



TO: Village Council

FROM: Debbie Powell, Village Manager

DATE: June 29, 2020

RE: June 2020 Manager's Report

The last Manager's Report was done on February 20, 2020 before the Covid-19 Declaration of Emergency and Executive Orders from the Governor. Since that time, much of the plans for 2020 have been delayed, changed, or cancelled. These are challenging times to manage operations and considerations for the health, safety and welfare of our employees and residents has been of paramount concern and necessitated changing priorities temporarily. All Village employees are back to work at their regular hours. Access to the Municipal Building lobby is still limited until further notice with reduced hours of 9 AM to noon, and 1 – 3 PM. Phones are still answered from 8:00 am – 4:30 PM.

There have been many opportunities available to small businesses due to Covid-19. We have been collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce and the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation to assist our local businesses in applying for much needed grant funds and loans. There are several Cass City businesses that have benefited from these programs. A special thank you to Judy Keller, Chamber Administrator, and Tuscola County EDC, for working on these programs with our businesses!

In addition to handling Covid-19 issues that arise, I have been devoting a considerable amount of time to the Strategic Planning goal for "Municipal Park Improvements and Splash Park." New free standing playground equipment has been ordered and received for the play ground near the tennis courts with installation scheduled in July. The Woodland Trails have been improved by the Cass City Rotary Club and many volunteers along with Village Council members and staff. The nine (9) hole disc golf course has been improved to now sport 18 holes and is eligible for tournaments. Trails were groomed and cleaned and dangerous trees have been removed and cleared out throughout the trails. The Splash Park is well under construction with the oversight of

Tom Herron our Project Manager. There is no opening date at this time, but you can expect to Splish and Splash there yet this summer.

I have been working with a lot of sports leagues and teams who are requesting use of Village facilities. They lost out on their spring season and were looking to hold a limited season, scrimmages, tournaments, etc. during the summer months for the players to participate in and enjoy. It's been quite hectic to make this happen for everyone, but I believe it's working out. Our Parks and Recreation Department are excellent!

There are several new laws that staff has been working on for our Code of Ordinances. We are in the process of updating our Zoning Ordinance with the assistance of our contractor Giffels Webster. A representative will present their draft of our updated ordinance at the July 15 Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Staff has also been working on ordinances to regulate Golf Cart, ATV and ORV usage in the Village. The Rental Property ordinance is on pause until a community input meeting can be scheduled, and those details are yet to be determined.

Infrastructure projects are moving forward. The pre-construction meeting for streets was held at the Lions Pavilion and construction on Beechwood is expected after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The M-81 sidewalk project is proceeding with the recommendation of A.J. Rehmus as our contractor. This item appears on your agenda for June 29.

Our CEDAM Fellow, Josh Prusik, has been working remotely and in training since June 8<sup>th</sup>. He will be working in Cass City starting in July and I look forward to introducing you to him. If you have the opportunity and time to discuss with him some of Cass City's issues and goals, and community and economic development in our Village, please do so. This is as much a learning opportunity for Josh as it is for us to accomplish our goals.

The Village is gradually resuming in-person meetings. Masks are requested and we will be using social distancing for those in attendance. If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact me. Thank you.