

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL

JANUARY 21, 2011

Present for the January 21st meeting were Ralph Anderson, Brent Kelley, Brian Reed, Chod Gibson, Jeff LeDonne, Grover Bishop, Jim David, Attorney John Hillis and Auditor Vaneen Ide. Ralph Anderson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

The meeting of the Cass County Council was turned over to the Auditor. The Auditor requested nomination for President of the Council for the 2011 year. Ralph Anderson was nominated to retain the position of Council President. Chod Gibson made a motion to approve the nomination of Ralph Anderson as Council President, Brent Kelley seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Auditor requested nomination for Vice President. Brian Reed was nominated to retain the position of Vice President. Brent Kelley made a motion to approve the nomination of Brian Reed for Vice President, Ralph Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Auditor turned the meeting back to the newly re-elected Council President Ralph Anderson. Ralph Anderson introduced the two new Councilmen, Grover Bishop and Jim David.

MINUTES

Brian Reed made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Grover Bishop seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT

John Hillis, Attorney accepted and will be retained as legal council for the Cass County Council.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Brent Kelley made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$510,475.00 that was cut from the 2011 General budget to pay for other supplies and charges for 15 offices from the Rainy Day Fund, Chod Gibson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Brent Kelley made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$235,888.00 from the Rainy Day Fund for the Assessment fund number 355, Brian Reed seconded. The motion carried six voting aye, Jim David abstained.

Chod Gibson made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$253,710.00 for the Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Jeff LeDonne seconded. The motion carried six voting aye, Jim David abstained.

APPOINTMENTS

Brian Reed was re-appointed to the Planning Commission. Ralph Anderson, Brent Kelley and Jim David will be members of the finance committee for LEDF.

DAVE KITCHELL

Dave Kitchell appeared before the Cass County Council as spokesperson for the Cass County Historical Society. Dave was past president of the Historical Society for eight years. Dave requested that the Council continue to fund the Historical Society for an additional two years.

Dave pointed out that 4th grade students still visit the museum as part of the school's curriculum each year. The Historical Society has brought stability to the neighborhood it inhabits. Jeff LeDonne asked Dave if the Historical Society pursued additional funding. The response was yes they have applied for three grants. They also have touched every entity that could help with funding.

Ralph Anderson has proposed funding half of what was cut from the Historical Society's budget. That amount would be \$17,500.00. Chod Gibson made a motion to restore the full amount of their budget. The motion died for lack of a second. The proposal put forth by Ralph Anderson would allow the Historical Society to receive up to \$17,500.00 in matched funds by the County. This could be achieved by new net operating funds defined as:

New memberships

New non-restricted donations

Increased unrestricted donations from previous donors

Increased unrestricted donations from previous members

Any other donations that the governmental fiscal body agrees upon

These are all net; Receipts, minus expenditures to procure. Appropriations for the match will be made in June and November and will be matched with budget cuts or revenue increase to the General, Rainy Day or Host Fund.

Grover Bishop made a motion to approve the matching grant, Chod Gibson seconded. There was discussion before the vote. Brian Reed made note that of the forty people that he spoke with none were in favor of funding the museum with tax payers dollars. County reserves are declining rapidly. Host tipping fees have also decreased. Jim David has received at least a half a dozen of calls in favor of supporting the Historical Society. He will try to support them. Chod Gibson commented no one wanted Little Turtle, but Mercedes Bugh pursued it and it came to be, so we need to pursue funding for the Historical Society. Brian Reed stated that the Council should think of priorities. Grover Bishop has also received phone calls concerning this issue, he feels the Council should give them some support, but not make any promise for the future. Brian Reed stated that even if this passes there can be no guarantee that there will be funds available.

The vote was taken 4 ayes in favor, 3 nays opposed. The opposing votes were from Brian Reed, Brent Kelley and Jeff LaDonne. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURN

Brent Kelley said in looking at next year's jobs, Public Safety is a concern and it should be the County's priority. The budget is back to 2000 levels. It really takes a toll on a person to be beat up for being fiscally responsible. Brent Kelley made a motion to adjourn, Grover Bishop seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ralph Anderson, President

Brian Reed, Vice President

Chod Gibson

James David

Brent Kelley

Grover Bishop

Jeff LaDonne

ATTEST: _____

Vaneen M. Ide, Author