserve 1 bond payment which will serve as the last bond payment.
- There is a requirement fee for Easement ROW mapping.
- Must prove you have access to property.

He provided the following information regarding Open Market Funding:

- It can take as little as four months to process a loan request.
- Can get out of debt sooner.
- It is more costly.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

President Mike Rochholz made the following statements:

- He stated the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet August 18, 2025. Members are Trustees Carlin, Bergland and Rance.
- He stated if residents request an Ordinance change, the cost to make those changes is incurred by the individuals requesting the change, unless it is a public safety Ordinance.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She stated Mr. Doug Wohlberg, Auditor, will attend the September 2, 2025 Council meeting to present the Audit.
- She stated Mercury Broadband's installation of fiber for fast speed internet throughout the Village, should be completed by the end of August.
- She stated the Lyon Street project is complete. Road striping should be done within 2 weeks.
- She stated additions to the website is being worked on.

Trustee Kathy Mastenbrook provided an update on South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority (SKCFA) activities.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Michael J. Rochholz, President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk