

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
January 23, 2017**

President Johnson called the Workshop Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Yoder, Parsons, Jackson-Ash, Johnson, Williams, Sims and Wagner
Council Members Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Approval of Agenda: Yoder motioned, seconded by Wagner to approve the agenda with the addition of the following items: Demo under Updates, G. Ginger Luxenberger, H. Interceptor Breaks, I. Tree and J. Autopay Utility Bills.

Motion Carried.

Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items: None.

Updates:

A. Demo of 306 E. State St.: The demolition of the property started and was halted due to a permit needed by the State. The DEQ also wanted to do an asbestos evaluation and the contractors are waiting on the results to resume the work.

New Action Items:

- A. Cannabis growing operation (See Attachment 1): A company is interested in starting a cannabis grow operation in the area. The law has changed leaving it up to local municipalities to decide what they will allow in their community. Whether the Village wants to allow this or not, ordinances relating to this topic are still needed.
- B. AED for Village Hall: Since the last experience where a defibrillator was needed, it is important to have one in Village Hall. The one that was used belongs in the squad car; a new AED would cost about \$1,000-\$1,500.
- C. Old Fire Station: The old fire station will soon be empty since the new fire station is ready. The building inspector will give us an assessment on the old building and a mason will do an assessment on the exterior bricks. The Council will need to decide how to move forward with this building.
- D. Sign for Clisbee Park: Council member Jackson-Ash would like Council to give the sign for Dan Lee some more consideration. The original plan was for a sign to be displayed and be very visible to those who do not go to the park.
- E. Sale of old dump site: We are waiting on a response from the attorney so that we know the legalities of what comes with this.
- F. Budget Amendments (See Attachment 2): The budget amendments will be presented in this same format that we have been using lately. Just because we make the amendment doesn't mean that we will use all of the money, but we have to do the amendments to ensure we do not go over budget.

- G. Ginger Luxenberger: She would like to put displays in the empty downtown buildings and wanted to make sure that the Council was aware and did not have any issues with this project.
- H. Interceptor Breaks: Due to another interceptor break, we had 3 engineering firms come in to discuss any other ideas or solutions. There is a scheduled meeting with DEQ to provide them with a new solution that everyone can agree on. That solution will be brought to Council, but there is no guarantee it will completely fix the problem.
- I. Tree: Mr. Grimes provided us with pictures of another dangerous tree on O'Keefe.
- J. Autopay Utility Bills: The ability to autopay the Village utility bills are now available on the Village website with instructions on how to do it as well.

Miscellaneous: Council Concerns/Items:

President Johnson thanked Officer Obermesik and Chief LaValle for saving Mr. Roosevelt.

Jackson-Ash spoke about some downtown businesses, building Village pride and building the tax base.

Yoder suggested establishing historical districts to help with the cohesivness of the downtown area.

Public Comments-Non Agenda Items:

Village Manager Sarratore gave an update on the timeline for the CMAQ project and the lifesaving awards for the officers.

Ted Gogol thanked Council member Yoder and the Village Manager for attending the LaGrange Township meeting to discuss the Lake Board. He hopes the Council will move quickly to make sure this project is completed.

Mickey Bittner gave an update on the CMAQ and USDA projects.

Announcements: None

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President