



**SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**July 11, 2023** **Zoom Video Conference**

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Supervisor Ulsh, Clerk Mongreig, Treasurer Scott, Trustee Stafford and Trustee Fryling.

Motion by Fryling with second by Scott to approve the **Agenda** with the following additions:

d.) Integrated Technologies Managed Services

e.) Planning Commission Land Survey Publications

**Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Stafford with second by Scott to approve the **Minutes** of the meeting the June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Scott with second by Fryling to approved the **List of Bills** as presented.  
**Unanimously carried.**

**Treasurer Scott reported:**

Income for month of June 2023	\$ 41,113.74
Expenditures	\$ 100,884.80
Balance May 2023	\$ 692,826.35
Balance June 2023	\$ 632,515.29
Total ARPA Funds	\$ 500,117.21

Motion by Fryling with second by Stafford to approve the **Treasurer's Report** as presented.  
**Unanimously carried.**

**Citizens Time:**

A large group of people were in attendance to voice their concerns following erroneous information from face book posts that the Schoolcraft Township Board was acting on a firewood ordinance at the Tuesday, July 1, 2023 board meeting. There were many accusations made that the "ordinance" was on the agenda for the July 11, 2023 meeting. Supervisor Ulsh stated that what has happened is a tragedy as someone took it upon themselves to go out on face book to spread rumors. Supervisor Ulsh attempted again and again to inform the crowd that at no time was the "ordinance" on the July 11, 2023 agenda. Clerk Mongreig read the portion of the June 2023 minutes indicating that there would not be discussion of the "ordinance" in July, and that Supervisor Ulsh would be visiting the subject of wood piles used as fencing with surrounding township supervisors. Clerk Mongreig suggested rather than following face book accusations that folks go to the Schoolcraft Township web page for information, or better yet, contact or visit the township office before passing on random, inaccurate posts.

Again, Supervisor tried to assure the group that there will be no action on a wood pile ordinance.

**Kalamazoo County Commissioner, Wendy Mazer** reported to the board that Kalamazoo County will soon be presenting a monthly newsletter to constituents, and that the County will be holding a retreat for work on their budget.

**John Gardner, President of the Schoolcraft Little League** reported on the Little League plans for matching dugouts on fields 3, 4 & 5 and fencing at the fields at Swan Park including Field 7. Schoolcraft Township is hosting District 15, Little League All Star Tournaments this week.

**John Spencer District Manager**, representing State Representative, Matt Hall gave an introduction along with offers of assistance with constituents' questions and needs at the State level.

**Supervisor Ulsh** explained the new wastewater treatment plans with St. Joseph County Townships which is proposed for US 131, south of Schoolcraft.

**New Business:**

**Township Newsletter Survey:** Treasurer Scott explained ARPA funding. \$500,117.21 to be allocated before Dec. 2024.

4,048 newsletters mail out June 17, 2023. QR Code was in the South County News.

320 responses on line.

#1 Sewer

Top Priorities

% 21 Road Maintenance

% 20.4 Sewer

% 19.4 High Speed Internet

Charter Township Survey 90 responses 46 yes - 44 no.

Some people stated that they did not receive a newsletter. Treasurer Scott offered that there are more copies available.

**Publication costs for Legal Noticing:** Due to Legal Notice publication errors/omissions by the alamazoo Gazette Schoolcraft Township is seeking a new publisher. Trustee Stafford has contacted other local weekly newspapers for publishing legals.

Motion by Stafford to hire the Climax Crescent for publications of legal notice.....no support. Motion withdrawn.

Trustee Fryling suggested waiting for the proposed sale of the Climax Crescent and a review of their legal publication rates.

**Planning Commission:** Motion by Ulsh with second by Stafford to assign the task of mailing costs and distribution of the Planning Commission Land Use Plan Survey to Supervisor Ulsh and Planning Commission Chairman Visel. **Unanimously carried.**

**Planning Commission: Ordinance Amendment 131 Corridor**

Motion by Mongreig with second by Stafford to approve the following Ordinance to Amend Schoolcraft Township's Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission. **Unanimously carried.**

**SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP**

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND TOWNSHIP'S ZONING ORDINANCE**

**SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Amendment of Article 17.2**

Article 17.2 of the Township's Zoning Ordinance is amended to remove the following language "where the 'footprint' of the use (ground area of principal building) does not exceed a total of 15,000 square feet."

**Section 2. Amendment of Article 24.12**

Article 24.12 of the Township's Zoning Ordinance is amended to add "The administrator shall consult in writing with the Planning Commission chair prior to Administrative Site Plan Review approval." Article 24.12(1)(B) is also amended to remove "and not exceeding a cost of \$40,000."

### **Section 3. Validity and Severability**

Should any portion of this Ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

### **Section 4. Repealer**

All other ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed but only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

### **Section 5. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall be published and take effect seven days after publication as provided by law. Approved this 11th day of July, 2023.

**Integrated Technologies: (IT) Service:** Per recommendation by Scott and Assessor Brousseau -Motion by Scott with second by Mongreig to change I.T. provider to Hi-Tech Integrated Technologies. **Unanimously carried.**

**South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority:** Trustee Fryling reported

The Authority approved amendments to the by-laws. A copy has not been received at the Township.

Trustee Fryling explained to audience that fire protection and EMS services are administered by the 4 townships and 2 village entities of South County.

Capital Improvements – No major concerns. Siegfried Crandall is reviewing the Fire Authority budget. Neither Schoolcraft nor Vicksburg Villages are on board with the final budget report.

The Authority purchased a used tanker from Richland last year.

**New tanker-** nothing under \$800,000 capital imp. Halted due to audit. Must order by 7-7, or The Authority is able to purchase the tanker with zero down at 6.24% interest rate. Prepay without penalty. \$846,473.00 for the tanker. 27-30 month delivery. Finance agreement (lease) at end of the lease \$1 pay out \$88,840.00 per year which is similar to the funds set aside annually by Authority

Authority going ahead with the need to revamp capital improvement plan as the price is almost double what trucks were going for last year. 4-1 vote

Cost Recovery – accident coverage recovery. Wakeshma Township suggested prepare /assign someone to the program as often time court time involved. Fryling will obtain a copy of the ordinance from Wakeshma.

Treasurer Scott would like to receive monthly updates as there were 3 fires in last month with no reports.

Fryling receives reports from the Chief on weekly basis. Mongreig requested weekly reports from the Chief with correct addresses.

Treasurer Scott requested responses to rescues when Schoolcraft Township is charged. Fryling will draft a letter from Schoolcraft Township to the Authority.

**Members Time:**

Clerk Mongreig – Michigan Make-a-Wish Bicycle Ride has scheduled a rest stop at Swan Park on July 30, 2023

Clerk's Office has ordered a new drop/ballot box through the State of Michigan. The box will also be a tax payment drop off.

Kalamazoo County Free Scrap Tire Recycling Event – Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Swan Park.

Tamra: Vicksburg Historical Society funding request. Harvest Fest – free family event.

Stafford also asked about the timeline for competitive bidding – begin looking at lawn service.

Private Road – WilRich. 60 foot easement to be named for his grandson.

Motion by Scott with second by Stafford to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

  
Virginia M. Mongreig, Clerk  
Township of Schoolcraft