

Munising Downtown Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting
October 18, 2023
Fuzzy Boyak Welcome Center, 8am

Members Present: Dale Immel, Travis Cross, Rick Bowerman, Mike Nettleton, Cori Cearley, Angela Gerou, Pat Gariepy, Deb Nedeau arrived at 8:02

Members Absent: Tom Hall (e)

Others Present: Kathy Reynolds, Pat Sanderson, Devin Olson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dale Immel at 8:01 am.

Approval of Agenda: Cori made a motion to approve the agenda, Rick supported. **The motion passed.**

Public Comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2023: Travis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mike supported. **The motion passed.**

Approval of Bills for Payment:

a. HTC	Phone land line	\$43.06
b. Kathy Reynolds	Cell phone data pkg	\$60.00
c. Madigan's Ace Hardware	Weed N Feed	\$21.99
d. GMBPCD	2 nd Qtr. Contribution 22,851.05	\$26,382.36
	1 st Qtr. Shortage 2,592.50	
	50% payroll for Madora Sutherland (Sept) 938.81	
e. Fishbeck	Renovare/Munising Marketplace/ Brownfield Consulting Sept 2023	\$1,112.50

Rick made a motion to approve the bills for payment, Mike supported. **The motion passed.**

Budget:

a. September 2023 Financials: The board received the Sept 2023 financials. No action was needed or taken.

New Business:

a. DDA Parking Lot: Dale said he is aware of two possible apartment developments that have been impacted by not having the required parking needed, one of which is currently not moving forward. Dale and Kathy have discussed the possibility of the DDA developing a parking lot and possibly leasing out some spots to those needing parking and having pay to park public parking. Dale will reach out to the owners of the old Bob's IGA property and inquire about purchasing the property with the intention of the DDA demolishing the building and turning it into a public parking lot. The building would come off the tax roll. Downtown parking is on the current DDA 20-year plan. Dale will update the board when he has information.

b. Event Funding-Rekindle the Spirit: The GMBPCD is requesting funding of \$500 for the event. This event will take place on the evening of November 30 and includes the Santa parade, wagon rides, local shopping promos, Santa photos, etc. The board will take the request under advisement and make a decision at the next meeting.

c. Event Funding-Rekindle Grand Giveaway: The GMBPCD is requesting funding of \$500 for the event. This event runs for three weeks and encourages and rewards people to shop locally in Alger County. Last year over \$8,000 in prizes (all donated or purchased locally) were given away. The board will take the request under advisement and make a decision at the next meeting.

Old Business:

a. Renovare: The Munising DDA, Munising City Commission and Alger County Brownfield had all already approved the project and said paperwork for the Renovare project (Munising Marketplace and old Firehall development). The County Commission was the final step that needed approval for the project to move forward. The County Commission voted 2-2, so the proposal did not pass. This makes the previously approved funding from the County Brownfield moot. The County Commission already approved the funding from the land bank and that will stand. There will be a special County Commission meeting on the subject on October 27 to try for another vote. Devin said the City Brownfield could be reactivated and the project run through it. The DDA may need to set up some special meetings to deal with possible new paperwork and approvals. Until the October 27 meeting everything is on hold.

Other Business: None

Executive Director's Update: Kathy discussed a UTV that she and Devin are looking to purchase for the DDA gardening. The cost is between \$17,000-\$20,000 and the city can get a substantial discount. The City ARPA committee has recommended \$8,000 in funding, though the city will still have to approve it once the final costs are known. Currently the vehicles are 3-5 months out for delivery. Kathy will update the board when she has more concrete information. All costs for the vehicle (purchase, fuel, maintenance, etc.) would be paid by the DDA. Kathy serves on the board for UP Art Alliance, and they recently completed an economic impact study of art and culture on local economies. Kathy will share the condensed results with the board. Kathy recently attended a DDA/MEDC workshop. Madora has finished for the season and will return in the spring. Kathy discussed the contract the GMBPCD has with MichiganWorks that allows Kathy and Pat to have fringes. The contract has been approved with basically the same contribution from MichiganWorks as last year.

City Manager's Report: Devin said the boat launch will go out to bid next week. There are also a couple of other projects going to bid. The USDA grant application is also going in for the Washington St water/sewer project.

Round Table Discussion: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 8, 2023.

Adjournment: Travis made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 am, Mike supported. **The motion passed.**