

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
February 22, 2021**

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

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Luckey, Kelly, Conner, Johnson, Williams, Danzy-Yeager and Pedersen
Council Members Absent:

The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Approval of Agenda: Pedersen motioned, seconded by Williams to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of Item D- Water Policy under Discussion Items and the removal of Closed Session.

Motion Carried.

Presentation by Blue Dart Art

Jane Bergman and Sharon Ott gave a presentation on Blue Dart Art, which is a group of painters that encourage community participation in art. They provide many services including classes and workshops.

Discussion Items:

- A. 2021 Presidential Appointments (See Attachment 1): Adam Dahlgren is to be appointed as Building Official since Rich Drews retired. Steve Schroeder was the only applicant for the Planning Commission and Cynthia Boss has taken the open position for the ZBA. Pedersen asked about the lake board, however there are currently no open positions on that board.
- B. TC Mechanical (See Attachment 2): We have noticed is that it is dry in the building; we asked our builders about adding a humidifier to our HVAC system. We weren't sure we would need this so we did not add it during construction, but it would be best for the long-term upkeep of the building.
- C. AIA Award (See Attachment 3): Our Municipal Complex won an award for the architecture and was evaluated with submissions from all over the world. It took into account the consolidation of services, look and design.
- D. Change in Water Policy: The State passed new legislation stating that we can't shut water off for nonpayment. There is about \$50,000 worth of utility bills in arrears at 180 days . There was discussion of options to get these balances caught up. The Utility Services Department will send out letters to residents and landlords notifying them of resources that assist with past due utility bills and the option to sign up for a payment plan. The landlords will be given the suggestion to put the accounts in their name so they can have more control.

Miscellaneous: Council Concerns/Items:

Johnson stated we need a rail outside the front door of the building. He was informed it was installed.

Public Comment:

Chris Bergen from the VFW discussed the Memorial Day Parade and wants to begin the collaboration for the event, he would also like to dedicate the mural on the side of the building. The main concern each year is the traffic since we cannot shut down Broadway. Village Manager Sarratore suggested to move it to

Disbrow and the parade route can go from the beach to the Cemetery, also the sound system will be installed at the Pavilion by then.

Managers' Report

Village Manager Sarratore discussed:

- A. The railroad crossing on Decatur road will begin construction on June 15th and to keep in mind that traffic will be re-routed.
- B. The Village was awarded another NEP (Neighborhood Enhancement Program) Grant for \$45,000. We should have a grant agreement by the first of May and are specifically doing siding projects, we believe it makes the most impact.
- C. The Village was listed as a defendant in a lawsuit regarding the sale of the industrial park property but due to the temporary restraining order we will not go into closed session to discuss. She will provide an update after the Hearing.
- D. Mr. Wagner sent a letter, about the great job DPW Superintendent Anderson and the staff did during an open and close ceremony. They were respectful and his standards were commended.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President