

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 14, 2021**

President Johnson called the Regular Council Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Consent Agenda: Pedersen motioned, seconded by Luckey, to approve the agenda as amended with name corrections in the Regular Meeting Minutes.

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2021
- B. Special/Workshop Meeting Minutes – May 24, 2021
- C. Public Hearing Minutes – May 24, 2021
- D. Approval of Invoices - \$999,202.97

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Kelly, Johnson Williams, Pedersen and Luckey
Nays:
Absent: Conner and Danzy- Yeager
Abstain:

Motion Carried.

New Business:

A. **Truth in Taxation Millage:** Pedersen motioned, seconded by Kelly, to approve the resolution as presented. This will move the millage rate to 16.6566 for the year 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Williams, Pedersen, Luckey and Kelly
Nays:
Absent: Conner and Danzy- Yeager
Abstain:

Motion Carried.

B. **2021-2022 Insurance Renewal (See Attachment 2):** Williams motioned, seconded by Luckey to approve the insurance renewal and changed the liability limits from \$3 million to \$5 million which will be an increase of about \$3,500.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Williams, Pedersen, Luckey, Kelly and Johnson
Nays:
Absent: Conner and Danzy- Yeager
Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Kimberly Efremovska stated she moved back to this community and loves the changes that have been made. She would like to request a meeting with the Village President and provided him with a letter.

Fran McCann expressed his concerns with the pier and lack of signs and the actions of people attending the beach. Williams agrees with the need for signs and no alcohol but not sure we can ban that. Village Manager Sarratore said some signs have been ordered.

Cathy McCann asked if there is an open and close period for the pier. She was informed the pier does not close.

Melody Cutting suggested having a designated smoking area with ashtrays to help with the cigarette butts. Kelly agreed that people are going to smoke and if we don't provide an area, we will see the trash.

Johnson stated no matter what people will try to be sneaky with alcohol and marijuana; we are trying and this is new for us.

Bob Fiala suggested trash cans at the entryway to the beach and expressed his concern about the way people are parking. He also commented he would like to see the marine division patrolling the lake more. He suggested property on Hilltop Lane to be considered for another park on the south side. Kelly informed him those are lake concerns and should be brought to the County. Village Manager Sarratore stated we have more trash cans ordered and are on the way.

Robin First asked about the old South Side park and that there's no playground for kids to play. It's difficult to get to Clisbee because she would have to cross major streets and wants to know if there will be another playground. Johnson informed her about the concerns from the health department and it was recommended it no longer be a park. There have been discussions about another park and we are working on another location. Robin presented a few suggestions for locations.

Justin expressed his daughter was sad about the park being gone and activities for 5 and under are missing. Kelly said there are other community members that want something on that side and there are conversations happening about it.

Bob Fiala suggested placing the agenda items on the newsletter that goes out with the water bills. He reads the newsletter and appreciates it. Alexis replied she's glad he reads them but the agenda is not set at the time the newsletter gets out.

Cathy McCann commented about the lake treatment killing the fish. Kelly said if the treatment kills their habitat, the fish may die. There was discussion about this but questions need to be addressed with the Lake Board.

Miscellaneous: Council Concerns/Items:

Kelly asked about the dead fish the day of the treatment and suggested more warnings since kids were out swimming despite the treatment. She also suggested a foot washing station.

Johnson stated the wire on the railings downtown and the pier are getting loose. Village Manager Sarratore said DPW will be trained on how to fix and replace them.

Pedersen is happy to see community members attend the meetings and recommended residents attend the County Commission meetings as well.

Johnson said residents can be directed to the correct resources when they attend public meetings and explained the way the meetings should work regarding the interactions with the public.

Managers' Report:

Village Manager Sarratore discussed:

- The beach bash and thanked the council members that helped. She read the tribute given to the Village from Senator LaSata.
- Tomorrow will be a walkthrough of the downtown projects and will determine what else needs to be addressed. The projects are basically done except for the Connector and Park Shore Drive.
- Project Davey will make final selection next month and she has worked with MEC on a video highlighting the community. There is a lot of interest in the SMART park property.
- The contracts for the MSHDA NEP grant have been signed, which provides \$45,000 to help homeowners. This round will concentrate on siding and makes the most visual impact.
- We are still hiring for the concession stand and will finalize staff and schedules hoping to be open this weekend from 11am-9pm. The plan is to have 2 people there at all times to address some of the issues residents have brought up.
- Main Street is working on a Rock the Block concert series, three events so far this summer are proposed. Profits will allow them to keep doing downtown improvements for businesses.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President