



Downtown Development Authority

THOMAS TOWNSHIP - DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 - 8:00 a.m. Michigan Time

- 1. The Board Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Radewahn.
2. MEMBERS PRESENT: Radewahn, Doyle, Emeott, Gray, Ryder-Petre and Weise
ABSENT: Martin, and Duclos
ALSO PRESENT: Russ Taylor, Township Manager, and Connie Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Motion was made by Weise, supported by Emeott to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA

THOMAS TOWNSHIP DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Tuesday, September 22, 2015 - 8:00 a.m.

- 1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Consent Agenda
A. Approve the minutes of the July 28, 2015.
6. Approval of Expenditures
7. Communications-Petitions-Citizen Comments
It is requested that you state your name and address for the record.
8. Public Hearing - None.
9. Unfinished Business
A. Update on construction projects on North Miller and Gratiot Roads.
10. New Business
A. Resignation of Mr. Robert Burns.
B. Master Plan Survey.
C. Traffic Enforcement Zone on Gratiot Road.
D. Banner Pole Use Request From The Saginaw Symphony.
11. Reports
A. Chairperson D. Board Members
B. Vice-Chairperson E. Staff
C. Secretary
12. Adjournment

5. Consent Agenda

A. Motion by Weise, supported by Doyle to approve the minutes of July 28, 2015 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Expenditures – Motion by Weise, supported by Ryder-Petre to approve the expenditures as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Communications-Petitions-Citizen Comments – None.

8. Public Hearing – None.

9. Unfinished Business

A-Update on construction projects on North Miller and Gratiot Roads.

Taylor stated that North Miller was starting to look better. The projected date for paving is September 28, 2015. Along with that Shields Drive will be cleaned up and paved at the same time as the rest of the road. There are three (3) large trees that are close to the sidewalk. Taylor said he is unsure what will be settled there since they are just outside of the road right-of-way. If the homeowner says it is okay to take them down then generally the Road Commission will do that but these aren't fully in the right-of-way. There is also the issue of the "hairy bat" and making sure it has not nested in these trees before removal which creates another expense. Taylor went on to say the sidewalk overall looks a lot better and every effort is being made to keep it as far from the road as possible and to keep it as straight as it can be kept. Taylor noted that the work on Gratiot Road is moving along steadily and may be a week or two behind due to some issues with the bridge work.

10. New Business

A.-Resignation of Robert Burns

During discussion of the receipt of the resignation letter from Mr. Robert Burns, Radewahn questioned how the procedure worked to replace him. Taylor stated that according to the by-laws the Supervisor appoints the replacement with the approval of the Township Board. Radewahn questioned if this would be on the next agenda for the Township Board. Weise responded that he would think so. A motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Robert Burns was made by Weise, supported by Gray.

Motion carried unanimously.

B.-Master Plan Survey

Taylor said that the Thomas Township Master Plan update is taking place as required by law with the guidance of Spicer Group. We are now at the point of the Thomas Township Community Survey. The survey will be available to everyone in the Township through the Facebook page, the Township website and an article will be done in the newsletter with a link to the survey to make everyone aware of it. He stated we have been going through it and have quite a few changes on our end. He asked if there was anything the DDA would like to see measured. He added that there will be one or two questions worded in a way to ask if Gratiot Road looks better than before or not. Radewahn interjected that this had been the DDA's major effort and as long as those questions are in the survey he couldn't think of any others that would be needed. Weise asked if hard copies would be made available in the office and/or to be mailed out. Taylor responded that yes, this would be the case. Taylor stated that the changes were well under way and hoped they would be completed by the end of the week.

C.-Traffic Enforcement Zone on Gratiot Road

Taylor began by mentioning that the members had probably seen the media coverage regarding the Traffic Enforcement Zone on Gratiot Road as well as the signs that have been put up. This was a cumulative result of safety work being done after two recent fatal crashes. Kim Zimmer of MDOT has taken this on and brought a package together of different agencies which actually ended up spinning off from added traffic enforcement from an earlier accident at River and Gratiot. Taylor said from a general observation standpoint he felt this has created an improvement in habits and behaviors of drivers. He did add that at this time it is hard to measure its success with all of the construction taking place at this time. Public opinion he mentioned, varies as expected from good to bad.

D-Banner Pole Use Request From The Saginaw Symphony Association

Taylor said he felt Sika wanted the DDA to be aware that we do get requests for use of the banner poles from outside sources. He told the DDA if they felt this application was denied inappropriately they could decide to approve it however, it would displace the "Heroes Banner", "Christmas Train Banner" and "Township Holiday Banner". This is why it was denied. Otherwise it would have been brought to the DDA for discussion. Ryder-Petre stated she felt the Township should be given the priority to use the poles before anyone else. Discussion among members was the denial was appropriate unless the calendar would have permitted the use.

11. Reports

- A. Chairperson – None.
- B. Vice-Chairperson – None.
- C. Secretary – None.
- D. Board Member –None
- E. Staff – Weise asked Taylor if he could update the DDA on the Christmas Decoration progress for the Gratiot Road street lights. Taylor said that Swan Valley High School has been working to complete the framework of the decorations. They would only be able to complete fifty (50) possibly sixty (60) of the frames. They were unable to do any of the Poinsettias due to the difficulty. There has been outside welders hired to complete the remaining frames. Bulb painting of the lights is being done by DPW workers. The wrapping of the garland and the lights around the frames will be completed by students from Swan Valley’s National Honor Society. There will be a volunteer effort to help with the display of the decorations in late November. If anyone is interested or has a church or school group that may want to volunteer their time.

12. It was moved by Ryder-Petre, supported by Emeott to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

David Duclos, Secretary