

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
February 26, 2018**

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

Roll Call:

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

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Approval of Agenda: Sims motioned, seconded by Jackson-Ash to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion Carried.

Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items:

Jeff Glazer would like the Council to consider making it legal to ride a golf cart on streets in the Village that are under 30 mph.

Discussion & Action Items: None.

Updates

- A. **Par Plan Grant:** We were awarded \$4,971.00 toward rubber mulch and playground ramp as a risk reduction grant through the Michigan Township Par Plan. We can apply for this annual grant.
- B. **Condemnation:** The Building Official tagged four houses in the Village that are unfit for human habitation. The first hearing was held, with Mickey Bittner as our Hearing Officer who ordered demo in 30 days. The second hearing will be prior to the March Workshop. After 60 days if not demolished, the Village has the right to demolish the properties. The current years' budget has \$50,000 set aside for demolitions. The Village Manager heard from two of the owners interested in demolishing their properties.
- C. **Imagine Cass:** The event turned out great, about 200 people attended. The next event will be the last week of April or the first week of May. The presentation will be different from the first and will need to take place at a different location. It will be interactive and will include illustrations.
- D. **Investment Policy:** The Village currently has an investment policy that allows us to invest and we found a few companies that we would like to use. The Council asked some questions regarding how it would work and the fees involved. A plan will be presented at the next workshop.

Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items:

Sims asked about the decision on marijuana in the Village.

Jackson-Ash would like the Council to speak with Bill Marx, the City Manager of Buchanan, to discuss how their approval of medical marijuana in their City is working for them. She would like to get all the information that she can and look into the pros and cons of it being a business in the Village. She also asked about the upcoming road resurfacing project being done by the State. Village Manager Sarratore informed her that the project is expected to begin in June.

Williams expressed his opinion on medical marijuana in the Village and the residents that he speaks with do not want it in the Village. He would like the Council to make a decision on this soon. The Prosecutor has a resolution and the surrounding municipalities have already voted against it. Village Manager Sarratore informed him that no vote means no action and we can only vote to opt-in. She is recommending waiting instead of vote on this since the laws are changing so quickly.

David Johnson stated that the decision for the Council on medical marijuana is if it is a viable business or not in the Village.

Yoder asked about the renovation timeline for the two buildings that were recently bought. Village Manager Sarratore informed her that the rehab has begun and the tentative completion date is April 1. The owners have extended an invitation for the Council to do a walkthrough of the buildings on March 26th. The facade may be updated if we could get a grant through MEDC and there is potential for a facade grant for some of the other buildings downtown.

Yoder asked about any building at Stone Lake Shores. Village Manager Sarratore replied there might be a closing on two of the lots this week and some contractors are thinking about doing a spec home in that area.

Village Manager Sarratore told everyone that Leader Publication highlighted Ben in the Horizons magazine this year.

Public Comments-Non Agenda Items: None.

Closed Session: Williams motioned, seconded by Sims to go in to closed session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss pending legal matters.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Jackson-Ash, Johnson, Williams, Sims and Yoder

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Parsons & Wagner

Motion Carried.

Williams motioned, seconded by Sims to come out of closed session at 7:34 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President