

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
March 25, 2019**

President Johnson called the Workshop/Special Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:47 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Yoder, Parsons, Conner, Johnson, Williams, Sims and Wagner

Council Members Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

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

Motion Carried.

Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items:

None.

Discussion & Action Items:

- A. **Budget Amendments (See Attachment 1):** Presented are the proposed budget amendments for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. We will probably need a second set of amendments once we come closer to the end of the fiscal year. The additional dollars do not mean that they will be spent, but it covers what may be spent. Any money remaining will be placed back into fund balance for the respective funds. The majority of the amendments are due to the need for a capital outlay department per the State of Michigan and adjusting for additional items approved by Council.
- B. **FEMA Mitigation Plan (See Attachment 2):** This resolution is for acceptance of the County mitigation plan that was approved by FEMA as an official plan of the Village of Cassopolis. This makes us entitled to funds in case there is some type of emergency in the Village.
- C. **Lease Agreement (See Attachment 3):** This is the lease agreement that would need to be signed by Brian Coyle and the Coffee Shop (Kim Lee would tutor in their space) to operate businesses in the downstairs of Village Hall. This was provided by the attorney of what a lease agreement should look like with the expectations of both sides. Hours of entry will need to be discussed and will be very specific to each party. Additional discussion was held regarding the sound, the insurance limits and coordination between all parties involved.

Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items:

Williams would like to slow down with the Municipal complex and get information from tax payers. They are speaking to him and they should have a vote on this and should know the cost. Conner said we have involved the residents and why would they need to vote when there have been multiple meetings where they have been informed. Parsons expressed that there is a lot of time and if they have questions they should come in and ask. Wagner stated we have invited input from the residents and we are taking our time and not moving too fast. The drawings on the wall are from 1992 so these ideas have been around for years. He wants to see we are growing and we are not rushing into anything. He is very proud of the steps that have been taken. Williams asked how are we going to pay for the projects. Johnson said it is our job to inform the residents about how the Village is going to pay for it and Council was provided that information. The residents have received notices for all the Imagine Cass meetings and the information about the projects were in the paper and on the news.

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Williams asked what are we doing with the current Village Hall building. Johnson and Wagner both suggested leasing it out.

Yoder suggested we continue to involve our residents in the plans for the projects. We should put up signs to come to meetings so they can know and be involved. Conner suggested having monthly meetings where residents can come and give their public comments.

Parsons said she tells people to come to the meetings, but it is their responsibility to get involved. She represents a large number of people that want to see these changes and are ready to move forward.

Johnson spoke on the passing of Dan Bates and informed Council that Yoder bought flowers for the funeral and we received a thank you card from his wife for those flowers.

Public Comments-Non Agenda Items:

Vicki Baker asked if the taxes are going to increase. She is all for change and the progress is important, but she is also concerned about her property taxes. Johnson stated we can not increase taxes without a vote of the public.

Kim Lee Brown asked for clarification on the insurance piece of the lease agreement. Parsons clarified that general liability up to \$1 million would definitely not cost \$1 million the premium is not extremely expensive.

Liz First explained that she has 2 acres of residential property and some commercial property in the Village. She does not agree with combining Village staff with the DPW. She feels that this building is good and we don't need to move out of it unless we have people who are interested in this building and we should not have to borrow money to build a new one. She would hate to see this building be vacant and would like to see money go toward beautifying the Village instead of a new building. She also stated that there are some street lights that are out and we could use money to replace those. Chief LaValle informed her that the police department reports street light outages to AEP and there is no cost issue with the downtown lights.

Justin Smith is requesting to purchase the old dumpsite that the Village owns for hemp purposes. Village Manager Sarratore informed him that after the resolution for medical marijuana passed it has to go to the Planning Commission and they have to give recommendations to Council of where, what types and how many licenses. We are not at that spot yet and we had some discussion about if we want to get rid of that property or not. He suggested that if people are having confusion about the village meetings we should post them on social media.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President