

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
SPECIAL MEETING
November 27, 2018**

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

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Yoder, Jackson-Ash, Johnson, Williams and Sims (Parsons and Wagner arrival 6:55 pm)

Council Members Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Consent Agenda: Sims motioned, seconded by Williams to approve the following consent agenda:

- a. Agenda
- b. Regular Council Minutes – October 8, 2018
- c. Workshop Minutes – October 22, 2018
- d. Approval of Invoices - \$160,671.86

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Wagner, Parsons

Motion Carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Jim Bronke congratulated the winners of the election and stated that anyone who is an employee should not be on Council because he believed it was a conflict of interest.

Vicki Vaughn stated that she is the mother of Mitch Conner, and that she was in support of her son. She stated that she was proud that her son won the election and that he wants to see Cassopolis move forward and she believes he will help accomplish that.

Mitch Conner stated that he was the one elected and that he did not believe there would be a conflict of interest for Cass with him serving as trustee. He stated that he believes in the Village and that he was raised here, has six kids in the school system here, he works here and that no one is more invested than he is to see the Village move in the right direction.

Department Reports:

Clerk: See report.

Treasurer: See report.

Police/Code Enforcement: See report.

Building Inspector: See report.

Electrical Inspector: See report.

Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector: See report.

DPW Superintendent: See report.

Manager: See report.

Jackson-Ash stated that she has concerns that some of the reports were not reconcilable and that she would like Council to question the way these reports are provided in the future.

Reports accepted as presented.

Johnson allowed for Public Comment on non-agenda item by Prosecutor Fitz and Sheriff Behnke.

Victor Fitz stated that he was disappointed in the passing of Proposal 1 at the most recent election and would like the Village to opt-out of any sales in the jurisdiction at this time. He has concerns about Cass County being a border county.

Sheriff Behnke stated that he is not happy with the election results and the passing of Proposal 1. He is also concerned about Cass County being a border county in the state. He discussed problems with the sale of Sunday alcohol from this area to Indianan residents who are not allowed to purchase it on Sundays and some of the problems that has caused – and he believes this would cause the same type of issues including hazardous road conditions. He also mentioned that there is not a road side test yet that is approved in Michigan; although they are working on one and have been testing it out for the last two years.

New Business:

A. Approval of POAM Contract: Wagner motioned, seconded by Sims to approve the new Police Union Contract with POAM containing the addition of the Agency Shop Language, new pay scale, change in insurance plan, and change of dates for longevity pay for a term of three years.

Discussion: Sims questioned the Agency Shop language and the Village Manager stated that it was provided by the Union.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

Motion Carried.

B. Approval of Village Health Insurance Renewal for Full Time Village Employees: Wagner motioned, seconded by Yoder to approve the Proposed renewal of health insurance Plan for all full time village employees as a Simply Blue HRA PPO Gold \$4000 with an annual premium of \$102,335.20.

Discussion: Jackson-Ash asked about the increased deductible and what that total amount could potentially be. Village Manager stated that she did not have that number readily available, however they had reviewed the claims for the past 5 years and based on that trend believed this change would still ultimately provide a savings to the Village.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Parsons, Johnson, Williams, Sims , Wagner, Yoder

Nays: Jackson-Ash

Abstain:

Absent:

Motion Carried.

Discussion Item – Election Results

President Johnson stated that with the Village residents electing Mitch Conner, a DPW employee, he felt it was the responsibility of the trustees to figure out how we can make that happen and stop trying to not make it happen.

Village Manager provided additional follow up materials from the Village attorney. Village Manager stated that due to the recount, the Village has not certified any seats, keeping the remaining Council in place. The information from the attorney states that an employee has the right to run for, be elected and assume office, however his ability to continue his employment once he is sworn in is dependent upon the authorization of the Village Council. Since we are not in a position to swear anyone in, there is not a question for the Council to ask at this time. The recommendation is to wait until the recount is completed, let everyone take their seats and then if we have an employee who has won, and taken their seat, they would ask the question of the council. Village Manager also recommends that the Village Attorney be present for that meeting.

Council discussion followed.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Jim Bronke provided a handout titled Calming Cassopolis. He would like to alternate truck routes in order to calm the Broadway corridor.

Village Manger stated that we are in the statutory review period of our Master Plan and that this information will be provided to the team to decide if it is something that the Village should pursue.

Mike Grice commented that C. Wimberly of Dowagiac was helping with the Feeding the Hungry program and that money is staying local. The car as been at Harding's and sponsorships are available.

Ted Gogol thanked Jim Bronke for bringing up the idea of an alternate truck route and thinks it is a good idea based on his experience in Dowagiac.

Jackson-Ash stated that she has appreciated the opportunity to serve the community and that she has faith in the Council, staff and community to continue to move forward.

Yoder announced Christmas in Cassopolis this coming Saturday, and that there were events going all day.

Announcements:

- Next Regular Meeting: December 10th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
- Next CAUA Meeting: December 17th, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
- Main Street Meetings are held monthly prior to Regular Council Meetings at 5:45 p.m.
- Christmas in Cassopolis: December 1st – Tree lighting 5-7

Adjournment: President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

David L. Johnson, Village President

Emilie Sarratore, Village Manager