

# VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

County of Kent, Michigan

## **Village Council Rescheduled Meeting Minutes**

For Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Lindsey at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present were; Neil, Schuler, Miller, Soest, Hahn, Erskine and Lindsey. Also present was Thornton

President Lindsey put forth her recommendation of Jennifer Eardley as the Village Treasurer after Jennifer Renegar's resignation. Moved by Neil, supported by Hahn. The Oath of Office was administered to Jennifer Eardley by Village Clerk Thornton.

There was no public comment.

Communications – Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. and May 19<sup>th</sup> will be a council workshop for new council and a refresher for veteran council. The time established was 6pm. President Lindsey requested a meeting date change for the May meeting as she would be out of town on our regularly scheduled date. There were no objections to move our meeting date for the June meeting to Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m.

No inquiry of conflict of interest were heard.

Motion to approve the agenda and remaining consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes of our April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the bills and the Treasurer's report. Moved by Soest supported by Schuler.

Jon Moxey presented that he would defer comment as unfinished business.

Miller gave an update on the fire department receiving confined spaces training and that the Township will be turning some land over to the schools. The school did not have video available.

The manager gave an update on the community planting on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 8a.m. in the downtown and the welcome signs. Food is being donated by local business. He also reported on the tree replacement of the downtown trees. The new budget is currently being worked on and he called for any input from council. Number one will be streets and then equipment, also council will need to determine the millage rates that have been at 7.944 for some time and the maximum allowable millage rate per the voters is 12.6609 and it will be up to council to determine the new tax rate.

It is expected to have a "peaceful patriotic demonstration" and fireworks again this year.

### Unfinished Business-

Jon Moxey and Peter Tearny from Flies and Vanderbrink presented a status update to the Kinsey St. project with a projected construction date of spring of 2022. Construction cost are expected to be just over \$900,000. Moxey and the Village Manager were successful in obtaining an additional \$141,550 from the Grand Valley Metro Council for the project with and expected local match of being about \$337,000. Moxey presented that the current step is submission of the program application to MDOT. Moved by Neil, supported by Schuler to authorize the manger to sign the Program Application for the project. Motion passed unanimously.

### New Business-

Lindsey presented some of the history of the village hall as far as its acquisition and potential uses and a summary of Caledonia Farmers Elevators interest in leasing part of the village hall. Moved by Hahn, supported by Miller to authorize the manger to continue towards a lease with CFE with a final lease being presented to council for consideration.

Public Comment-

Todd Grinage (identified as past president) commented on taxes, referenced a news article and the writers accounting. Grinage stated that Thornton did not get a pay raise due to poor performance evaluation from the Labor Board Committee and that they felt his performance did not rectify a pay raise. He asked if there had been a recent evaluation.

Eric VanGessel watched a video of the previous council meeting and questioned the accuracy of information. He questioned why the manager and current treasurer would be involved with the new Treasurer selection and did not like the process that was taken. He also urged council to look at the details.

Michael Newlin posed some questions based on a letter he had received and offered comment.

Briana Newlin commented on confusion on when the last meeting was and stated that the village was in violation of FOIA. She also expressed displeasure with enforcement and that she had never received an apology. She questioned the manager's role. And feels the details aren't being followed and claimed the agenda was not posted until two o'clock this day.

Moved by Neil, supported by Erskine to go into closed session, to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting recessed at 7:16 p.m.

Open meeting was reconvened at 8:40p.m. with roll call taken and all members being present.

A motion was made to authorize the manager to pursue either an easement or purchase agreement to bring back to this board. Moved by Hahn, supported by Schuler. Passed unanimously.

Schuler reported that the Caledonia Farmers Market will start on May 15<sup>th</sup> and the hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Erskine announced the Legion will be having Memorial Day Ceremonies at five cemeteries on that day. Lindsey asked for volunteers on the community planting on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 8a.m. She also invited all to be in attendance on Thursday.

The manager was disappointed that some of the public commenters had left. He did report that he recollected sending the Newlin's a communication thanking them and appreciating them bringing forward that they could not locate some information on our website that he had apologized to Mrs. Newlin when she met with him in the lobby with her children on one occasion. He also reminded council of a statement that another trustee had presented that he had a news article contradicting what Mr. Grinage had expressed in his public comment, regarding the manager's performance review. The manager also stated that if there is any supporting documents or additional details needed, that they are available and would provide them whenever requested by council and that he is accountable to them. He reminded the council that he has an "open door" for them and the community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Jeffrey D. Thornton, Village Clerk

