

# VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

County of Kent, Michigan

## **Minutes – Village Council Meeting December 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m. 250 S. Maple St. SE, Caledonia, MI**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Swearing In of Village President and Trustees**
  - a. President Lindsey and Trustees Erskine, Daley & Miller
4. **Roll Call**
5. **Brief public comment *on agenda items*** (2 minutes)
  - a. Dirk Weeldreyer, Superintendent – Express that we have met about parking in the village and hope we can work together, appreciate all you do on behalf of the community, please reach out if needed
6. **Communications - Yes**
  - a. Letter from Robert Weaver
  - b. Planning Commission Annual Report 2024 (minutes from January 2024 meeting)
7. **Inquiry of Conflict of Interest**
8. **Approval of consent and regular agenda \***
9. **Consent agenda (*One Motion Accepts All*)**
  - a. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on November 12, 2024
  - b. Treasurer report
    - i. \$8,500 is the IRS match, can we increase the HSA amount to this instead of the original amount of \$8,000? Money is budgeted and available to do so.
      - **Motion by:** Schuler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miller
  - c. Payment of bills
    - i. **Motion by:** Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schuler, **Vote:** All Ayes
10. **Reports from Council, Staff and Consultants**
  - a. Engineers & Consultants – *Fleis & Vanden Brink, Infrastructure Alternatives*
    - i. Parks & Recreation plan – no movement yet
    - ii. MDOT Category B, wait until spring to close out
    - iii. Kinsey St Phase 2, funded for up to 80% of the eligible cost
      - Township would like to extend the sanitary sewer with this project, from Maple south and don't want to go under the drain under Kinsey
  - b. Liaisons – *School Board, Township*
    - i. School – 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Neola Policy revision
    - ii. Township – reappointed 2 commissioners, COLA @ 2.5% increase, Harrison salary will stay the same, hoping to have everyone hooked up to Grand Rapids water by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2025, moving forward the water bills will be due on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month
  - c. Other Committees
    - i. Enhancement committee worked really hard to put on a great event (Christmas in Caledonia), along with the businesses and our staff. The rope helped keep people back from the street for the parade.
  - d. DPW Foreman Report
  - e. Manager Report
    - i. Everyone given the Employee handbook to review for revisions
    - ii. Health Department signed off, will have to have the back flow preventer repaired in the spring
    - iii. Funding for Kinsey St improvements

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- iv. Old plow truck is unreliable, cracked frame, 18-month build for a new one, cost will be around \$250,000 for an outfitted one the size we need, will get 3 quotes for January.

## 11. Discussion Item(s)

- a. Parking Lot options
  - i. Church St, just south of Main St, turn parallel parking into diagonal parking, 2-3 additional spaces added, would need to move utility pole, easement from AT&T building needed, \$110,000 estimated
  - ii. Church St by Buer's, turn parallel parking into diagonal parking, would need a retaining wall built, move utility pole, could add a sidewalk, 8 spots total, \$200,000 estimated
  - iii. Paul Henry Trailhead parking lot, school owns property, would be a partner to allow space for parking spots, submit a grant for partial funding through the DNR, \$220,000 estimated
  - iv. Downtown Rear Parking, expanding behind Rosanna's, add a retaining wall for grading issues, may be able to grade easements from the property owners next door, \$370,000 estimated
  - v. We did submit for MI RAP grant via The Right Place, for the trailhead and the south Church St parking spots, see if we get approval, let us know in Spring 2025 if approved.
  - vi. Some funding may be given by the Township towards parking costs as well since businesses pay township taxes and village taxes
  - vii. Engineering costs are around 10-15% of the total price
- b. 5-year road improvement plan
  - i. Paser Study Rating 2024 on road conditions
  - ii. Possible roundabout or 3-way stop at 92<sup>nd</sup>/Dobber Wenger/S Rodgers Ct intersection
  - iii. Johnson, Emmons, and Maple Street reconstruction, preparing utilities underneath them
  - iv. Paper street Emmons parking lot
  - v. The projects we did do prolong the life of the streets, but they will eventually need to be redone
- c. Updating the State Championship sign for the Caledonia HS Equestrian Team
  - i. Has the village or school paid for these signs before in the past, it is a school team, but it is an MDOT sign, who pays for these signs?
  - ii. Call the athletic department or the booster club

## 12. Unfinished business

## 13. New business

- a. Meetings and Office Closings Schedule for 2025 (Motion)
  - i. **Motion by:** Soest, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schuler, **Vote: All Ayes**
- b. SaltDogg purchase
  - i. **Motion by:** Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Niles, to purchase from B&B Truck Equipment for \$5,520.00  
**Vote: All Ayes**
- c. Ad hoc Committee for the Village Manager's 90-day review
  - i. Spike Baird, J. Eardley, G. Schuler, J. Niles, J. Lindsey
  - ii. **Motion by:** Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Soest, **Vote: All Ayes**

## 14. Extended Public Comments *on any topic* (3 minutes)

- a. Lynn Baird, Caledonia Hair Co – Thank you for moving forward with parking, it has been an issue for 35 years, our community has been growing, the cost will never go down for parking. Buer can't be here but they absolutely lend their support.
- b. Jerry Barnaby – Appreciate to dramatic improvements to the Village, additional parking spaces will make a huge improvement, improve the value of homes and businesses in the Village, Brian Deimer stopped and made a comment and appreciate how nice it looks, the trails, the park. I don't remember this much improvement in the Village ever, Brian was a great hire. Thank you to the whole board.
- c. Spike Baird – Ditto what Jerry said

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## **15. Manager comments**

- a. Appreciate everyone's help and participation for Christmas in Caledonia on Saturday, support on pop up items that happen, DPW department is doing a really good job; shows what Jessica is capable of doing now that she has people to work with

## **16. Village Council member comments and announcements**

- a. Erskine – Have you spoken to Caledonia Farmer's Elevator about the letter we received
- b. Schuler – Thanks for coming, great to see some new faces
- c. Miller – Christmas in Caledonia was great
- d. Niles – Gutters all got cleaned today in Village, thank you Karen Hahn for her 20 years of service
- e. Daley – Handbook question on sick pay, separate policy will be added into the handbook
- f. Soest – Nice to see a full house, Christmas in Caledonia – would be nice to have drivers with patience, the sleigh was fabulous (needs more lights for next year)
- g. Lindsey – Kathryn Stegink and President discussed doing council training and employee handbook updates, downtown business Cal on Main group – thank you for all your support for Christmas in Caledonia, I appreciate all of you, see you next year.

## **17. Adjournment**

- a. **Motion by:** Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schuler to adjourn meeting

**\*Any council member shall have the right to add items to the regular agenda.**

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*Lisa Sondag, Clerk, Village of Caledonia*