

DDA MINUTES

Regular Meeting

September 16, 2013

7:00pm

Tuscarora Township Hall

Call to order by Dan Nivelst at 7:01 pm

Roll call:

Present: Mike Saker, Cindy Poquette, Dan Nivelst, Diana Mallory, Brett Lindgren, Mike Ridley

Absent: Scott Lange, Matt Whitener, Jim O'Donnell

Guests: Many in attendance

Approval of the Agenda: A **motion** was made by Brett Lindgren to approve tonight's agenda and was supported by Mike Saker.

Approval/Amended Minutes & Financial report:

Financials for August 2013:

Checking account 8/31/13 ending balance is	\$9039.89
IMMA savings account 8/31/13 ending balance is	\$346,899.65
Total D.D.A. available funds equal	\$355,939.54

2 bills are scheduled to be paid from Gordie Frazier, one for \$1258.50 for CAD Design and drawings. The other is for \$1000.00 which is the final cost/payment for the bid process (\$5000.00). The **motion** to pay these two bills was made by Diana Mallory and supported by Mike Saker.

The **August, 2013 Meeting Minutes** were approved; Diana Mallory made the **motion** and Brett Lindgren supported the motion. **August, 2013 Financials** were also approved; **Motion** made by Cindy Poquette and supported by Mike Ridley.

Update on the Streetscape: Mike and Dan met with Martin and Litzner (Consumers Power) and they advised that they would have an estimate on putting all poles to the East side of the roadway but Dan Nivelst has not received it yet. Dan advised that they said they will have it completed before our next meeting. The estimate will consist of two options, one being the poles all on the East side of the road. AT & T (Jeff Allerod) advised that they would piggy back on these poles (on the East side of the road) with their lines and that it would be no cost to us to do so under the improvement of the street. They

will not guarantee this until they receive a final drawing of the said design. Ranck advised that their estimate would be too expensive to even bid the entire project for the underground option. Dan says that if the Consumers estimate is reasonable for poles to be all on the East side that would be our best option at this point. We have not committed to anything so once we get the estimate we can discuss it at our next meeting. Dan hopes that our start time would be the spring of 2014. Dan Nivelt advised that per Jim Purtil the estimate for plowing the pathway during the winter months is \$500. "Walk and Don't Walk" signals will be put in place soon, per Cindy Poquette.

Updates on the Pathway Project: Bids are in and a pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 2:00 pm. Those who were invited are as follows: Tuscarora Township Supervisor, Cheboygan County Road Commissioner, Mike Roper, Kathy Bunker, Matthew Ridolski, MDOT in Gaylord, Michigan Consolidated Gas, Consumers Energy, AT & T, Charter Communications, Jeff Mead from Mead Brothers Excavating Inc., and Cindy Poquette will be in attendance also. After this meeting we should have a date when this will be started. The middle of October is the favorable time frame.

New Business: None

Public Comment: Public comment was interjected during the update on the streetscape project concerning width for traffic right of way through town to consider a bike path. Mike Ridley advised that there are three different right of way options allotted for traffic. Kathy Swanson voiced concerns and stated exactly what the engineers are allocating for this right of way and obviously was not happy with the engineering plans, yet continued to blame this choice on the DDA for making it unfriendly to bike traffic because the engineers did not allow for that demographic in the plans. Kathy wants to know why this was designed to be so unfriendly to bike traffic. Dan advised that we have a bike/recreational path that travels through Indian River, and no concerns were brought up at public forum regarding a bike right of way on Old 27. She advised that "we" are supposed to be enhancing the "downtown area", which completely contradicts her additional concern with Terry Vouck's property south of town just to the North of Pat and Gary's II, which is not even in the area of the streetscape project improvements. Mike Saker made this point clear that her property is not even in this area where the streetscape project is being implemented. Kathy also voiced that the "back in angled parking" prohibits safe bike travel through the downtown area, but as we are all aware that attend the DDA meetings, that design has been taken off the table at this time and parallel parking is the only option that we are considering at this point. This would be evident to her if she had been in attendance on a regular basis to the public DDA meetings. She implies that the DDA is to blame for making bike traffic unfriendly and that back in angle parking is more important to the DDA than bike traffic access. Cindy advised that at one time there was a bike path integrated into the design. Dan advised that a public hearing was held and this concern was never brought up by Kathy Swanson or anyone else. I advised that this was the first time I have heard of any concerns about a bike path and I have been on the DDA for 13 months. Dan Nivelt agreed with me as well, and he has been on the board for 3 years. Kathy continued to stray from the bike path issue to concerns that discussions were a constant source of frustration for her while she was on the DDA and made accusations of "discussions going on outside of these public meetings". She then insisted on making it clear, "in public", that meetings like this were happening when she was on the DDA Board. Dan asked her if she was accusing the DDA of having private meetings. Her reply was vague. Mike Saker addressed her and stated she had a chance to make a difference when she was on the DDA and she quit. Dan advised he would check into what our limits are for the traffic right of ways and report back at the next meeting with his findings. Kathy Swanson continued by saying that the engineers aren't very good engineers either. Swanson then jumped in with another question regarding the DDA applying for a USDA RD Loan. Dan Nivelt advised he has no knowledge of applying for any such

loan. Swanson stated she has two emails from “Valerie” regarding a loan. Dan Nivelt pulled the document from the USDA and read it to the forum: “This letter is not to be considered as a loan approval or representation of the availability of funds, the document must be completed on the basis of a loan not to exceed 12001.” Dan advised we have discussed the possibility of a loan and that Mike Ridley has been asked to do some research on how much we could borrow IF it is something we may need in the future for this project. The only reason we would ask for a loan is to use that money to complete the project and pay off the loan with the next years recaptured money. Getting a loan is not something that is in this plan, but may be an option, anything is possible. We do also have the option of proposing/levying a millage but we are not going to do that, per Dan Nivelt.

Motion to adjourn: Mike Saker **motioned** to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. and Mike Ridley seconded the motion.

Next meeting: October 21, 2013