



DRAFT

MINUTES

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING VIA ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE/IN-PERSON
THOMAS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
8215 SHIELDS DRIVE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
MARCH 23, 2021**

In accordance with MDHHS Emergency Order of March 5, 2021 "Gatherings and Face Mask Order" as well as MCL 15.263a allowing for electronic remote access.

Members Physically Present:

F. Gray
D. Duclos
R. Weise
R. Kretz
M. Wenglikowski

Others Physically Present:

R. Taylor, Township Manager
D. Sika, Community Development Dir.
C. Watt, Pl. Asst/Code Enf. Officer
T. Schultz, Asst. DPW Director

Absent:

T. Radewahn
M. Dense
L. Husen
L. McCoy

Mr. Gray called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda:

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

VOTE: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 4 MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Duclos, supported by Mr. Wenglikowski, to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021.

VOTE: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 4 MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Expenditures:

Motion by Mr. Weise, supported by Mr. Wenglikowski, to approve the expenditures as presented.

VOTE: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 4 MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

A. Welcome New DDA Member, Renee Kretz:

The DDA members extended a warm welcome to Mrs. Renee Kretz who described herself as a resident and business owner (Kretz Landscaping). She said she likes living in the Township as well as the school system.

B. Approval of the DDA 2021/2022 Budget:

Mr. Taylor presented the 2021/2022 DDA Budget for approval addressing some of the specific line items and noting that the DDA will have funds available in the upcoming fiscal year.

Motion by Mr. Weise, supported by Mr. Wenglikowski to approve the 2021/2022 DDA Budget as presented.

VOTE: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 4 MOTION CARRIED

C. Approval OF Amendment for the 2020/2021 Budget:

Mr. Sika explained that the retro-fitting of the Gratiot Road streetlights by the DPW actually came in under the projected budget at \$9,756.77 to complete. Even though this amount was under the projected cost, there were four streetlights damaged this year. The costs for the repair of those damages needs to be paid up front which makes an amendment to the budget of \$14, 408.00

necessary to cover the costs. The cost of the damages to these streetlights will be reimbursed at a later date from the insurance companies.

Motion by Mr. Duclos, supported by Mr. Weise to approve the 2020/2021 DDA Budget amendment of \$14,408.00.

VOTE: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 4 MOTION CARRIED

D. Approval of the 2021 Over-the-Road Banner Calendar:

The 2021 Over-the Road Banner Calendar was presented to the DDA.

Motion by Mr. Weise, supported by Mr. Wenglikowski to approve the 2021 Over-the-Road Banner calendar with a possible change to the display of the “Rebel Magnolia” banner.

VOTE: YEAS 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 4 MOTION CARRIED

E. Approval of the 2021 Vertical Banner Calendar:

The 2021 Vertical banner calendar was presented for the display of the vertical banners on the streetlight poles along Gratiot Road. It was explained that due to weather, staffing etc. there could possibly be some deviation from the calendar but for the most part it depicts the times when these banners will be displayed.

Motion by Mr. Duclos, supported by Mr. Wenglikowski to approve the 2021 Vertical Banner Calendar.

VOTE: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 4 MOTION CARRIED

Old Business:

A. Gateway Sign West Consideration:

Mr. Sika explained that now that the DDA will have funds available the consideration for a “Gateway West sign” is feasible. He explained that there are three options that are being researched:

- A sign on the MDOT clear vision property at the southeast corner of M-52 and M-46 along with a sign at the northeast corner in front of 7-Eleven.
- One sign in front of the 7-Eleven location or
- A sign on the southeast corner back further from MDOT’s clear vision area on the Trinklein property.

He explained that at this point the research is just starting and communications are just being started to determine if these owners would agree to allow the Township to construct a sign. It is believed that the

possibly of putting such a sign in the MDOT clear vision area is highly unlikely due to their restrictions. The best options may be one of the other two. Since this is in its early stages of determining cost and Location more information on the progress can be presented at future meetings if the DDA agrees it would like to see the staff continue to try to secure a location for the sign as well as more cost information.

Motion by Mr. Duclos, supported by Mr. Wenglikowski to approve moving forward to secure a location and cost for the Gateway West sign(s).

VOTE: **YEAS: 5** **NAYS: 0** **ABSENT: 4** **MOTION CARRIED**

Reports:

Chairperson-in his absence a letter was presented to Mr. Rick Hopper expressing the gratitude of the DDA for the DPW's work on retro-fitting the Gratiot Road streetlights.

Vice Chairperson- Mr. Gray expressed thanks and gratitude to the DPW staff for the work on retro-fitting the Gratiot Road streetlights and the enormous cost savings.

Secretary-none

Board Members- none

Staff- none

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.