

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
April 23, 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, Parsons, Jackson-Ash, Johnson, Williams, Sims & Wagner
Council Members Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

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

Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items: None.

Discussion & Action Items:

- A. Pontem Cemetery Software (See Attachment 1): The Cemetery Board met to discuss the software and the benefits of having it along with how it can make the process more efficient for all parties involved. The quote came in lower than expected and since there are some projects budgeted in this fiscal year that we will no longer be completing, we can utilize that money to complete this project. There may be some additional small fees along with an annual support fee that will allow residents to look up information themselves and walk them directly to a gravesite. Other companies such as Wightman and BS&A have been consulted in what they could provide, but Pontem was the only one that could provide all these services.
- B. Columbarium for Cemetery (See Attachment 2): The other thing discussed during the Cemetery Board meeting was the need for a columbarium. This can hold multiple cremains in one location and would only take up a couple of grave spaces. Wagner spoke on the rise in the number of cremations nationally and the growing popularity of placing cremains in a columbarium. The sale of the individual niches will offset the cost of the columbarium over time. There is also a cost savings to the family since an urn vault will not be needed. We are looking into recommendations of a starting number of niches for a community of our size.

Move into Special Meeting

Wagner motioned, seconded by Williams to move into special meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items

Sims discussed the appointments from the last Council meeting and Ron Bellaire not being reappointed. She spoke on the letters of recommendations and support that were received; he is making changes and letters of support should not be ignored. She would like to have him reappointed as the electrical inspector. Parsons expressed it's not the Manager's fault that she walked in on Ron Bellaire being rude. Jackson-Ash asked Ron if he has been up to see the Manager and believes that whoever is the electrical

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inspector needs to be able to work with the Manager. Ron Bellaire stated that he is willing to work with the Manager and is taking a class to improve his communication with other people. Village Manager Sarratore informed Council the appointments were already voted on and it is up to the President to recommend appointments for approval by Council. She informed Council she was requested by the resident to be at the meeting with Ron Bellaire and regardless of any previous complaints, her recommendation for a new electrical inspector would not have changed. President Johnson explained why he made the decision to not appoint Ron Bellaire and believes that we can have an inspector that can do a good job and treat people correctly.

Williams believes that Council should be notified of complaints from residents and should be brought to the workshop.

Sims asked if the Manager spoke with Karen Siler at Jefferson & Broadway, she has several complaints about her neighbor and wants to file a lawsuit claiming that the Village is not enforcing the code book. Village Manager Sarratore stated she had one conversation with Karen about 9 months ago and she has contacted Chief LaValle about this issue a few times. Chief LaValle explained that the code enforcement officer was brought in early and issued the neighbor violations notices for vehicles and junk. The family of the property owner is making progress in cleaning up and the vehicles were removed.

Sims spoke about four houses that have broken water meters that have split in half and wanted to know if the replacement is the responsibility of the resident or the Village. Yoder asked if there was some research done on the meters when these were chosen originally and wanted to know if there were any issues or design flaws that would cause the meters to break. Superintendent Anderson stated that meters break when there is not enough heat in the house and will cause them to freeze and break. The first time the meter is replaced for free and after that, the resident is charged. DPW will provide insulation to help keep it warm, but it is the responsibility of the home owner to keep the house and meter at a temperature that will prevent the meter or pipes from freezing. Also, the sales reps that he deals with would inform him if the meters have been recalled.

Sims discussed the conversations that she has been having with AEP regarding the project they have been doing in the Village. Their workers and trucks removing trees and tearing down hedges, she feels it is making the Village look messy. A resident she spoke with is going to be reimbursed by AEP for the damage but would like some help on figuring out how much the check should be. Village Manager Sarratore informed her to speak with Ted Gogol on this since he has had some experience with that situation. She can also write a letter for the resident; when she has contacted AEP about Ted's property, they were receptive and got the issues rectified. Ted Gogol explained his experience with AEP and was in touch with them once a week to make sure that they remedied the places they destroyed.

Yoder wanted to know if there was an accident Thursday night because there were no lights on one side of Main St. Superintendent Anderson stated that Darrell was working on the electrical boxes and he may have not turned the lights back on.

Yoder discussed the water runoff from Community Mills, she thought the runoff situation was resolved and is concerned that we will end up with the same problem on Park Shore Dr. again if the retention pond is across the street. Village Manager Sarratore explained that the Village did everything they could about the new hard surface Community Mills created, but we cannot go back and have them fix the old surface that is causing the runoff. They are responsible for their own runoff to some extent and we can have them fix any new hard surface going forward. She believes that Mickey has taken all of those things into consideration and much engineering will go into that project. Superintendent Anderson informed Yoder of his conversation with Mickey about the runoff and how the pond will work to disperse the water.

Village Manager Sarratore informed Council that the painting of the water tower is coming up in May and we would like to change the color scheme. The bottom would be a darker blue and the top would be white. Superintendent Anderson added that water towers get discoloration on the base and a dark color would help with that.

Public Comments-Non Agenda Items:

Chris Bergen from the VFW wanted to discuss the Memorial Day Parade talk to council about any ideas and suggestions to make the program and event a better celebration. Chris commended Superintendent Anderson and said he does a great job and is great at getting everything ready for the parade.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President