

DDA MINUTES

Regular Meeting

August 12, 2013

7:00pm

Tuscarora Township Hall

Call to order by Dan Nivelts at 7:02 pm

Roll call:

Present: Mike Saker, Cindy Poquette, Dan Nivelts, Diana Mallory, Scott Lange and Jim O'Donnell, Brett Lindgren, Matt Whitener, Mike Ridley

Absent: N/A

Guests: 7 in attendance

Approval of the Agenda: Motion was made by Brett Lindgren to approve tonight's agenda supported by Matt Whitener.

Approval/Amended Minutes & Financial report:

Financials for July 2013:

Checking account 7/31/13 ending balance is **\$16,773.14**

IMMA savings account 7/31/13 ending balance is **\$346,885.39**

Total D.D.A. available funds equal **\$363,658.53**

3 bills are scheduled to be paid; two are from Gordie Frazier, one dated for July 29th for \$390 for additional plans sent to MDOT for engineering design service for MDOT for lighting of the streetscape project to include analysis for angle parking, lighting specifications and special provisions. The other is for \$2343.45 for additional Streetscape plans. And the third one is for bid-letting from Fleis and Vandenbrink in the amount of \$5000.00. The motion to pay these three bills was made by Diana Mallory, supported by Cindy Poquette.

July 2013 Meeting Minutes and Financial Report were approved, Cindy Poquette made the motion and Mike Saker supported the motion.

Update on the Pathway Project: The Pathway project was advertised on Friday, and the bid opening will be September 6th!!! We are in MOTION!!!! We are looking at May 15, 2014 as a final day for accepting bids. The Bridge is supposed to be done by December 20th, 2013, weather permitting.

Updates on the Streetscape: If we accept the \$300,000 grant, MDOT will not allow us to have reversed in/angled parking. This will decrease the number of parking spots by 40 in the downtown area. We need to make a decision whether we are going to accept the money or not. Dan talked with Consumers and one option would be to leave the poles where they are that would be no cost to us. That is per CONSUMERS. The second option is to re-arrange the poles to the back of the buildings if we had easements, and that project would cost \$400,000 to \$500,000 with Consumers alone, that is not including costs from Charter. Some poles are owned by Consumers and some by Charter. AT & T would not give a bid. Details are sketchy to what is covered in this amount given by Consumers. They are just throwing in numbers and not providing details as to what is included in those prices. MDOT did not accept our drawings which were designed per their recommendation, even if we accept the \$300,000 it is too late for this year, we have to reapply for this project next year. We were NOT aware of this deadline until Dan Nivelt was told about it today before this DDA meeting. No one contacted the DDA to impress a deadline for this project. Dan's suggestion would be to get Josh Martin and Jeff Allarue together to look at the plans and get firm numbers on the cost of our options. The power line options are not on the prints. Dan was told per Josh Martin that the sewer is not an easement for the power poles. If we tell them what we want in our community for this streetscape project we will be responsible for the entire bill. If we accept the grant money, we will be regulated by these companies to do as they wish for our streetscape project. If we do not accept the grant money, the DDA feels it will be an advantage to go to J. Ranck Electric, Inc. in Mt. Pleasant and get a bid on burying/rearranging options for the power lines and poles. A few DDA members are afraid to give up the task force money, but would it be worth it to get our project done to the community's specifications. **There was much discussion on pro's and con's regarding accepting or rejecting the task force money.** Cindy made a motion to for the DDA Chair to go ahead and get a price from Ranck to put the conduit in to bury power lines, and Dan Nivelt added that he would like to get a meeting with Josh Martin, Ron Lett and possibly Jeff Allarue and Carl Swifner to see if we can get prices from them as well on what WE want to do. Diana supported the motion, all are in support. Dan will also see if the other companies can bury their lines as well. The DDA would like to start a bidding war to stop getting these ridiculous numbers and look at getting Presque Isle involved as well, but they do not own the franchise in our area. We still believe we will get a reasonable estimate from Ranck. Another option, per Mike Ridley, was to look at the cost option of not burying lines and using trees etc. to camouflage the lines on one side of the road, like in Harbor Springs. Dan will present Ranck with our drawings for them to determine the bid. Perhaps Ranck would come to our next meeting to present their options and costs for this project. Dan advised that Ranck may be interested in doing this entire project. He will follow up accordingly.

New Business: Diana requested June minutes; Mike Ridley will get them to me tonight.

Public Comment: A point was brought to our attention, to push the streetscape project through, whether we accept the task force money or not, or this project will not happen. (Sally Snider) Dave Driscoll also voiced his concerns about once this is done, it should provide ample parking and sidewalks for visitors to enjoy and be able to maneuver through town in a safe manner.

Motion to adjourn: Mike Saker motioned to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. and Mike Ridley seconded the motion. There will not be another meeting until the third Monday in September.

Next meeting: September 16, 2013