

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2018**

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

The prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Gunnett.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Gunnett, Mastenbrook, Spears, Barnes, Rochholz, Stodola and Carlin.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O’Leary, Tammi Youngs, Chief Bryan Campbell, Kirk Bergland, Rob Coffman, Adam Wood, Brent Smith, Stephanie Smith.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Stodola, seconded by Mastenbook to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All aye.

**CITIZEN’S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Kirk Bergland had the following comments:

- He provided information regarding the Easter Egg Hunt.
- He provided an update on Schoolcraft Community Library Events.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Discussion took place regarding the Comprehensive Lane Use Plan with comments as follows:

Trustee Rochholz had the following comments:

- He expressed concern regarding the order of priorities in the plan suggesting that the Village consider implementing low cost projects that could be more easily accomplished.
- He stated that improvements to US 131 have been questioned by a large number of people, particularly regarding the installation of medians that would interfere with turn lanes for streets along US 131.

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- He stated that he has great concerns about the Village's ability to fund the US 131 project due to the fact that the Village has difficulty funding major and local street projects. Gunnett explained turn lanes will remain for all streets.
- He stated that he does not object to the US 131 project being a goal but recognizes the funding will be a huge challenge, and the timeline for completion is unrealistic.
- He stated we need to understand that 131 is a highway and focus should be on Cass Street.
- Rochholz stated that we just took medians out, now why are we putting them back in?
- He stated he would like goals to be re-prioritized.

DPW Superintendent Rob Coffman had the following comments:

- He stated he is concerned that a change to the existing road will create large traffic backups.
- He stated that he appreciates the effort that went into the planning but does not understand why US 131 is #1 priority.
- He stated he does not think US 131 is broken, and is concerned about snow removal and maintenance of islands.
- He stated that motorists are already cutting through town on adjacent streets to avoid traveling on Grand Street, and they are generally going way over the speed limit to get to the stoplights on either side of town.
- He asked if MDOT has reviewed or has had any input in the plan.
- He stated that he is concerned with mid-block crossings.
- He stated that motorists already drive over the bump out areas on 131.
- He asked why not fix Hayward Street rather than focus on 131. There is nothing wrong with 131, it is not broken. Hayward is a much higher priority, and would be money well spent.

Trustee Spears had the following comments:

- He stated that putting a median and trees in would have the effect of slowing traffic down.
- Spears feels US 131 sets the Village up to fail.

Trustee Stodola had the following comments:

- He stated the goal is to give the downtown a different visibility and perspective.
- He stated safety and the image of Schoolcraft is a concern.
- He stated that all the projects seem to have little bundles within them that could be accomplished without necessarily completing the entire project.

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- He stressed picking some quick wins, and work to pursue other goals over longer periods of time.
- He stated big picture goals need more due diligence.
- He stated he strongly supports finding funding for sewer, water and other infrastructure issues.
- He stated that he does not feel like anything should have a specific date, and that we need to re-identify what we want to do within specific time frames.
- He stated that goals were identified by a certain number of people with sticky notes and does not feel they reflect opinions of the majority.
- He stated that he wants to focus on bundles rather than specific projects.

Trustee Mastenbrook had the following comments:

- She stated she favors moving forward with projects that are obtainable.
- She stated she is concerned about traffic slowing on 131 – where are they going to go?
- She states she is interested in trails – we have grant money available - rather than tackle projects that are financially unrealistic.

President Gunnett had the following comments:

- He stated that everyone feels unsafe crossing and walking along 131 due to rate of speed.
- He stated that MDOT will not reduce the speed limit so the street should be designed to slow down traffic, and he feels the design is a good one.
- He stated none of the intersections will be reduced in size. Some will actually be increased, and there are conceptual drawings to deflect traffic off US 131 to Hayward & Robinson Streets.
- He stated that traffic will slow down through signage and road design.

**Miscellaneous Comments:**

President Gunnett suggested that the Village Council , Downtown Development Authority, and Planning Commission have a joint meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Trustee Stodola stated that Wightman & Associates is responsible for visioning and planning and that Prein& Newhof are the Village Engineers.

Superintendent Coffman wants to study financial impact on maintenance. I.E. DDA lamps, etc. and feels we should not consider a project without projecting long term financial impact.

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Trustee Stodola stated that he wants to look at the big picture , do small wins, and added this discussion is causing council to re-think the plan.

Trustee Spears stated that the Village has missed many development opportunities due to old zoning, and feels re-vamping of zoning ordinances is a high priority.

Trustee Mastenbrook feels we need to be flexible with goals.

Trustee Stodola stated that funding is key but there must be a plan to maintain, and the plan is not set in stone.

Trustee Gunnett stated he wants to have stakeholders involved in further discussion about the plan.

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Barnes, to have a joint meeting of the Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority and Village Council on Monday, March 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. All aye.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**TABLATION OF BIDS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION:**

- Village President. President Gunnett mentioned that he has spent some time reviewing minutes from the 1800's, and there are many interesting things noted.
- Trustee Carlin stated that the Fire Authority Board is reviewing the Fire Chief's Salary, stating that is very low in comparison to other municipalities.
- Trustee Stodola thanked the DPW for their excellent work during the recent snowstorms.

**STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS & MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, Village President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk