

DDA MINUTES

Regular Meeting

October 15, 2012

7:00pm

Tuscarora Township Hall

Call to order by Dan Nivelt and Cindy Poquette at 7:08pm

Roll call

Present: Brett Lindgren, Diana Mallory, Matt Whitener, Cindy Poquette, Mike Ridley, Scott Lange, Dan Nivelt

Absent: Mike Saker, Jim O'Donnell

Guests: Scott Swanson, Kathy Swanson, John Vance, Janet Vance, Bill Mapes, Josh Martin, Craig Waldron, Guy Wadsworth, Dawn Bodnar, Sherry Lincoln, Melonie Hart, Tom Hart, Craig Goddard and Hilda Goddard

Approval of September Minutes: Due to the Audit the minutes were not available, will table till next meeting in November.

Approval of October 11th, 2012 Minutes: Cindy made a **motion** to approve these minutes, Brett seconded.

Approval of the Agenda: **Motion** was made by Mike Ridley to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and seconded by Matt Whitener.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Lange provided financials to the board for June of 2012 through September of 2012, along with all of the bank statements. Diana made a **motion** to approve all of these reports, Brett seconded.

Unfinished Business: Light poles; A letter was received from Hallophane regarding the powder coat defect in the poles, which outlined options for us to choose from. Touching up, repainting, or returning...A **motion** was made by Matt Whitener to have the defective poles replaced, seconded by Brett Lindgren. A letter will be drafted and sent to them after we receive the refunded money for this project. \$1060.00 plus \$429.00 has been billed to Hallophane for the refund. Hydrel has been unresponsive to our requests and no one will return contact with us. Attempts will be made by Mike Ridley to contact Mike Jones.

Craig Waldron advised that one party should be responsible for the completion and payment of the entire project, to ensure that everything within the project goes smoothly.

Dan Nivelt advised that there is an additional bill to be paid to Bill Mapes for materials and rental equipment, a total of \$1460.17 that was not paid when we held the special meeting on October 11, 2012 to pay Bill Mapes for his services. The **motion** was made by Mike Ridley to pay the bill, and seconded by Cindy. Scott paid the bill, Check #1048. Scott will develop a spreadsheet to clarify what was paid in material/labor and what the budgeted amount for this project entails, so we can stay within the budget for the lights.

Update on the Pathway Project: The pedestrian refuge; easements will be presented to DNR and the ILHS by Cindy. Fleis and Vandenbrink (John DeVol) requested a letter titled “the developmental project agreement” with DNR Trust Fund, but Cindy is unable to locate her copy. Once they receive it they can put it out for bid and possibly be done by Memorial Day. Mike Ridley advised we “plan” on paying for this ourselves. No pending updates on the street scape at this time. The Township needs to be paid for the sidewalk, decorative cap, and stone cap. The total for this was \$26,330.00. Cindy **motioned** to pay the bill, Scott Lange seconded. Check #1049 was written to make this payment.

New Business: Josh Martin was in attendance for discussion of where the lines will go, how much different options may cost etc. He advised that underground cost are very high and may not be an option for this project because of the cost. It is very labor intensive and simply costs more to do than to replace the poles and upgrading the lines to place them in places that were aesthetically pleasing for the streetscape project. MUCH DISCUSSION. Consumers will pay to move poles that are “in the way” of the project. “Billable” options are a concern. We have to do it a certain way to avoid changes which causes the whole project to become “billable” and in effect cause an issue with our budget. MUCH DISCUSSION REGARDING COSTS, AND NONBILLABLE COSTS, to the project and to the consumer/business owner. Josh advised that we complete steps for the future of completing total underground service for a future project. This would relieve a huge expense to the project now, yet provide a benefit to the project in the future. He advised to meet with a designer and work with us on options/costs. Concerns were expressed that we get the poles off the road as far as possible; Josh advised as long as there were no code violations we could put them where they are most concealed and functional. . Mike asked if GILES could provide a proposed estimate for a few different options, so the DDA can choose what design we like and can afford to do for this project. We need ESTIMATES to proceed. Cindy expressed concerns on how other communities are able to bury their lines and we can’t afford it. How did they get it done? Josh advised he doesn’t know, possibly grants. Concerns about what side of the road poles would be, and how many cross overs etc. MUCH DISCUSSION. Placement of transformers was discussed by Josh, after concerns of costs and placement of poles was questioned by Brett. The lines will be “replaced and cleaned up” to beautify the town to accomplish the goal of the streetscape project. Again, options and estimates have to be provided for the board to make a decision regarding the budget and completing this project. How much can we do with what we can borrow? We need that information. Diana commented how nice Onaway looks after their beautification project was completed and they still have poles and overhead wires, they are just strategically placed for optimal aesthetics. Josh was thanked for his time and knowledge on this subject.

Public Comment: Paula wanted to know if this is going to COST her anything and if she is in the DDA district. Dan Nivelt advised Paula’s Café is part of the district as well as Dan’s Auto Repair and that this streetscape project will not cost her anything. Guy commented that the initial goal for the beautification was to be burying the lines for this streetscape project. The board advised it was the goal

but the commitment was not made due to the costs involved with burying the lines completely. We are not able to borrow that kind of money to bury the lines. The streetscape project will be completed whether we bury lines or not. This will be an ongoing project. Hopefully this project will be done this coming Spring.

Next meeting: November 12th, 2012.

Meeting adjourned by Mike Ridley, seconded by Diana Mallory at 8:34 p.m.