

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
JANUARY 18, 2010**

The Regular Meeting of the Village Council held at 442 N. Grand Street, Schoolcraft, Michigan 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 Dan DeVries, Trustees Clark, Barnes, Dailey, Tackett, and Carlin.

Absent: Gunnett.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Faith Akert, Chief Bryan Campbell, Tim Brown, Barry Visel, Jess A. Wallace, Russell Lee Barnes, Bret Willis, Mark McCain, Ron Sagers Jr., John Stodola, Tom Gill, Lorence Wenke, and Pat Temple.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Clark, 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:**

Mr. Lorence Wenke appeared before the Village Council to introduce himself as candidate for State Senate for the 20<sup>th</sup> District.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a) Mr. Barry Visel of AEP and Mr. Tim Brown appeared before the Village Council to discuss the Vegetation Management Program of AEP.

Mr. Visel had the following comments:

- He stated that AEP Trims trees for service reliability and safety.
- He stated that AEP analyzes and identifies the worst performing circuits within a specific area, and concentrates on Vegetation Management in those areas.
- He stated that AEP recognizes the need for a high level of communication for the program, and makes every effort to meet personally with the property owners and/or to leave a door hanger on the front door with information.

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- He stated that there are several levels of customer resolution which may be considered.
- He stated that AEP will meet on site with elected officials, administrative staff, and homeowners.
- He stated that AEP wishes to have a working relationship with the communities they serve.
- He stated that AEP encourages the establishment of a Tree Canopy Plan, and encourages planting the right tree in the right place.

Mr. Tim Brown had the following comments:

- He asked the Village Council to consider the appointment of a committee to evaluate the tree removal list of AEP.
- He stated that three healthy maple trees are marked for removal in front of his home.
- He stated that the consensus of the Planning Commission is that the character of the Village should be considered in the tree trimming/removal program.
- He stated that real estate holds a higher value when the streets are tree shaded.
- He questioned the need to remove trees along Cass Street.
- He stated that many of the trees marked for removal are below the power line level.
- He stated that the aggressive tree trimming plan of AEP is a concern to him, and fears that the Village of Schoolcraft could lose its character.

President Dan DeVries had the following comments:

- He suggested that a committee be formed to evaluate the AEP tree trimming list, and to develop a canopy tree program for the Village of Schoolcraft.
- He suggested that the Village Council consider names for appointment to the committee to be presented at the February 1, 2009, Village Council meeting.

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

Council Comments as follows:

- Trustee Clark stated that she contracts with her garbage company to recycle.
- Trustee Dailey stated that he does not use the Village's bins.
- Trustee Barnes stated that he likes the current system.
- Trustee Carlin asked if the cost to recycle would go up if the Village contracted for curbside pickup.
- President DeVries stated that there are a number of options; including mandatory or optional curbside recycling, or continuing with the existing program.

Other Comments:

- Mr. Jess Wallace stated that it would be a mistake to change to existing program.

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- Mr. John Stadola stated that many people use other methods of recycling.
- Mr. Ron Sagers asked if taxes would be reduced if the Village discontinues its current program.

President DeVries requested that the Village Council consider recycling options for discussion at a future meeting.

- c) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding Resolution 2010-01 was discussed. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for FY 2010/2011.

Motion by Carlin, seconded by Tackett, to adopt Resolution 2010-01. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for FY2010/2011. All aye.

- d) The memorandum from Village Clerk Faith Akert regarding a request to close the Construction Bank Account.

Village Clerk Akert explained that the account was opened for the construction of the Municipal Complex, and the account should be closed due to completion of the project.

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Tackett, to approve the request of Village Clerk Akert, to close the Construction Bank Account. All aye.

- e) Trustee Carlin had the following comments regarding a request from the Schoolcraft Community Library to plow snow in their future parking lot.
- He stated that the library expansion is a community project, and will benefit the entire community.
  - He stated that since the DPW has the equipment, and they are already in the area, they should have time to clear the lot.

Trustee Barnes had the following comments:

- He stated that the Village does not offer snowplowing to any business in the Village.
- He stated that the Library should pay for their snowplowing expense from their budget.

Mr. John Stadola stated that the Schoolcraft Community Library is pleased with the property exchange, and suggested that the issue of snowplowing be addressed at the time of site plan review.

**TABULATION OF BIDS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

President DeVries read aloud the letter from the Vicksburg Foundation announcing a grant award for the Streetscape Projects in the amount of \$50,000.

President DeVries read aloud a thank-you letter to the Schoolcraft Police Department for their services.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

President DeVries announced a Joint Meeting of the Village Council, Planning Commission, and DDA for the purpose of Strategic Planning with tentative dates of March 24, 25, or 26.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz stated that Gordon Shaw has submitted a letter of resignation effective April 30, 2010.

Trustee Barnes had the following comments:

- He stated that he has lived in the Village of Schoolcraft for most of his life and gave high praise to Gordon Shaw for his years of service.
- He stated that he has high respect for the DPW, the Police Department, the Village Manager, and the Village President for jobs well done.

Trustee Carlin provided an update on South County Fire Authority activities.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Tackett, seconded by Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. All aye.

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Faith C. Akert, Village Clerk

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Daniel P. DeVries, Village President