

### **1. Call to Order**

Trustee Wishau called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Trustee Wishau and Trustee Martin. President Weatherston, Trustee Hammes, and Trustee Stillman were also present. Trustee Pierce arrived at 5:46 PM

Absent: None.

Department Managers: Also present were Administrator Kathryn Kasper, Finance Director Wayne Krueger, Fire Chief Jeffery Henningfeld, Police Chief Christopher Botsch, and Village Attorney/HR Manager Tyler Helsel.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Trustee Martin to approve the minutes dated August 8, 2023. Seconded by President Weatherston. Motion carried, unanimously.

### **3. 2022 CLA Audit Presentation**

The General Fund's revenue was noted to be \$17.76 million against expenses of \$16.70 million, adding \$1.049 million to its balance by the end of the year. The utility funds' operating revenue was \$12.8 million with expenses totaling \$11.1 million, providing an operating income of \$1.7 million before other factors like non-operating revenues and depreciation. By the year's close, the General Fund was approximately \$6.6 million, and the capital projects fund stood at \$23.7 million.

A significant change in the 2022 audit was related to the adoption of GASB Statement No. 87, which deals with recognizing lease assets, liabilities, and other related financial elements. The village's involvement in leases, such as those for cell phone towers, was brought up in this context. Audit findings revealed two recurring issues: the procedure for preparing financial statements and the challenge of segregating duties. The latter, attributed to financial transactions being conducted across various locations, is anticipated to be resolved in 2023 by consolidating financial processes into a single building. The meeting also touched upon the scheduling of the Joint Review Board (JRB) meeting, pending finalized valuations. A salient point raised during discussions was the board's interest in comparing the original revenue and project closure projections against the current forecasts.

### **4. Resolution 2023-92 – Resolution Authorizing The Village Of Caledonia To Enter Into A Purchase Agreement To Order A Replacement Fire Engine From Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.**

Due to monopolization in the fire truck manufacturing industry, there are primarily two dominant manufacturers, E-1 and Pierce. The deliberation touched upon various payment strategies, including a potential 100% prepayment for obtaining a lower price, with debates about sourcing the required funds –from a general fund balance, through bonding, tapping into reserves, or a mix of these methods.

Furthermore, interest rates became a focal point regarding the fluctuating nature of rates and the implications of borrowing. There was concern regarding the reliability of the suppliers. With substantial amounts at stake, prepaying without adequate guarantees was a significant contention. As a solution, a performance bond was suggested. This bond, although an additional cost, would serve as protection against any potential default by the supplier.

Ultimately, the group grappled with determining the commitment level necessary to lock in the best price, ensuring a balance between securing a good deal and retaining flexibility in financing decisions.

Motion by Trustee Martin to approve up to \$939,827 and forward to the Village Board. Seconded by President Weatherston. Motion carried, unanimously.

**5. Resolution 2023-93 – Resolution Authorizing The Village Of Caledonia To Accept A Donation From Bear Paw Adventure Park / Jellystone To Be Used Towards The Purchase Of An Aerial Drone**

Jellystone set a fundraising goal to support the Caledonia Police Department (CPD). After holding a series of events, their patrons successfully raised the funds. Jellystone committed to contributing the proceeds from these sales to the CPD to purchase a drone and its corresponding equipment.

The drone being discussed is of commercial grade, with capabilities specifically tailored for police activities.

Trustee Wishau brought up a past contribution by a resident who had donated a drone. The donated drone was described as a high-end personal drone or a basic commercial one. While suitable for daytime operations, such as photography or video recording, this new drone under consideration possesses a night vision function, enabling operations even under dark conditions.

A critical query was raised on the policies governing drone usage. It was emphasized that these drones will not be deployed for warrantless surveillance. Proper licenses are required to operate them, and currently, only two officers possess such a drone pilot license. The primary use of these drones would be for live events, like search operations or rescue missions. The CPD has a strict policy to ensure the lawful use of drones, and the primary goal is to avoid any criminal liabilities.

The funds from Jellystone's donation will cover the entire cost of the drone.

The committee then discussed logistics. A smaller, more portable drone would ideally be stationed in a patrol vehicle, making it readily deployable. With its advanced capabilities, the larger drone would remain at the police station, requiring strategic deployment as needed.

To increase operational readiness, there's a plan to train more officers to secure drone licenses. This training would have associated costs, but they are anticipated to fit within the existing training budget.

Motion by President Weatherston to approve and forward to the Village Board. Seconded by Trustee Martin. Motion carried, unanimously.

**6. Adjournment**

Trustee Wishau adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joslyn Hoeffert, Village Clerk