



Charter Township of Meridian  
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)  
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864  
Monday, June 1, 2020 – Minutes

**Members**

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

**Members**

**Absent:** Jim Spanos

**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 John Esser

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Fulk called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 10-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2020

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 10-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

a. Reviewed the May 2020 Consumers Energy bill totaling \$91.55.

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL OF \$91.55. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 10-0.**

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Village of Okemos Progress Report

Member Randle reported he is working on obtaining three bids for the demolition of the buildings in the Village of Okemos project. Once the costs are available, the Township will work with the developer to demo the buildings this summer.

i. DDA TIF Extension

Last year the DDA discussed the TIF extension and decided to put a decision on hold until the first quarter of 2020. Consensus was to continue to place it on hold for now.

ii. Update on DDA Road Program

Director Lane reported that the Ingham County Road Department has allocated one million dollars to Okemos Road and that amount may decrease as a result of COVID-19. This road works includes repaving, striping and signals in the Village of Okemos project area.

b. DDA Annual Report

Director Lane reported the 2019 DDA Annual Report was reviewed as part of the Township 2019 Audit process. The Treasurer's Office did make a \$140 adjustment which had no significant impact on the annual report.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Director Lane reported that at the May 19, 2020 Township Board meeting the Board approved allocating \$180,000 to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for 45 small business relief grants of \$4,000 each. On May 27, 2020 a six person review committee, consisting of the Chair of the Meridian EDC, the Township Supervisor, a member of the Township Board, the Chair of the Meridian Downtown Development Authority, the Township Manager, and the Economic Development Director, reviewed and scored all the 90 submitted applications.

In the end, the committee unanimously agreed on 42 finalists that were presented to and approved by the EDC.

Director Lane will communicate with each grant recipient and require them to sign a grant agreement along with a W9 prior to receiving the grant funds.

Manager Walsh reported Supervisor Styka will be discussing the \$12,000 remaining of the \$180,000 approved by the Board, and not used for the grants, at the upcoming Township Board meeting. He is suggesting the Board consider using those funds to support Meridian Cares during the pandemic.

9. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- The local road projects kick off today
- The Farmers' Market project is going vertical

- A variety of Parks projects are underway
- Pine Village, a proposed new development in the Haslett Village Square, is up for final adoption tomorrow
- The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has recommended approval for the Haslett Road Marathon
- The Township is in the process of ordering a new ladder truck for the Fire Department
- Due to COVID-19 and HVAC construction in the Municipal Building, we are planning on serving residents through outdoor service centers this summer

10. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

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

11. CHAIR REPORT

None.

12. STAFF REPORT

Director Lane reported that the Township is working with local restaurants to have an outdoor seating plan to meet social distancing requirements. In addition, he reviewed the upcoming development projects including the sale of the old Toys R Us building to Klingmans Furniture and upcoming public hearing for the Andev senior housing community at the east end of Hannah Blvd.

13. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

Manager Walsh introduced John Esser and Patricia Herring Jackson both who were attending the meeting and are candidates for Township Trustee.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. July 13, 2020, 7:30am

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 8:23 am.