

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JUNE 6, 2011**

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, Gunnett, Barnes, Dailey, and Carlin.

Absent: Tackett.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Faith Akert, Chief Bryan Campbell, Michael Rochholz, Russell L. Barnes, Owen Hoyt, and Pat Temple.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Dailey, seconded by Carlin, to approve the agenda presented with an addition under New Business, item (c) Appointment of Executive Committee. All aye.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Owen Hoyt appeared before the Council to request a text amendment to Section 22-91 of the Blight Ordinance Section, to allow for historical artifacts and landmarks such as steam engines.

President DeVries had the following comments:

- He stated that he would not be opposed to allowing historical artifacts as long as they are well maintained.
- He stated that an ordinance amendment should be specific as to what is allowed, and that he does not want to see farm equipment sitting in people's front yards.
- He stated that ordinance enforcement is difficult when language is non-specific, and that there must be specific criteria to allow historical items.

Trustee Gunnett had the following comments:

- He stated that he supports the idea of a text amendment to allow historic artifacts.
- He stated that Mr. Hoyt's steam engine is a Village landmark.

Police Chief Bryan Campbell stated that there will be no enforcement action pending an amendment to the blight ordinance.

President Dan DeVries requested that the Village Manager contact the Village Attorney to determine options for a text amendment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The memorandum from Village Manager Cheri Lutz regarding a request for variance for a driveway approach from Mr. Bob Bumpus, of 605 Osterhout Street was discussed.

Manager Lutz explained that the request for the driveway approach of 23'8", exceeds the Village's Standard Construction Requirements; for a maximum approach of 20', but that the request is reasonable since it is the width of the existing driveway.

Motion by Carlin, seconded by Gunnett, to approve the request for a variance for driveway approach for the following reasons: the driveway request is 23'8" which is in excess of our current standards but does correspond to the width of his existing driveway; there are no standing water issues related to the site, and there are no underground public utilities that would be impacted by the installation of the driveway approach. All aye.

- b) President Dan DeVries provided a summary of the 2011 Citizen Survey with the following highlights:
- He stated that 650 surveys were sent out, 108 were returned with an overall response of 18%.
 - He stated that several important issues were identified:
 - ✓ Respondents recognized the lack of a sanitary sewer is a problem.
 - ✓ Respondents value the small town character.
 - ✓ Respondents are concerned with blight, long grass and barking dogs.
 - ✓ Respondents are concerned with the overall appearance of the community and the appearance of buildings along the US 131 Corridor.
 - ✓ Respondents are concerned about high taxes.
 - ✓ Respondents value public safety; however there was a comment about having too many officers.
 - He identified several driving actions as follows:
 - ✓ He stated that the comments from the surveys should be used as a guide for decisions that are made by the Village boards and commissions.
 - ✓ He stated that the Village can take the opportunity to educate our constituents about the Schoolcraft Police Department, and the distribution of taxes.

- ✓ He stated that overall; the comments were very positive and favorable.
- ✓ He expressed his appreciation to the Village Staff for their excellent work on the survey.
- ✓ He thanked and acknowledged the following businesses for their generous donation of gift certificates: Schnauzer's, Marjo's, Harding's and Kalamazoo County State Bank.

Trustee Gunnett had the following comments:

- He stated that the survey contained valuable information and feedback.
- He stated that it is good to know that we are working in the right direction, and that our business owners and residents feel good about Schoolcraft.

c) Discussion took place regarding appointment of the Executive Committee.

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Carlin, to appoint Trustees Gunnett, Clark and Dailey, to the Executive Committee for the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year. All aye.

TABULATION OF BIDS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION:

President DeVries provided a brief update on the following items:

- He stated that he had the opportunity to meet with State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker, and spoke with her regarding a number of municipal issues.
- He stated that the Village audits are something that is very important, and he praised the staff for their excellent financial management.

Trustee Gunnett provided an update on South County Sewer and Water Authority activities.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz stated that the Vicksburg Foundation will be meeting in mid June to review the grant application for the Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Faith C. Akert, Village Clerk

Daniel P. DeVries, President