

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
October 26, 2020**

President Johnson called the Workshop Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Luckey, Parsons, Conner, Johnson, Williams, Danzy-Yeager 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.

Discussion Items:

- A. Addendums for MERS: MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) provided us with addendums for us to restate what is and is not included in the calculation of base wages and the amounts that are able to go into 457 voluntary accounts.
- B. UFCU CC Signers: We currently have a credit card through Chemical Bank, but we are able to get one through United, who we bank with, and get cash back rewards. They require a listing of the designated signors for the credit card and those will be: Emilie Sarratore, Tonia Betty, Benjamin Anderson and Brian LaValle.
- C. Flip Houses: More research was completed to determine a better estimate for the cost to rehab 127 N. O'Keefe. All the estimates have not been obtained yet, final numbers will be provided once received and compiled. There is one person who is interested in purchasing the property from us for \$10,000 and rehabbing it. Council discussed the options and information provided, including having contractors quote the rehab for the house on Broadway as well. They would still like to explore the rehab of both properties and this will be discussed further at the next workshop.

Miscellaneous: Council Concerns/Items:

Johnson asked about when we would receive the new leaf vac. DPW Superintendent Anderson stated it will arrive tomorrow and they will start on leaves Wednesday. Johnson also asked about the pavers and if they will put caulk or sand inside the cracks. Village Manager Sarratore said they will get it sealed before winter.

Wagner stated he is glad to see the improvements and construction happening and asked about the barricades that are still in front of his property. Village Manager Sarratore explained that they are most likely not finished there. Also, he likes the job done on the new building.

Williams asked about the silt fence covering the storm drains on Broadway since the businesses are getting flooded when it rains. Village Manager Sarratore said per the SESC permit the silt fence can't be removed until the projects are completed. Williams also mentioned the flooding at the Historical Library and asked about a clock for Chambers. Village Manager Sarratore will look into both of those.

Parsons informed everyone that this meeting is her last meeting on the Council because she has moved out of the Village. She enjoyed her time on the Council and thanked everyone for the things that she has learned

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during her time as a Trustee. Village Manager Sarratore thanked Parsons for her time, help and support in getting the ongoing projects approved.

Manager’s Update

Village Manager Sarratore gave an update on the construction projects and that Selge will keep working as long as the weather holds and will finish up in the Spring. She informed Council that the staff was at the Municipal Complex on Saturday working to open back up to the public and they did an amazing job and had great attitudes.

Public Comment

Joseph Ryan asked about what financing would be available for a homeowner to purchase the O’Keefe house. He also asked about if the Village would be putting in a sidewalk on N. O’Keefe and if the seat on the Stone Lake Improvement Board was filled. Village Manager Sarratore stated the house would be affordable and not low income so purchasing would be based on the individual obtaining their own financing. She also stated that the Stone Lake Board position has been filled. In regards to the sidewalk, our engineers can give an initial estimate but it is a long process to get a sidewalk put in where there hasn’t been one previously.

JJ Smith asked about the distance of marijuana facilities from the schools and he believes that Green Koi and Global Provisioning are in violation of the 1,000 feet distance from a school. Village Manager Sarratore responded that they are not in violation; all the legal information regarding the distance was provided to JJ and Planning Commission.

Joseph Ryan asked what part of revenue from marijuana sales would go toward mental health. Village Manager Sarratore answered that Woodlands would receive some revenue, but she did not know how much; it is based on state calculation.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President