

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
WORKSHOP MEETING
January 23, 2023**

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, Makay, Johnson, Williams, Danzy-Yaeger, Pederson
Council Members Absent:

The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

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

Audit Presentation – Derek Hall

New Business:

- A. **Budget Amendments (See Attachment 1):** We try to complete budget amendments at least about midway through the year and then at the end of the year to account for things. One of the big amendments needed was due to the purchase of the house on Disbrow. We will be looking to approve them at next regular meeting.

Public Comment:

Ted discussed Stone Lake Board meeting; the public hearings on March 6th at 5:30pm. This will be two hearings back-to-back. Pedersen asked about the members of the board and if the assessment rates will increase. Ted informed him that some members are mandatory and some are appointed by the village. The board currently needs a riparian owner. The prices of things are going up and that will change the assessment rates and revenue for the year is determined by those rates.

Manager's Updates:

Village Manager LaGrow discussed:

- We were awarded another \$75 thousand for NEP and half of the funding will go to a dog park and other half to housing. We are awaiting grant agreement to start advertising for applications.
- Land Banks across the State received \$250 thousand for blight elimination. The Cass County Land Bank has accounted for these funds across the county. Two of these properties are in the Village. If this round is completed successfully, we can apply for next round.
- The MSHDA Mod house is set up, we have to do some inside work, put in a driveway, garage and porch. This must be completed and sold by end of August.

Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items:

Danzy-Yaeger asked if residents were requesting a dog park. Village Manager LaGrow said it's one of the things that previous Council Member Kim Parsons wanted but we had to complete some other projects first and told her we would come back to that. Additionally, members from the community let her know all the time they want it. It will be located at Don Horne Park. The back side of the park can connect to the potential housing development.

Makay said there used to be a trail back there. Village Manager LaGrow said we would bring that back to life and make it a trail again; we met with Abonmarche to create a design and potential costs to move forward by the end of this year.

Pedersen would like Council to consider allowing chickens in the Village with certain restrictions. He will bring in some sample ordinances.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President