

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Village Council held at 442 N. Grand Street, was called to order President Rochholtz 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 Rochholtz, Trustees Mastenbrook, Beck, Bergland, Doorn, and Rance.

Absent: Carlin

Also Present: Officer Eric Ray, Phyllis Rose, Jenny Sportel.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Beck to approve the agenda as amended to include under New Business, Item C – Legal correspondence from attorney. All Aye.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Beck, seconded by Rance to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

By Roll Call, All Aye.

Citizens on Non-Agenda Items:

Patricia Lupina stated that the updated draft of the Chicken Ordinance continued to prohibit the use of corrugated metal and fiberglass, despite her understanding that this language was to be revised. President Rochholtz directed her to address the matter at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Public Hearings:

None

Bid Tabulations:

None

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- a) Ms. Amy Clark appeared before the Village Council to request approval of a new Liquor License for the former Schnauzer's Restaurant.

Motion by Doorn, seconded by Rance, to adopt Resolution 2026-01 a New Liquor License Application for 201 N. Grand Street.

By Roll Call, All Aye.

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b) Establishment of 2026/27 Manager Goals as follows:

- Increase staffing for DPW and Administrative Office.
- Work on Water Project including USDA Funding.
- Increase transparency regarding Village issues.

Motion by Doorn, seconded by Rance to approve 2026/27 Village Manager Goals as presented. All Aye.

c) Legal correspondence-The Council reviewed and discussed a contract presented by Joshua Thall of Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, P.C.

Motion by Mastenbrook, second by Rance to retain Joshua Thall as new legal counsel.

By Roll Call, All Aye.

Communications:

None

Statements from Citizens and Municipal Officials

President Rochholtz provided a report from the January Supervisors Meeting.

Village Manager Lutz made the following statements:

- A Finance Committee meeting is needed to review 2026/2027 Budget. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 11th at 1:00 p.m.
- A Special Meeting will be held on Monday February 23rd at 6:00 p.m. to approve the 2026/2027 Budget.

Trustee Mastenbrook made the following statements:

- She provided an update on the South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority activities.
- She reported that the Chief Smith has contacted Sheriff Fuller via email regarding the Fourth of July but has not yet received a response concerning his availability.

At 7:47 p.m., motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Rance to convene into Closed Session under Section 8(1))h) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider material exempt from disclosure by State Statute, Section 13(1)9(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, being a letter from their attorney dated February 2, 2026, for the reason that the letter is exempt from disclosure under State law due to "attorney-client privilege".

By roll call: All Aye.

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At 8:23 p.m., President Rochholtz reconvened the meeting into Open Session. A motion was made by Beck and seconded by Doorn, to proceed with filing a complaint with the State Tax Commission regarding Schoolcraft Township assessing practices.

By roll call: All Aye.

At 8:27 p.m., a motion by Mastenbrook. Seconded by Rance, to convene into Closed Session to discuss the Village Manager's compensation.

By roll call: All Aye.

At 8:52 p.m., President Rochholtz reconvened the meeting in Open Session. A motion was made by President Rochholtz and seconded by Rance to approve the Village Manager's annual compensation, to include 10% of grants received for the fiscal year, not to exceed \$20,000.

By roll call: All Aye.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Michael J. Rochholz, Village President

Cheri M. Lutz, Deputy Clerk