

VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING/SPECIAL MEETING
February 25, 2019

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

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Yoder, Parsons, Conner, Johnson, Williams & Sims (arrived at 6:42 pm)

Council Members Absent: Wagner

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Approval of Agenda: Parsons motioned, seconded by Yoder to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items:

None.

Discussion & Action Items:

- A. Brian Coyle: He is a musician and is requesting the use of the downstairs space of Village Hall (old doctor's office side) for free music education classes. He has done a music education program in South Bend for autistic children, but programs like this are not happening in communities lately. He believes this program will generate revenue by offering private lessons and utilizing the rooms as rehearsal space for other musicians.
- B. MDOT Grant Resolution: This resolution is for a potential grant for the Parkshore Drive road project. This grant is a 50/50 match up to \$250 thousand for construction costs; the road project must also be completed in 2019.
- C. Marijuana:
 - a. Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz: His recommendation is that the Village opt out of recreational marijuana. The state is in the early stage of recreational marijuana and LARA will have more rules coming in regards to it. Many municipalities have opted out at this time and it will just preserve your options for later, should you decide to opt back in. It is still a federal offense and municipalities will have some liability.
 - b. Harley Schultz: Harley Schultz gave his opinion on marijuana distribution centers. The Village will have to approve one before they can conduct business and he disagrees with statements made by Prosecutor Victor Fitz. Bangor has had increased revenue in their businesses due to recreational marijuana. LARA will provide guidelines, but we can create our own guidelines to how we want it to be set up. If we opted in to recreational, it would drive business here and opting out is driving traffic somewhere else.
 - c. Justin Smith: He spoke about the processing of hemp business that he would like to start in the Village. Some of the products that he is proposing to create are: hemp concrete, which is the strongest fiber for roads and houses and is 10 times cheaper than regular concrete; hemp oil, which can be used for plastic mold companies. He would also like to extract the CBD oil and process the oil infused products to be sold elsewhere, hoping to the main transporter of CBD products.

Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items:

None.

Public Comments-Non Agenda Items:

Paul Delinger, who is a resident and the Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church echoes the notion of the Prosecutor and wants the Council to take it's time with the decision on marijuana and does not want to see it in the Village.

Ted Gogol spoke on the multi-million dollar investment the Village is doing we don't want to have the reputation that you come here to get marijuana, which is in conflict with the family aspect investment we are promoting. He wants the Village to get community feedback and the investment projects will bring in revenue.

Tabitha Pollard was speaking on her medical experience with marijuana. Someone can form a habit with marijuana since it creates a dopamine response. We have medical and substance abuse prevention and assistance programs in this area and she feels approving marijuana to be here will be in conflict with those resources.

Jason Smith expressed that medical and recreational marijuana have been passed and he believes we can have the good things in the Village, but we still have rules and regulations on where it can be smoked. Cigarettes and alcohol are just as accessible as marijuana would be. It would be the responsibility of the parents to keep children away from these items. He believes we should get past the fear and misconception.

Justin Smith added that every state to approve marijuana has seen an increase in residents and a decrease in opioid overdoses. It is important to have structure to what can or cannot happen.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President