

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
May 3, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Village Council held on Zoom, was called to order by President Gunnett at 7:00 p.m.

The Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by President Gunnett.

ROLL CALL:

Each Council Member stated their name and location.

Present: President Gunnett, Trustees Rochholz, Mastenbrook, Stodola, Bergland, Carlin, and Barnes.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Finance Director/Assistant Manager Tammi Youngs, Chief Scott Boling, Rob Peterson, Rob Bingaman, Joe Beck, Max Hutchison.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Barnes, to approve the agenda as presented. By Roll Call; All aye.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Stodola, seconded by Mastenbrook to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. By Roll Call; All aye.

CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Trustee John Stodola led a conversation on several topics.

a) The American Rescue Plan Act funding.(ARPA)

Trustee John Stodola made the following statements:

- He stated that the Village of Schoolcraft is going to receive approximately \$150,000 from ARPA.
- He stated he would like to see a discussion on how to use this funding as an agenda item at a future meeting.

b) Infrastructure Grant.

Trustee John Stodola made the following statement:

- He asked what it can be used for.

President Keith Gunnett made the following statement:

- He stated that research is being done to find out what the Infrastructure Grant can be used for.

c) Shovel Ready Projects.

Trustee John Stodola made the following statement:

- He asked what the definition of shovel ready?

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
May 3, 2021
PAGE 2

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She stated the definition of shovel ready is a project that has been engineered and is ready to go. Permits will need to be obtained.
- She stated there are several water projects that are shovel ready.

d) Sanitary Sewer.

Trustee John Stodola made the following statements:

- He stated he would like to invite Prein and Newhof to a Council meeting to discuss sanitary sewer.
- He stated he would like to keep the subject of sanitary sewer a regular topic of discussion at Council meetings.
He stated he would like to ask South County Water and Sewer Authority, Attorney Thall about Resolution 2019-10 A RESOLUTION REGARDING INTENT TO PETITION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 20 OF ACT 40 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1956, AS AMENDED. This Resolution was not acted upon. Is it still valid?

Trustee Kathy Mastenbrook had the following statements:

- She stated she would also like to discuss with Prein and Newhof about the existing water infrastructure.
- She stated she would like to have Prein and Newhof attend the first Council meeting in June.
- She stated that the Council should get a list of questions together, submit to Village Manager Lutz, so she can compile a list to avoid repetitive questions.

e) Committee appointments and assignments.

Trustee John Stodola made the following statements:

- He stated in the February minutes, forming a sanitary sewer committee was discussed.
- He stated he would like to see progress made on the sanitary sewer subject.

NEW BUSINESS:

The memorandum from Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary regarding a proposal for Online Payments for Water Bills was discussed.

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Stodola to approve the proposal submitted by BS&A in the amount of \$4,115 to purchase the Cash Receipts program, and also training and implementation of the program. This will allow residents to pay utility bills online or by debit/credit card. All aye.

TABULATION OF BIDS:

The memorandum from DPW Superintendent Rob Coffman regarding bids to asphalt the DPW parking lot was discussed.

Motion made by Mastenbrook, seconded by Barnes to award the bid to Wyoming Asphalt Paving Co. in the amount of \$29,998 for repaving the DPW parking lot. All aye.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS:

President Keith Gunnett had the following statement:

- He stated that there will be more conversations regarding sanitary sewer.

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
May 3, 2021
PAGE 3

Village Manager Cheri Lutz had the following statements:

- She stated she will send a doodle poll to the Finance Committee to schedule a meeting
- She stated she will send a doodle poll to the Right of Way Committee to meet and finalize ordinances.
- Village Manager Cheri Lutz gave a synopsis of a Zoom meeting she had with Mr. Lee Adams of Southwest Michigan Planning Council, Mr. Jared Lutz, Director and Ms. Bronwyn Brost, Investment Team Director, from Southwest Michigan First, and Wightman. The discussion was regarding infrastructure for South County, Kalamazoo.

Meeting bullet points:

Lee Adams made the following statements:

- He stated there is a federal program for infrastructure projects called the Economic Administration (run through the US Department of Commerce).
- He stated there is grant monies available for eligible projects. Grants can be awarded as 50/50 grants, and as 80/20 grants. The more money that is leveraged make grant money more likely.
- He stated the criteria for qualifying is as follows:
 1. Number of jobs created.
 2. Private investment
 3. Investment from the community.
 4. Companies do not want to locate to areas without adequate infrastructure. There has been interest in South County, but due to lack of infrastructure, expansion does not happen here.
- He stated due to the fact that South County does not have the infrastructure required for development, Schoolcraft is not even mentioned as a potential opportunity.
- He stated North and South US 131 are attractive areas for development.
- He stated that other federal dollars cannot be used to match required grant funding; so basically, private monies need to be used to match any grant award.
- He stated that a Wastewater Treatment Project would cost approximately \$20 to \$25 million.
- He stated that a direct line to Kalamazoo would cost approximately \$13 Million.
- He stated the approval process for a grant will take about two years.

Ms. Brownwyn Brost made the following statements:

- She stated that SW Michigan will assist in looking for additional grant support.
- She stated that South County is not a viable area for growth due to lack of sanitary sewer.
- She stated SW Michigan can assist by canvassing existing industrial companies to determine potential growth.
- She stated that SW Michigan can do research, data analysis, messaging, communication, provide informational brochures, and assist in public meetings.

Mr. Jared Lutz, had the following statements:

- He stated that he can help garner public support for grant monies including letters of support from local, state, and federal officials.
- He outlined the next steps as follows:
 1. Mr. Lee Adams will have a discussion with the Economic Development Association to determine level of interest in grant funding, and determine next steps.
 2. Ms. Brost will begin business outreach, and obtaining letters of support.
- He stated it will take approximately 6-8 weeks to determine path forward.

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
May 3, 2021
PAGE 4

- He stated an update will be provided at the May meeting (SCSWA).
- He stated the project will take 3-5 years for completion.

Chief Scott Boling had the following statements:

- He stated that in April, some administrative changes took place.
- He stated SPD is following up on ordinance violations.
- He stated he is working on obtaining a new police vehicle.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Keith F. Gunnett, President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk