Downtown Development Authority

MINUTES

Draft

THOMAS TOWNSHIP DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
THOMAS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
8215 SHIELDS DRIVE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
May 23, 2023

Members Present:

F. Gray
L. Husen
R. Weise
L. McCoy
S. Goward
R. Kretz
K. Kolbe
D. Duclos

Others Present:

R. Taylor, Township Manager
D. Sika, Community Development Director
A. Bicigo, Planning/Zoning Asst.

Absent:
M. Wenglikowski

Gray called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Weise, supported by McCoy to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE: YEAS: 8   NAYS: 0   ABSENT: 1   MOTION CARRIED

Consent Agenda:

Motion by McCoy, supported by Weise, to approve the consent agenda of March 28, 2023.

VOTE: YEAS: 8   NAYS: 0   ABSENT: 1   MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Expenditures:

Motion by Duclos, supported by Husen, to approve the expenditures as presented.

VOTE: YEAS: 8   NAYS: 0   ABSENT: 1   MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

A. **Damaged over the road banner replacement**

Sika explained that the "Winter Fun in Thomas Township" over the road banner is damaged, and the DPW have recommended that it no longer be used. He explained that quotes were obtained for replacement from three companies, with the cheapest quote at just over $900. The banner is not used to advertise any specific event, and is relatively generic. Sika stated that the options are to either replace it with a duplicate, come up with a new design, or to decommission the banner with no replacement. Goward stated that this would be a good opportunity to update the design. McCoy asked when the banner was originally purchased, to which Sika answered that it was greater than ten years old. Gray asked if a redesign would be the same cost. Sika answered in the affirmative. Goward inquired as to when the banner is placed on display. Sika explained that the banner is displayed in February and March, with a limit of around 42 days for any single banner, per MDOT.

Motion by McCoy, supported by Weise, to have potential designs for a new banner presented at the next DDA meeting.

VOTE: YEAS: 8   NAYS: 0   ABSENT: 1   MOTION CARRIED

B. **Repair and repainting of worn streetlight bases**

Sika stated that the Code Enforcement Officer is taking an inventory of the bases of streetlights that need to be repainted, repaired, or replaced. Many of the bases have chipped paint, while others have been knocked on an angle due to the snowplows pushing snow and salt into them. Once the inventory is completed, an estimate of the cost needed to fix them will be put together. Sika stated there should be very little cost outside of man-hours, as the DPW does have a stockpile of paint and replacement parts for the streetlights. He explained that if there is any substantial cost, the DDA will be notified at the next meeting. Kolbe asked roughly how many may need repainting or repair. Sika estimated that around 100 will need attention of some sort.

Old Business

    A. Discussion, Water Fountain Update

Township Manager Russel Taylor explained that plans for a new Township Office and an addition to the existing Fire Department building are being enacted. As part of this, the entire campus for the Township Office is being redesigned. He stated that one option for the design of the new campus would involve relocating the proposed water feature from the northeast corner of Gratiot and Miller to the new campus. Goward inquired as to what the benefit for the DDA would be if the fountain would be moved away from Gratiot Rd. He stated his concern that exposure would be lost if it was moved away from the main Gratiot Rd Corridor. Husen echoed Goward's concerns about finding some benefit for the DDA with the project. Taylor stated that the Township would continue to pursue the 7/11 location for the fountain, as well as looking for other possible locations along Gratiot.

Reports:

  Chairperson- None
  Vice Chairperson- None
  Secretary- None
  Board Members- None
  Staff- None

Adjournment:

Motion Duclos, supported by McCoy to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 am.

VOTE: **YEAS: 8**   **NAYS: 0**   **ABSENT: 1**   **MOTION CARRIED**