

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President DeVries.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President DeVries, Trustees Clark, Barnes, Dailey, Tackett and Carlin.

Absent: Gunnett.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Faith Akert, Chief Bryan Campbell, Russell L. Barnes, Rob Coffman, Norma Tackett, Bobbi Truesdell, Ron Sagers, John Stodola, Craig Sisk and Pat Temple.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Barnes, to approve the agenda, including a revised copy of Resolution 2010-08. All aye.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Clark, 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) Ms. Bobbi Truesdell and Ms. Kim Robinson appeared before the Village Council to provide an Annual Report of Schoolcraft Community Library.

President Dan DeVries thanked them for their good work and for the services that are provided to the community.

- b) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding a fireworks permit for the Homecoming Football game to be held on Friday, September 24, 2010, was discussed.

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Clark, to approve the Homecoming Fireworks Permit, submitted by Mr. Chip Mongreig for the Homecoming Football game to be held on Friday, September 24, 2010. All aye.

- c) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding the Village of Schoolcraft's Recycling Program was discussed.

Trustee Tackett suggested increasing the salary for the recycling attendant.

President DeVries had the following comments:

- He stated that studies show that approximately 10% of Village residents are using the program.
- He stated that he questions if the program is worth the cost.
- He stated that he would rather see individuals contract their own recycling service.

Trustee Dailey said the he would support voluntary recycling, but would not support mandatory recycling.

Trustee Carlin asked what the goal of the recycling program was.

President DeVries stated there is no goal.

Trustee Barnes stated that he does like the existing program.

Trustee Clark stated that she contracts her own curbside recycling.

Village Manger Cheri Lutz had the following comments:

- She stated that there is no attendant at the site.
- She stated that the DPW was able to monitor it during the month of August, but expressed concern that it was sporadic, and it could not be consistently monitored by the DPW due to higher priority and unexpected work.
- She stated that the recycling program is hard to administer because the Village does not directly provide the program.
- She stated that there have been times when the bins have been delivered late, for a number of reasons that are out of the Village's control.
- She stated that many people do like the existing program, and many people do not.

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Dailey, to discontinue the existing recycling program pending on the Village's ability to break the existing contract, and to proceed with optional curbside recycling.

Ayes: Tackett, Clark, Dailey, DeVries.  
Nays: Barnes, Carlin.  
Absent: Gunnett.

**Motion carried.**

d) The memorandum from Treasurer Faith Akert detailing the recommendation of the Water Committee for a Deficit Elimination Plan was discussed as follows:

- The Water Committee reviewed a number of options for the Deficit Elimination Plan.
- She stated that the Water Committee understands that the Water Fund is an Enterprise Fund (self-supporting), and that all expenses are paid from water revenues.
- She stated that water usage has declined over the past few years due to closure of businesses, and foreclosed homes.
- She stated that water expenses persist despite declining revenues.
- She stated that the Village is required to file a Deficit Resolution Plan to the State of Michigan, not to exceed a period of more than five years.
- She stated that the Water Committee based their recommendation on the following:
  - Expenses will be held to a maximum 1% increase per year, generating an annual profit.
  - The amount of noncurrent capital assets will continue to decline over the next five years, as accumulated depreciation increases.
  - The addition of new assets will be limited.
  - Long term debt from the Installment Loan (Grand Street Water Relocation) decreases, with final payment to be complete in FY 2016.
  - The Water Fund will be out of deficit by \$23,293 in FY 2015 under the proposed plan.

She stated that the Water Committee recommends an increase of 1% in the water rate beginning March 1, 2011, each year, for a period of five years.

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Dailey, to approve the recommendation of the Water Committee to increase water rates 1% beginning March 1, 2011, each year for a period of five years. All aye.

- e) Resolution 2010-08. A Resolution to Adopt A Deficit Elimination Plan for the Water Fund was discussed.

Motion by Dailey, seconded by Tackett, to adopt Resolution 2010-08. A Resolution to Adopt A Deficit Elimination Plan for the Water Fund. All aye.

Village President DeVries had the following comments:

- He thanked the Water Committee for their work, and stated that a reasonable plan had been submitted to the Village Council.
- He stated that the Village Council may have to re-address the issue in the future.
- He requested that an article regarding the plan be published in the October 1, 2010, Newsletter.

**TABULATION OF BIDS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

President DeVries read aloud a letter from Ms. Kelly Goddard thanking the Village for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, new playground equipment, and Concerts in the Park.

**REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION:**

President DeVries had the following comments:

- He thanked and acknowledged the Police Department for their successful LEIN Audit, and the good work that they do.
- He stated that he would like to form an "Ad Hoc" Committee consisting of two members of the DDA, two members of the Planning Commission, and two members of the Village Council to address the current zoning in the B-1 and B-2 Districts, to consider less restrictive zoning in the B-1 District, to allow additional uses in the B-1 District, and/or expand the B-2 District.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz had the following comments

- She stated that she was a guest speaker for the September Lion's Club and that they are a good group of people.
- She stated that a new dog grooming business will be open for business within the next few days.
- She stated that she would be providing a report to the Village Council regarding phone service issues at the October 4, 2010, meeting.

**STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS:**

Mr. John Stodola thanked the Village for their efforts to set in motion the process for clean-up of the abandoned gas station located at Cass and Grand Streets.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Barnes, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. All aye.

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Faith C. Akert, Village Clerk

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Daniel P. DeVries, President