

Munising Downtown Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting
January 15, 2020

Members Present: Dale Immel, Rick Bowerman, Travis Cross, Tom Hall, Debbie Nedeau, Rod DesJardins, Jackie Reynolds, Cori Cearley

Members Absent: Pat Gariepy (u)

Others Present: Kathy Reynolds, Pat Sanderson, Jaymie Depew, Devin Olson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dale at 8:00 am.

Approval of Agenda: Rod made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.**

Public Comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2019: Dale asked Rod about the county and Hanley Airfield. Rod confirmed (as reported under Round Table) that there has been an airport committee formed and they want to form an Airport Authority. Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Travis supported. **The motion passed.**

Approval of Bills for Payment:

a. ALTRAN	Superior St Station Annual Contribution for Maintenance Inv #13	\$1,400.04
b. HTC	Phone Land Line	\$40.03
c. Madigan's Hardware	Supplies	\$4.77
d. Cranking Graphics	Website Maintenance Inv #202006	\$6.25
e. Kathy Reynolds	Cell Phone Data Pkg.	\$50.00
f. Munising News	Ad: New Year's Safety Page 35.00 Ad: Holiday Greetings 31.50 (50/50 w/Chamber)	\$66.50
g. Embers Credit Union-VISA	Postage	\$87.50

Rick made a motion to pay the bills as presented, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.**

Budget:

a. November financials: The City is having issues with their software, so we have not received the November financials. Upon receipt they will be forwarded to the board for review. No action is needed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

a. Partnership Building Windows: The board received an estimate from David Walther Contracting to replace the front windows at the Partnership office. Kathy explained that the seal is blown on one window and there are problems with condensation between the panes. There is also a good probability of rot and decay in the wall below the window; the area smells bad. Kathy said there have been numerous upgrades and repairs done to the building since 2011. These have for the most part been paid for by the GMBPCD as their budget allows; the DDA has helped with some costs over the years. Rod made a motion to approve paying for 50% of the cost up to \$2269.64, Debbie supported. The funds will come from Administration; an adjustment will need to be done at year end to increase that budget line as needed. **The motion passed.** Travis asked about the aesthetics of the building tying into the downtown streetscape. Kathy explained that the GMBPCD is only able to do small

improvements annually as the budget allows. The board discussed possibly getting a plan from UPEA for an overall update for the exterior of the building. That would allow the DDA to possibly plan for it in the budget going forward.

b. Downtown Signage for the 2020-21 M28 Road Project: Kathy discussed the possible need for sandwich board signs on Superior St (which will be an east bound one-way during construction on M28 in 2020-21, while M28 will be one-way west bound) to alert traffic that businesses on M28 are open during the construction. These will be generic signs that do not mention any specific businesses by name. Devin said that MDOT will handle signage regarding traffic flow and wayfinding. Devin reminded the board that the City does have a sign ordinance. Rod suggested reaching out to downtown businesses for feedback.

Round Table: Rod said he has 10 months left on the City Commission and is then done. Mike Nettleton is Mayor pro tem and he will likely step down after one year. Rod left at 8:40

New Business Continued:

c. Event Funding Request – Pictured Rocks Days: The board received the request from the GMBPCD for \$500 for Pictured Rocks Days. The board will take it under advisement and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

Other Business: None

Executive Director's Update/Partnership Update: Kathy said the Thompson Vet is closing their Munising office tomorrow, due to a lack of vets. Audrey DesArmo is retiring, closing Land and Lakes Real Estate, and the building is for sale. The Rekindle Grand Giveaway went well and we hit the \$2 million mark for receipts turned in since 2011. Kathy and Cori will be attending the Pure Michigan the week of Feb 16, so they will not be in town for the next meeting. The board agrees to meet February 12, 2020. Kathy is working on writing an MEDC CDBG grant for the apartments over the Harley shop. Jackie left at 8:50.

City Manager's Report: Devin reported the MDOT bid letting is in March. Devin will have a draft copy of the master plan for the DDA at the Feb 12 meeting for review and input.

Round Table Discussion: Kathy said she had a conversation with Dennis West, Northern Initiatives, and he reported that the UP population is the lowest it has been in 100 years and the average age of its citizens is getting older. Kathy said employers need to look at ways to retain workers that are looking to retire instead of trying to replace them. Dale said that healthcare is a major driver in work force choices. Cori said we need to encourage local business owners and others to apply for local government seats and get involved.

Adjournment: Cori made a motion to adjourn at 9:09, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.**

Next meeting: February 12, 2020