

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL

May 19, 2023

The Cass County Council met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Hearing Room. Present were; Shawn Shoemaker, Bruce Ide, Dean Davenport, Tracy Williamson, Damon Foreman, Dave Redweik, Derek Pullen, Attorney Jeff Stanton, and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn.

Tracy Williamson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence following.

MEETING MINUTES – Dave Redweik made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Derek Pullen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AIM/RIDLEN PARK – Judge Kitts explained the future plans to establish AIM/Ridlen Park as a county park and the creation of full-time park director. Upon approval of Commissioners the current director of Juvenile Probation will fill the new position of Park Director. Director's salary will remain the same for the remainder of the year.

Judge Kitts informed the Council an estimated \$130,000 is needed to operate the park. Funding made available upon reduction of two positions; retirement of probation officer and Juvenile Probation Director will more than cover the new park budget for next year.

ORD. 23-02 EST. NON-REVERTING NIPSCO REIMBURSEMENT HIGHWAY FUND – Attorney Stanton presented for approval ordinance creating a non-reverting fund to receive reimbursement from NIPSCO for county road and tile/drain repairs resulting from the Fusion Pipeline Project.

Dave Redweik made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-02 as presented, Bruce Ide seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

KAYAK RENTAL PROGRAM – Christy Householder reported seven communities currently using Rent.Fun including two within Indiana. Majority are starting this season and have had a good experience with vendor. Many of those are offering a seasonal pass. Attorney Stanton is currently reviewing legal contract agreements with Rent.Fun, land owners, and Visitor's Bureau.

Christy contacted the DNR regarding permit or special permission. Because our program would be seasonal, no permit or permission is needed. Christy will contact DNR once we have the program in place and officers will patrol the area to be sure participants are following water safety procedures and wearing life jackets.

Visitors Bureau has agreed to pay the annual maintenance service agreement of \$12,000, in turn would receive 75% of rental fees for marketing the kayak program.

Arin Shaver added the City is not interested at this time to join in the project. Riverside Park is currently under multiple renovations, once those are completed they will re-visit the invitation to participate. Arin offered the possibility of different locations and trip segments.

Christy requested approval to move forward with contract process and order kayak equipment of \$60,000. Equipment would be property of the county and suggested using CEDIT funds for the purchase.

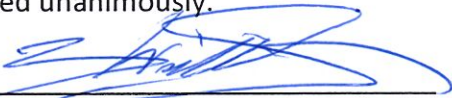
Derek Pullen made a motion to approve the use of CEDIT funds to purchase kayak equipment upon Commissioners approval of contracts, Dave Redweik seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EMS – Brady Wiles informed Council of recent adjustments to position schedule in the department. Changing the current number of position levels from 6 EMT to 3 EMT and 3 Hybrid positions. Recently three EMT’s completed Paramedic course and will receive certification by June 1st with additional four to six weeks of hands on training. Commissioners have approved the three positions to be promoted to Paramedic status. Hybrid Positions can be filled by EMT or Paramedic. HR Director supports the position schedule adjustment and Auditor confirmed funding is available in the budget to support the promotions.

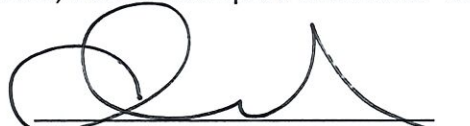
Salary ordinance amendment will be presented for approval at the next Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Lora Redweik, 5524 N CR 600 E, Twelve Mile – Suggested an Ooops Cell Phone Jar for County Meetings. State held Committee meetings have a cell phone Ooops jar for anyone that didn’t shut off their phone to pay \$1.00 each time their cell phone rings during session. The money collected could be donated to a good cause.

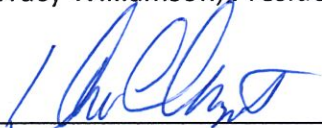
ADJOURNMENT – Dave Redweik made a motion to adjourn, Dean Davenport seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



Tracy Williamson, President



Dave Redweik, Vice President



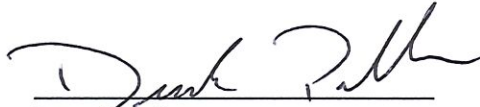
Dean Davenport



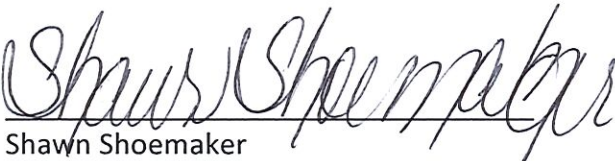
Damon Foreman



Bruce Ide



Derek Pullen



Shawn Shoemaker

ATTEST:



Cheryl Acorn, Auditor