

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President Warfield, Trustees Mullin, Gunnett, Barnes, Dailey, Tackett, and VanDyken.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Deputy Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Chief Bryan Campbell, Russell Lee Barnes, Dorothy J. Clark, Todd Carlin, Jess Wallace, Bobbi Truesdell, Kim Robinson, Craig Roe, Dan DeVries, Mark McCain and Gordon Shaw.

President Warfield acknowledged and thanked all candidates running in the September 15, 2009, Village Election were present at the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Barnes, to approve the Agenda as presented. All aye.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Dailey, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All aye.

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

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Mr. Craig Roe, Chairperson of the Park Committee appeared before the Village Council with the following information:
- He thanked the Park Committee for their fine work.
  - He stated that the Park Committee has met for the past several months to review a number of design plans from a number of vendors.
  - He stated that the installation will be a "supervised install".
  - He stated that it will take four (4) weeks for delivery of equipment.
  - He stated that the border will be shredded bark and recycled plastic timber.

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009  
PAGE 2 —**

President Warfield asked the Village Manager to explain how the Village would be paying for the proposed equipment.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz had the following comments:

- She stated that the Village Council has allocated \$25,000.00 in the 2009/10 Budget for Park Equipment.
- She stated that the additional monies could come from fund balance if necessary.
- She explained that a grant application has been sent to the Vicksburg Foundation requesting \$12,000.00 in financial assistance for a new roof for the Community Center.
- She stated that funds in the amount of \$18,000.00 have been allocated in the 2009/10 Budget for roof repair, and that if the Village of Schoolcraft receives the requested grant monies, the additional \$9,938.00 could be paid out of the current year budget.

President Warfield stated that the Grant Application was well written, and he was reasonably confident that the Village would receive funding assistance for the Community Center Roof.

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Gunnett, to approve the recommendation of the Park Committee to purchase Park Equipment from RCI Recreation Creations in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00. All aye.

- b) Mrs. Kim Robinson and Mrs. Bobbi Truesdell appeared before the Village Council to provide the annual Library Report.

President Warfield thanked them for their presentation, and complimented them on their excellent service to the community, and inquired about their expansion plans.

Mrs. Kim Robinson stated that there are not plans for expansion at this time. She explained that the Library is conducting a feasibility study.

- c) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding the proposal from Dixon Engineering for a Warranty Inspection for the Water Tower was discussed.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz explained that an inspection must be conducted within one year and one month after substantial completion in order for the two (2) year warranty to be effective.

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009  
PAGE 3 —**

DPW Superintendent Gordon Shaw stated that the inspection would be a “wet dive” and that if defects are found, the tank will need to be drained.

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Dailey, to approve the proposal for a wet inspection from Dixon Engineering in the amount of \$1,700.00. All aye.

- d) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding Resolution 2009-09 was discussed.

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by VanDyken, to adopt Resolution 2009-09. A Resolution Authorizing Village Officials to Sign Contract with MDOT. All aye.

- e) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding Resolution 2009-10 was discussed.

Motion by Dailey, seconded by Barnes, to adopt Resolution 2009-10. A Resolution Supporting Fare Increase Across the Metro Transit System. All aye.

- f) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding a residential property located at 603 E. Eliza Street was discussed.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz had the following comments:

- She stated that the rubbish/household items placed in the Village right of way has been removed.
- She stated that she received a large number of phone calls and complaints regarding the items placed in the right of way.
- She stated that there are ten Building Code Violations that have not been resolved.
- She stated that she has been working with AGS since May, 2009, and none of the violations have been taken care of.
- She stated that AGS will be mailing certified letters to the owner and the realtor regarding the violations, and that notices will be placed on the property to inform potential buyers of the violations.
- She stated that the Village Attorney has suggested that the Blight Ordinance be amended to allow immediate issuance of Municipal Civil Infraction Citations.
- She stated that the current Blight Ordinance allows a 30 day period to allow the owner to abate the nuisance.

The Village Council instructed the Village Manager to proceed with an amendment to the Blight Ordinance.

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009  
PAGE 4 —**

Mr. Jess Wallace had the following statements:

- He stated that the Village should not need an ordinance to clean up items placed on the right of way, and that the items should have been picked up by the DPW and a bill sent to the property owner.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz had the following comment:

- She explained that the Village followed the advice of Village Attorney Bob Soltis.
- She stated that the DPW does not have the time or resources to pick up household items and garbage, and that a property owner would be unlikely to pay for the service.

Trustee Gunnett asked if the ordinance amendment would be sent to the Planning Commission for review and comment.

Village Manager Lutz stated that the Blight Ordinance is a Regulatory Ordinance and that the Planning Commission reviews and comments on Zoning Ordinances.

- g) The memorandum from Village Clerk Faith Akert regarding an update on the Village Election to be held on September 15, 2009 was discussed.
- h) Trustee Scot Dailey has the following statements regarding the Village Managers Evaluation/Contract:
- He stated that the Village Council is pleased with the Village Manager's performance, and that the poor economic climate was a factor in the recommendation for a salary increase.
  - He stated that the Evaluation Committee would like to make the following recommendation:
    1. The Village Manager's Contract be extended until 2012.
    2. There will be no change to the Village Manager's benefits.
    3. The Village Manager will receive an increase of 1.5% effective March 1, 2010.

Motion by Dailey, seconded by Tackett, to extend the Manager's Contract to 2012, and to increase her salary 1.5% effective March 1, 2010. All aye.

President Warfield stated that the Village Council feels the manager is doing an exceptional job, and that the salary increase is not a reflection of the manager's performance, it is a reflection of the economic downturn.

**TABULATION OF BIDS:**

None.

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009  
PAGE 5 —**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION:**

Trustee VanDyken briefed the Council on South County Fire Authority activities.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Theresa O'Leary, Deputy Clerk

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Loren C. Warfield, President.