

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 11, 2019**

President Johnson called the regular meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Yoder, Parsons, Conner, Johnson, Williams, Sims (arrived at 7:12pm) and Wagner

Council Members Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Consent Agenda: Wagner motioned, seconded by Parsons to approve the following consent agenda: as amended to add the introduction of reserve officers as item I.

- a. Agenda
- b. Regular Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019
- c. Workshop Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2019
- d. Approval of Invoices - \$228,576.68
- e. Approval of MDOT Grant Resolution

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Parsons, Conner, Johnson, Williams, and Yoder

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Sims and Wagner

Motion Carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Jim Bronke asked about an update on the truck route he suggested and the decision about the new trustee.

Department Reports:

Clerk: See report.

Treasurer: See report.

Police/Code Enforcement: See report.

Building Inspector: See report.

Electrical Inspector: See report.

Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector: See report.

DPW Superintendent: See report.

Manager: See report.

Reports accepted as presented.

Council & Staff discussed:

- DPW Vehicle repairs, Wightman fees, the Waste Management contract, and the façade grant that the Village Manager is working on.

Introduction of Reserve Officers

Steve O'Conner and Matt Hanner were introduced as reserve officers.

New Business:

A. Approval of Reimbursement Resolution: Wagner motioned, seconded by Parsons to approve Resolution 2019-3 for the purpose of complying with the reimbursement rules of Treasury Regulation § 1.150-2 Pursuant to The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. This resolution allows the Village to reimburse itself through the bond funds for the improvement projects. We don't anticipate this happening but this was a recommendation from the attorney.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Conner, Johnson, Williams, Sims, Wagner, Yoder and Parsons

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

Motion Carried.

B. Approval of MNRTF Grant Resolution: Wagner motioned, seconded by Parsons to approve the Resolution 2019-4, which is the approval of the Local Unit of Government Match without donated funds for the purpose of submitting the application for a grant for the Cassopolis Connector Project with the Michigan National Resources Trust Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Williams, Sims, Wagner, Yoder, Parsons and Conner

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

Motion Carried.

Discussion Items

Yoder would like us to step back and make changes to the plans for the municipal complex before we make a full commitment. She would like to do other things with the money we can save by not combining Village office staff with DPW.

Sims agrees, she has some concerns and would like to reconsider.

Williams said he agrees with a new building for DPW but we could provide grants to residents with the money saved. He also stated that the Council was not involved in the plans for the building and he doesn't know what the Village will do with the current building. Conner questioned how giving grants to residents would work and he believes that we cannot do that.

Parsons said we talked about these plans multiple times and we still have time to discuss what we will do with the Village Hall building.

Sims motioned, seconded by Yoder to rescind the decision to move from schematic design to design development and the location of the municipal complex to discuss at the next Workshop.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Williams, Sims and Yoder

Nays: Johnson, Wagner, Parsons and Conner

Abstain:

Absent:

Motion Failed.

Sims asked how the activities we are placing in the downstairs of Village Hall will continue. Village Manager Sarratore stated that while we are in this building we are covering the costs of maintenance and

utilities, but once we leave they will have to be able to sustain themselves or look for a different place to house their business. We hope the businesses grow and will be able to get to that point.

Yoder wanted to know when we are projecting to be out of this building and if we are looking at grants for the coffee shop. Village Manager Sarratore said about a year and a half and they are working on a grant currently. The school will have access to Title 1 Funds but that will not be available until the fall. Yoder asked if those funds will be able to sustain them in this building. Village Manager Sarratore said she does not know yet.

Parsons asked if the coffee shop has insurance. Village Manager Sarratore said they don't have insurance yet.

Johnson expressed that he really likes what Mr. Coyle is presenting and is hoping that he can see that project through and is able to get sustained.

Sims informed everyone that there was an article in the Tribune about a coffee shop in South Bend that has grown.

Yoder is worried if a year and a half is enough time for the new businesses to be able to sustain themselves. Village Manager Sarratore said we hope so and they can find additional funding sources.

Conner spoke about a Cassopolis book store being in the coffee shop since it would be a nice place for that.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Johnson responded to the comments from Jim Bronke earlier stating that the information regarding the trustee is with the court and we are waiting to hear back from them. The decision on truck traffic is to reduce the number of lanes and slow down the traffic per the State.

Justin Smith reminded everyone of what he discussed at the last workshop regarding the hemp products and gave an additional update regarding the hemp proposal. He also talked about cbd oil and can bring in additional money by have a processing center and a grow center. He is requesting for Council to opt in to medical marijuana.

Prosecutor Victor Fitz explained there is a difference between medical and recreational marijuana and hemp. Hemp has extremely low thc and he is not adamantly opposed to it, but he encourages the Council to go slow until the rules from LARA are released.

Jason Smith believes the Village will be approached by a dispensary. There are multiple dispensaries in Michigan and have taken in a lot of money. He said that if you wait and someone else does gets one, we then lose that money. You can have 12 plants in your house currently so not having a dispensary will not stop people from using it, we are stopping the revenue.

Yoder wanted to know if mulch is available to the public. Superintendent Anderson said it is available all year around; you can come get it or per request we can drop it off at your house. The mulch is not treated.

Council Concerns/Ideas:

None.

Announcements:

- Next CAUA Meeting: 3/18/2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Main Street Meetings are held monthly prior to Regular Council Meetings at 5:45 p.m.
- March Workshop: 3/25/19 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

David L. Johnson, Village President

Tonia Betty, Village Clerk