

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
November 27, 2017**

President Johnson called the Workshop Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Yoder (arrived at 6:42), Parsons, Jackson-Ash (arrived at 6:33), Johnson, Williams, & Wagner

Council Members Absent: Sims

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Approval of Agenda: Wagner motioned, seconded by Parsons to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Street Lights, First Bankcard, Drug Testing Policy, Conference Lodging and Prestly Arbitration Legal Fees.

Motion Carried.

Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items:

Sheriff Behnke spoke on his position regarding medical marijuana in the Village and how that would negatively affect law enforcement.

Assistant Prosecutor Tom Hubbard read a letter from Prosecutor Fitz on his opposition regarding medical marijuana in the Village.

Tabitha Pollard spoke strongly against medical marijuana because of the negative effects that she has seen with its use.

Presentation – John Campbell, Campbell Law Office

John Campbell and his partner would like to open a dispensary in the downtown and grow operation in the industrial park. He would like the Village to adopt a medical marijuana ordinance to allow for these businesses. He spoke on some of the proposed details of the operations of the businesses regarding how it would be run. He also disputed claims from those who are opposed to allowing medical marijuana.

Discussion & Action Items:

- A. Borgess Lee Lease (See Attachment 1): We have normally done 1-year lease renewals, but this renewal would be for 3 years with annual rate increases. Council would like to consider the effect of a 3-year renewal on potential plans for Village Hall.
- B. PA 152 Resolution (See Attachment 2): We have to make a decision annually on how we would be handling health insurance coverage. Since we have employees that are grandfathered in, we will not be able to not opt out until every employee will be in compliance with the guidelines for employee premiums.
- C. Budget Amendments (See Attachment 3): We need to address a few things and make some adjustments to the current budget. We needed to create a budget and comply with accounting principles with regard to the Stone Lake Improvement Fund. We would use money from General Fund as a placeholder until the special assessment district taxes come in the following year. A portion of the costs for the CMAQ project were budgeted in last fiscal year, but it all came in this fiscal year and we need to account for it this year.

- D. Resolution for Main Street Support (See Attachment 4): There have been some questions regarding the in-kind services of employees, space, and equipment being provided to the Main Street by the Village. This resolution will be in support of these in-kind services and allay any future concerns or questions. Some more research will be done on Main Street regulations and MSHDA will be consulted to make sure all rules and regulations are being followed. In regards to Christmas in Cassopolis, Council members did handle certain aspects of the planning, however, turned it over to Main Street in the past to handle because those were the types of events that they were already doing.
- E. Master Plan/Facilities Plan/Parks Plan: Council members discussed what they liked and did not like about the finalists for companies to do these plans for the Village and which company they each liked the best. Some members wanted to see more visuals and others liked the end results they have seen in other communities.
- F. Street Lights: Council member Wagner thanked DPW Superintendent for getting the ceiling tiles changed and he questioned why so many street lights are out.
- G. First Bankcard: Council members questioned if we needed any additional policies or resolutions to use the credit cards, the process for tax exemption, spending limits and the process for making payments on the card. They were informed that we already have the policies needed for the use of credit cards, a tax exemption form is provided to avoid sales tax and that all balances on the card are paid off in full every month avoiding any interest charges.
- H. Drug Testing Policy: After the AFSCME Union negotiations, all Village employees were added to the list for random drug testing. The language in the handbook is ambiguous on this subject. A policy will be created to let all employees know that they can be subject to random drug screening.
- I. Conference Lodging: Council members would like to see the dates for lodging during conferences and to be informed in advance of the dates employees are away at conferences.
- J. Prestly Arbitration & Legal Fees: Some members thought the arbitration was finished, but the AFSCME Union decided to move forward with the arbitration despite the missed deadlines. A decision should be made by next month.

Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items:

Yoder asked about breakdown of salaries that was previously requested. Village Manager Sarratore informed Council member Yoder it will be completed by the next meeting.

Jackson-Ash would like to have further discussion on the medical marijuana and hear from all sides. We will discuss the medical marijuana at the January workshop since the December workshop date is on a holiday.

Johnson reviewed the supplemental documents that were included with the packet that discussed the resurfacing of M62 and the email from a resident expressing her happiness with the football banners.

Public Comments-Non Agenda Items:

Village Manager Sarratore informed everyone of a round table taking place in conjunction with the school and local businesses to discuss support and potential project related to the new school curriculum.

Tabitha Pollard presented some facts regarding the opposition of medical marijuana.

John Campbell spoke on some facts in favor of medical marijuana to rebut the facts presented by Tabitha Pollard.

Ted Gogol expressed his opinion on a medical marijuana dispensary and felt that is would not be family friendly in the downtown area.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President