



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, May 4, 2020 – Minutes

Members

Present: Susan Fulk, Peter Campbell, Will Randle, Jim Spanos, Tom Stanko, Renee Korrey, Jim Raynak, Scott Weaver, and Supervisor Ron Styka

Members

Absent: Bill Cawood

Staff

Present: Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Economic Development Director Ken Lane, Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

Others

Present: Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise, and Alexander Newman

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Fulk called the meeting to order at 7:32am and welcomed Director Ken Lane to the team.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RANDLE. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020

MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RANDLE. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Township resident Alex Newman joined the meeting and expressed interest in getting involved.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff provided a summary update on the April 2020 Financial Report. Report on file.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

- a. Reviewed the April 2020 Consumers Energy bill totaling \$104.62.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR STYKA TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL OF \$104.62. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Village of Okemos Progress Report

Member Randle reported that the virus has put development to a halt for now. Because of the virus, funding is very uncertain for the next several months. He has been participating in weekly meetings with national capital raising groups. They have stated that existing development projects are continuing, but it could be a long time before we see new construction. His main focus for the Downtown Okemos project will be to keep the project together over the coming months with the key players including: Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Douglas J and the Ingham County Road Commission. Member Randle does have a goal to work with the Township to make the demolition of the existing buildings happen this summer.

- b. DDA Annual Report

Director Lane reported that the DDA reviewed the annual report in February and once the 2019 Township Audit is complete, the DDA annual report will be finalized and sent to the Treasury.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- The Board has been having virtual meetings
- Township Manager has been spending time reviewing the Township budget and finances during this financial crisis
- Hazard pay has been approved for the Township police and fire on the front lines with the virus

10. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

11. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Two full time positions have been eliminated and he has worked to protect employees during this shut down
- The Farmers' Market and Municipal Building HVAC projects will be continuing
- The Township Board election is in 90 days

12. CHAIR REPORT

None.

13. STAFF REPORT

Director Lane reported that 3 Township businesses received a \$10,000 small business relief grant through Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). Of the 1,875 applications submitted, the tri-county area received 60 grants. The 3 businesses selected in Meridian Township include: Art Unlimited, Embassy Transportation and Red Haven. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will soon announce business loans for the tri-county area including: 8 in Ingham County, 2 in Eaton County, and 2 in Clinton County. Other opportunities for funding may be available for tech based businesses through the Regional SmartZone. Director Lane reviewed the Township development projects currently under construction and those under consideration.

14. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

15. PUBLIC REMARKS

Treasurer Deschaine expressed support for the demolition of the Downtown Okemos building as soon as possible. Also, he added support for Manager Walsh's efforts during this difficult time.

16. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. June 1, 2020, 7:30am

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 8:27 am.