



**DRAFT**

**MINUTES**

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
THOMAS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
8215 SHIELDS DRIVE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

**Members Present:**

F. Gray  
R. Weise  
L. Husen  
R. Kretz  
M. Dense  
L. McCoy  
D. Duclos

**Absent:**

T. Radewahn  
M. Wenglikowski

**Others Present:**

R. Taylor, Township Manager  
D. Sika, Community Dev. Dir.  
C. Watt, PI Asst/Code Enf. Officer

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: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Mrs. McCoy, supported by Mr. Weise, to approve the minutes of July 27, 2021.

**VOTE:                YEAS: 7                NAYS: 0                ABSENT: 2                MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of Expenditures:**

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

**VOTE:                YEAS: 7                NAYS: 0                ABSENT: 2                MOTION CARRIED**

### **Presentations**

#### **A. Power Point slide show depicting the changes on Gratiot Road over the years.**

Mr. Taylor gave the introduction to a Power Point slide show narrated by Mrs. Watt that depicted changes and improvements along the Gratiot Road Business Corridor.

### **New Business:**

#### **A. Recognition of businesses who donated to the patriotic flags on Gratiot Road.**

Mr. Sika recognized Jack's Fruit Market, Stroebel Automotive, Gratiot Animal Hospital as well as Dr. & Mrs. Dense for their contributions to the purchase of the patriotic flags along Gratiot Road which was attributed to the efforts of Dr. Dense. Mr. Sika stated that a "thank you" note to these businesses was in order.

Motion by Mr. Weise, supported by Mr. Duclos to send a thank you letter to these contributors expressing sincere thanks and gratitude for their donations.

**VOTE:                YEAS: 7                NAYS: 0                ABSENT: 2                MOTION CARRIED**

#### **B. "Take Pride, Buy Local" Promotion.**

Mr. Gray stated that this is something he felt was part of the DDA message to "buy local" and felt that it was something they should take part in. He added that Mr. Sika had included Mr. Radewahns comment that he felt this was an appropriate investment for the DDA who along with the TTBA is always

working to promote the business district. It was thought that a half-page ad for \$250.00 would work well. The information for the ad will be drafted by Mr. Sika who will then review with Mr. Radewahn.

Motion by Mr. Gray, supported by Mrs. McCoy for the purchase of a half-page ad at \$250.00.

**VOTE: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 MOTION CARRIED**

**C. Bid Approval for Gateway Sign West Pillar Construction.**

Mr. Sika explained that the process for constructing the new Gateway West Sign was moving along quickly with the representatives of 7-Eleven returning the Easement and Maintenance Agreement this week. This gives the Township the ability to start the project a.s.a.p. He noted that a Request for Proposal for bids for the construction of the stone pillars was sent out and two bids were received back. The lower of the two bids was from Tri-Valley Construction at \$18,380.00. Mr. Sika went on to add that a cost breakdown was provided to the DDA in their packets. A couple of the items are estimated costs and are noted as such with three asterisks after. One of which was for the electrical, which he feels will come in lower than the estimate listed. He noted that Leddy Electric has been contracted and will be providing an estimate. Mr. Duclos questioned if the cost should not be by bid from more than one company. There was discussion on use of the Township electrician for projects due to the expectation of quick service and repairs should that need arise. It was agreed among the members to use Leddy Electric for this project as long as they are able to provide a timely estimate and complete the work as such.

It was also mentioned that the DPW would be installing the concrete footers for the pillars. Hopefully the work will begin yet this fall and be completed in it's entirety by May 2022. Mr. Gray did want to express gratitude for the Thomas Township DPW who always seem to be able to provide help on a lot of the DDA projects that have been completed.

Motion by Mr. Duclos, supported by Mrs. McCoy to approve the bid of \$18,380.00 for the construction of the pillars for the Gateway West Sign.

**VOTE: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 MOTION CARRIED**

## **Old Business:**

### **A. Update on Miller & Gratiot Roads pocket park with water fountain.**

Mr. Sika stated that he has spoken with the franchise owner of the 7-Eleven at 7970 Gratiot regarding adding the water feature on the corner of the property which is owned by 7-Eleven. He was completely in favor of this but advised that Dan would have to speak to the business owner and was sure she'd be on board. Mr. Sika will make contact with her if the "go ahead" is given to move forward. He added that the cost that was arrived at was very tentative and felt it may be lower but wanted to err on the side of caution. If the DDA wants to move forward then further work will be done to arrive at a more accurate cost by going out for bids or discussing with a local company who offers this service.

Motion by Mr. Duclos, supported by Dr. Dense to move forward with the water feature project for the corner of Miller and Gratiot Roads.

**VOTE:                      YEAS: 7                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 2                      MOTION CARRIED**

## **Reports:**

**Chairperson-** none

**Vice Chairperson-** none

**Secretary-**none

**Board Members-** Dr. Dense explained to the board that he would be resigning his position after the November meeting. He has sold his portion of the practice and will be retiring to South Bend, Indiana.

**Staff-** Mr. Taylor discussed a new program that was being carried out by the Township Department Heads, Assistants and himself. The program involves visitations to each of the local businesses (excluding larger box stores) to make the Township available to the business owners for discussion of any issues or concerns and to take an active role in how they are doing. Each person has been given approximately twelve businesses to visit and he wants to see contact with them completed by November 1, 2021.

## **Adjournment:**

Mr. Gray adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.