



SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING February 11, 2020

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Supervisor Ulsh, Clerk Mongreig, Treasurer Scott, Trustee Feldmeier, and Trustee Hovenkamp.

Motion by Hovenkamp with second by Feldmeier to approve the **Agenda** with the addition of C.) 2020 Poverty Exemption Guidelines, and D.) March 2020 Board of Review Dates **Unanimously Approved**

Motion by Feldmeier with second by Scott to approve the **Minutes** of the meeting held January 14, 2020. **Unanimously Approved**

Motion by Hovenkamp with second by Scott to approve the **List of Bills** as presented. **Unanimously Approved**

Treasurer Scott reported:

Income for month of January 2020	\$214,416.41
Expenditures	\$ 87,392.54
December 2019 General Fund Balance	\$381,221.05
January 2020 General Fund Balance	\$508,244.92

Motion by Feldmeier with second by Mongreig to approve the **Treasurer's Report** as presented. **Unanimously Approved**

Public Comment:

Kalamazoo County Commissioner, John Gisler announced that he will run for re-election in 2020.

Craig Rolfe, business owner in the Village of Vicksburg offered up his thoughts regarding Schoolcraft Township becoming a Charter Township suggesting additional wages and taxes to be incurred.

Supervisor Ulsh asked at this time for the guests to hold their comments regarding Charter Township until the agenda items were covered and join in at the end of the agenda when open discussion will be held.

Because he had another engagement, Mr. Steve Fryling asked to express his thoughts on the township ballot proposal to become a Charter Township and discussed his lack of knowledge of Schoolcraft Township's desire to become a Charter Township.

SUNSET LAKE AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL:

Sunset Lake Association board member, Ron Smith opened the discussion by reading aloud a synopsis of the history of the past 18 years of treatment to Sunset Lake.

Residents/property owners commented on the lake level contributing to the weed problems, and fishing issues due to the aquatic vegetation. Mr. Mallory advised that the Drain Commission is legally responsible for the lake levels with the movement of boards on Oakland Drive and at the mill.

Village of Vicksburg Jim Mallory, on behalf of the Village of Vicksburg reported that the Village normally donates \$6,000 annually to the weed treatment, but very rarely does a governmental entity make an in-kind donation to this type of procedure on the water ways. The village has spent well in excess of \$70,000 above and beyond the treatments.

The Village of Vicksburg, though not required to, has said that they would donate whatever the parcel assessment amount is equal to the two Village parcels assessed, approximately \$1,200.00.

The Village has spent \$1,000 to capture geese on the lake.

\$4,500.00 is used to treat the ponds by the Village.

The Sunset Lake Public Park which is used by citizens outside of the Village of Vicksburg is tested every month by Kalamazoo County.

Mr. Mallory stated that he will meet with the Lake Board or anyone else to stay better informed with the Sunset Lake treatments.

Motion by Hovenkamp with second by Feldmeier to set a March 2020 date for a Public Hearing on **the 2020-2024 Special Assessment District for Aquatic Vegetation Control in Sunset Lake.**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Poverty Guidelines 2020: Motion by Mongreig with second by Feldmeier to increase the Schoolcraft Township Poverty Guideline 20% for 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

2020 March Board of Review Dates:

Wednesday	March 4, 2020	1:00 p.m. Organizational Meeting
Wednesday	March 11, 2020	noon to 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 12, 2020	9:00 a.m. to noon and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2020-2021 Budget Workshop: Schoolcraft Township will hold the 2020-2021 Budget Workshop in early March. The meeting will be held at Schoolcraft Township Hall with the time and date to be posted at the Township Hall.

Open Discussion:

Jack Wiley, Jr. referenced October 2019, November 2019 Schoolcraft Township Board Meeting regarding the process and reasoning the Township Board considered in deciding to approve ballot language for the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary.

Clerk Mongreig responded that the process was followed by Schoolcraft Township per Kalamazoo County Clerk, Tim Snow and processed as stated by Michigan law.

Denny Olson disputed the population requirement of Schoolcraft Township and the concern of the Schoolcraft Township Board to protect the borders of the township against annexation.

Supervisor Ulsh then asked the audience to listen to the history of what lead up to the Boards decision to propose becoming a Charter Township.

Annexation by a prior Supervisor of 400 acres from Schoolcraft Township to the Village of Vicksburg. Annexation by a property owner who without Schoolcraft Township's knowledge went directly to the Kalamazoo Board of Commissioners on the very same evening and annexed an additional 200 acres of Township land to the Village of Vicksburg.

2005 approached by another developer to annex more 30-40 acres (Renda Property) from the Township. At this point the township was sick of being annexed to the Village of Vicksburg.

Discussions concerning a 425 Agreement commences in September 2005

425 Agreement: A conditional agreement for transfer of property which gave Vicksburg the opportunity to create the infrastructure, collect taxes with the property still belonging to Schoolcraft. In return Vicksburg Village agreed to supply sewer services to the township residents in the Township area across from the hospital without requiring annexation to the Village.

The first 425 Agreement in Kalamazoo County was signed on April 21, 2006.

A "Growth Management Agreement" was to be adopted in one year. This agreement would require a committee of representatives of both entities to review requests for boundary changes and if either party was not in agreement the request would be denied.

While the Village of Vicksburg delayed signing the Agreement Schoolcraft Township was well within its right to revert the property back to Schoolcraft Township.

In April of 2007 it was obvious that no agreement would be signed by Vicksburg Village within the one year period, thus the 425 Agreement would be nullified. The Township agreed to amend the 425 Agreement until October 2007. This started another one year time clock. If no agreement could be reached by that time the Renda Property would revert back to the Township.

Finally the South County Growth Management and Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement was agreed to (first ever in the State of Michigan), and signed in December 2008. The (SCIC) Agreement is in effect for 10 years with Governing Bylaws agreed to and signed in September 2009. Brady Township became a third member in 2011.

The Growth Management Agreement is a 10 year Agreement, renewable at the end of the term.

Village got angry with Township, wanted out of the Agreement and hired an attorney who advised that they get out of the Agreement.

The previous Schoolcraft Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe, advised the Schoolcraft Township Board at that time that Schoolcraft Township had three options:

- 1) Fight the decision by Vicksburg Village
- 2) Do nothing
- 3) Become a Charter Township.

Following is what brought Schoolcraft Township to this decision. A newspaper article by Ken Skippers of the Village of Vicksburg stated that there were many reasons that the Village of Vicksburg opted out of the Agreement with the core of their decision being the denial by the Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission to rezone 80 acres as a business park. Village and township residents along with wildlife conservation and Audubon representatives attended the meeting in opposition to the rezoning request which would interfere with a Blue Heron Rookery.

"Schoolcraft Township has become very nervous about boundary lines. What's going to happen when the mill property gets going? Does anyone know what will happen here? Supervisor Ulsh stated that he is trying to protect the citizens of Schoolcraft Township. Becoming a Charter Township will make people work a little harder to annex Schoolcraft Township. Much talk is going around about raising taxes. We never have and never will without voter approval.

Supervisor Ulsh is working with the Township Attorney to create a resolution or ordinance stating that the tax rate for Schoolcraft Township will not increase if we become a Charter Township.

South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority: The Authority recognized/approved the use of Schoolcraft Fire Station Precincts 2 and 4 for the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

Swan Park Committee Report: Diseased pine trees at the Township Hall have been removed
Working with Little League and Lacrosse on spring projects.
Need old telephone poles and used railroad ties.


Members Time:

Clerk Mongreig explained an error in communication which resulted in the early removal of Christmas decorations from township cemeteries in late January.

Trustee Feldmeier will meet with the Road Commission soon.

Trustee Hovenkamp discussed his work on a new committee within South County in regard to sewer and water. Mr. Mallory from the Village of Vicksburg warned about violating the Open Meetings Act.

Supervisor Ulsh reported that JRS Rettenmaier, USA, Inc. located at 16369 US 131, has been named as the USA headquarters with addition building to be done soon. JRS Rettenmaier is the largest taxpayer in the township.


Virginia M. Mongreig, Clerk
Township of Schoolcraft