

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT

QUESTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

1. What businesses are in your community?

Manufacturing, tool and die, Mom & Pop shops, gas stations, restaurants, beauty shops, etc.

- a) Not sure exactly how many.
- b) Do not offer incentives.

2. Do you have other ways to communicate to your residents besides your website?

We put out our own newsletter quarterly. We print it ourselves.

- a) Cost involved: \$500 per issue, including postage. Sent to 800 households.

The newsletter is on four 2-sided sheets of paper. Parchment currently pays River Run Press \$788 for a quarterly newsletter of two 2-sided sheets and postage is \$270 on top of that, sent to 700 households. The Schoolcraft newsletter includes a message from the village manager as well as tips and information pertaining to home ownership, upcoming events and any changes in procedures within the community. This information includes educating people about permits they might need before doing any work in or outside of their homes. -JR

3. Police Service: Do you have your own police department?

Yes. We contracted for one year, but did not like it.

What is your yearly budget for this police coverage?

Yearly budget: \$400,000. 46% of the budget (Total city budget is based on \$14.79 mils)

How long has it been established?

Many years

How many officers on duty, full-time and part-time?

Three FT, 4 are PT. Want one more PT. A PT officer is also the Ordinance Officer.

What kind of coverage do you provide? (access to detectives, ordinances, hours, etc.)

We have 24/7 coverage. Our chief was a detective so he handles most incidences. We have 3 cruisers that are replaced every 3 years. We sell the used ones at auto auctions.

4. Parks and Recreation: Who provides the flowers for your community?

Who pays for the flowers?

The village.

Who maintains them throughout the season?

The village DPW (summer PT help)

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT

QUESTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Who plants them?

The village DPW (summer PT help)

5. How many DPW workers do you have currently?

We currently have 3.

What city services do your DPW workers provide? (Snow removal, leaf pick-up, weed control, junk pick-up, etc.)

Snow removal (main sidewalks included), water main breaks, picking up leaves (about every 2 weeks) from October to Thanksgiving in November), grass mowing, etc.

The village is responsible for all public sidewalk repairs or replacements. -JR

The DPW workers take care of water main breaks. -MC

6. What types of recreation do you offer your community?

For the Fourth of July, we cordon off the main street for a parade, fireworks, car show, etc. All day affair. No plans for a dog park, and we don't have a place for kids to skateboard. We do have a small park and also a Community Center. We are currently working on developing trails.

7. What are the biggest challenges that your community faces?

When I became Village Manager 15 years ago, there were no job descriptions and no guidelines for employees to follow. Many areas of incompetence with no oversight or discipline. She established job descriptions and work guidelines to ensure each employee knew exactly what was expected of them. Cheri has control over hiring/firing all village employees except the police chief. If for some reason there is no village manager, the police chief takes over that role until either the village manager returns or a new one is hired.

8. What challenges has your community faced in the past, and how did you remedy those?

[See response to Item 7]

9. What are some of the ways in which you have encouraged your residents to be actively involved in their community?

A once-a-year yard sale, once-a-year Spring clean-up; Fourth of July celebration.

They have a big 4th of July celebration; Highway 131 is totally blocked off for this event.

There is a parade, fireworks, car show, etc. for the entire day. --JR

Additional notes from the meeting:

- **Population and Area:** The village has about 1600 people in a square mile radius. -JR

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT QUESTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

- **Attorney:** They currently employ Mr. Soltis. He is never at a council meeting. If a question of law comes up, they either call him or email him about it and he bills accordingly. -JR
- **Budget:** The village manager is extremely involved in their budget. She continually seeks out bids on contract renewals as well as usual expenses. She believes competition in these areas gives their village a better pricing result. -MC.
- **Village employee benefits:** They receive 3% pension funds but have 100% medical coverage. They are permitted 5 paid personal days per year (they used to have 10 personal days but it was too costly). -MC
- **Village policies:** The village manager has compiled, and keeps current, a huge binder on every policy that is currently enforced on all matters pertaining to village policies. The village manager also keeps a binder that has all the village forms organized for easy access and reference. -MC