

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

County of Kent, Michigan

Village Council Meeting Minutes

For Monday December 11th 2023 7:00 p.m.

250 S. Maple St. SE

Caledonia, MI 49316

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present were; Soest, Hahn, Miller, Schuler, Erskine, Lindsey and Niles, also present was Treasurer Eardley, Attorney Stegink and Manager Thornton.

Lt. Kieft of the KCSD was introduced as being the new head of the south sub-station. Lt. Kieft spoke that if the Village's ordinances identify that law enforcement can issue tickets on the matter, they will enforce those ordinances. But in the matter of Plainfield Township, they asked for more attention of enforcement and it overwhelmed them and their attorney. He stated that they can put into their computer our ordinances for reference.

No conflict of interest were heard.

The president moved that the second public comment period be moved to precede "Legal Opinion" Under new business. Supported by Niles. Motion passed unanimously.

Erskine questioned a sidewalk outlet repair downtown. The manager showed the bill to the trustee and it was explained that it was a repair made to an outlet that is located between the CFE office and the environmental offices. He questioned mileage to Petoskey and noted the new name badges. Moved by Schuler, supported by Soest to approve the consent minutes of the November 13th meeting, treasurers report and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer reported that CD's had been brought to her attention and that she and the manager have been looking at investing the Village's cash funds in programs that will earn interest like CD's although she explained that she was cautious of CD's because of penalties that can be levied when withdrawn early. But it seems that the terms on CD's have been shortened in recent years that should not leave the village cash strapped. The manger explained that right now we could invest one million dollars into six month CD's and the interest alone could pay for a new truck for the DPW. This would be the money that the council has earmarked for a upcoming project to be needed further out such as a street project. There was no objection by the council. Ms. Ott (public) asked if a money market was an option and the treasure answered that it was possible but at a lesser rate.

The Draft planning commission was received.

Jon Moxey's engineers report was received.

Miller reported that the township had transferred Calplex over to the school and that the schools were planning on posting the position within first. Greg Chandler, who had just left the school meeting, added that the school board announced that they would be interviewing Dirk Weeldreyer next week for the position. The manger wanted to dispel some of the rumors going around regarding the new recreation center. He had been informed by the interim Superintendent that there was and issue with the pool and that it was a problem to be resolved between the architect and the subcontractor.

The president reported the township has been reviewing and approving their operating budget.

The manager reported that the official application for the Glen Valley category B project has been made and it is projected that it will go out in the April bid letting. The township has reported that sewer rates will not be increasing but water rates will per the utility meeting that was held. This increase is forecasting the cost of connecting to the Grand Rapids water system. Which may have some benefits as to the water quality from GR should be better. The village will be placing reserved parking signs in our parking lot for CFE

who has acquired company vehicles that will be overnighting and we wanted to put them in particular location as not to hamper plowing operation. The kick off meeting for the joint recreation plan has happened and we are going to be adding the garden concept that the council discussed but also adding other activities and that the council should be prepared for a special meeting in January to meet DNR deadlines. The manger reported on the flurry of postcards that residents have been receiving from Consumers Energy regarding a planned power outage that is now scheduled for January 5th and 12th with alternate dates of the 12th and 19th. People that are power dependent for medical needs, should take precautions.

The manager reported on a MSHDA, Housing Readiness Incentive Grant Program that is soon to start that has had five million dollars allocated that will be awarded on a first come first serve basis. This money is to be used for land use policies, master plan updates, zoning text amendments, etc. He also pointed out that our community has seen significant growth of home rentals and that with a housing shortage in the area, some landlords may be taking advantage of the situation and unknowingly be putting people at risk and that many communities have adopted rental registration and rental inspection ordinances to accompany the Property Maintenance Code that the Village has already adopted. The Village commonly gets contacted by tenants with safety concerns that we refer to the fire department or IMS. He also suggested that the council consider a business registration ordinance that would also help with zoning and fire code issues.

The manger reported that he had made application for revenue sharing as recommended but his efforts were fruitless in that come to find out we did not qualify. He reported that leaf vacuuming has concluded and tree trimming and other activities will continue since the weather has allowed. He felt the DPW worked admirably during Christmas in Caledonia.

The council discussed the golf cart ordinance once again and asked the attorney for clarification on some of the language in the latest revision. The attorney answered the previous questions of liability, Q and 6b.along with some questions that arose. One question was posed regarding the fee that was still included in the ordinance. The attorney stated that she would make the changes as directed including the rewording of the language about that does not have to be registered as a motor vehicle. The KCSD Lt. said that his department would enforce the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code that mostly duplicates our ordinances. It was discussed that people misunderstand the insurance requirement. The cost and revenue of the fee was discussed and what would be the financial loss. Moved Miller and supported by Soest to amend the ordinance as discussed including excluding the fee. Motion passed unanimously.

Several job descriptions were included in the packet and the President stated that she only saw them Wednesday afternoon. Moved by Schuler and supported by Miller to table. Motion passed unanimously.

The proposed 2024 meeting dates were presented with explanation that some meetings dates did not follow the pattern due to holidays. Moved by Schuler and supported by Soest to accept the 2024 dates. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Lindsey, supported by Miller, to meet in a closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material which is exempt from disclosure under Section 13(1)(g) of Michigan's Freedom of Information Act. The Village Attorney Kathryn Z. Stegink, is hereby appointed as Secretary for the purpose of taking minutes of the closed session in accordance with the Open meetings act. A Roll Call vote was taken and all answered in the affirmative.

The closed session commenced at approximately 8:27 and ended at approximately back into session at 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Miller and supported by Schuler to: Place the Manager's 2023 performance evaluation for consideration and approval at the Village Council's regular meeting on January 8, 2024, and to appoint a committee consisting of Miller, Hahn and Lindsey (Erskine alternate) to monitor the activities and performance of the Village manager and to report to the Village Council as appropriate or as directed, beginning with the Village Managers 2024 performance evaluation. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Jeffrey D. Thornton, Village Clerk-

