



TO: Village Council
FROM: Debbie Powell, Village Manager
DATE: October 28, 2019
RE: Manager's Report

As October comes to a close, there is much to share on recent activity in the Village and meetings that I have attended.

DDA Meeting

The DDA meeting was held on October 8, 2019. At a previous meeting, the DDA established a sub-committee to propose goals for the DDA for 2020. The sub-committee met on September 11th and at their October DDA meeting they approved the three goals. The DDA 2020 goals are as follows: 1) construction of an Information Kiosk to provide information on Cass City attractions, events and general information; 2) streetscape improvements to include black benches and/or bistro tables/chairs which reflect the black wrought-iron theme on Main Street; and 3) Creation of a Facade Improvement Grant Program. Businesses who improve their downtown building could request a grant in the amount of 50% of their investment. Improvements would be limited to exterior building improvements or sidewalk enhancements.

Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC) Board Meeting

On October 16, 2019 I attended the TCEDC Board Meeting. Some of the activities TCEDC are working on behalf of the Village of Cass City include: environmental studies on the Cultural Center and another vacant commercial structure through Brownfield Redevelopment Grant funding. They are actively meeting with companies in our industrial park and conducting business retention calls. Most recently, TCEDC has been working with one manufacturer on expanding their facility.

The Village of Cass City contributes to the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation with an annual budget allocation of \$5,000. As a member of TCEDC, we have access to federal grant monies. They have also given us support as we pursue the State's Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification. I recommend continued

support of their economic development work on behalf of the entire county, and will include the \$5,000 allocation in the Village's proposed 2020 fiscal year budget.

Representative Phil Green Hosting Community Grant Session

On October 21, 2019, Village staff and Trustee Don Ball attended a community session regarding State of Michigan grant opportunities. Representatives were present from the following departments to provide information on grant opportunities: Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development; Dept. of Natural Resources; Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Specifically, staff learned of the various grant opportunities for Parks and Recreation and also Wastewater Treatment. The information and insight into the process was very helpful.

Fall Grant Applications

The Village of Cass City has submitted grants to the Tuscola County Community Foundation for 1) chairs and chaise lounges for the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool to replace broken equipment and add more seating; and 2) partial funding for a Pocket Park adjacent to the Municipal Building. The Village also submitted two grant requests to the Pinney Foundation for 1) replacement of playground equipment; and 2) partial funding for a Pocket Park adjacent to the Municipal Building. The Village has not been formally notified of the status of these grant applications to date.

Rental Ordinance Working Committee Meeting

The Blight Subcommittee has been working on the rental ordinance. Multiple meetings have been held, and the next meeting is scheduled for October 29 at 5:00 pm. Upon completion of a draft ordinance, it will be distributed for review by the Village Council. In addition, a community meeting will be held to receive comments and feedback from the public and landlords prior to introducing the Ordinance at a future Village Council meeting. The Blight Subcommittee has been focusing on rental safety issues for occupants as a priority.