

Munising Downtown Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting
December 20, 2023
Fuzzy Boyak Welcome Center, 8am

Members Present: Dale Immel, Travis Cross, Rick Bowerman, Mike Nettleton, Pat Gariepy, Cori Cearley, Angela Gerou

Members Absent: Tom Hall (e), Debbie Nedeau (u)

Others Present: Kathy Reynolds, Pat Sanderson, Devin Olson, Dale Hansen, Jason Denman arrived at 8:12

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dale Immel at 8:03 am.

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

Public Comment:

a. Munising Beacon, Dale Hansen: Dale Hansen from the Munising Beacon was in attendance. Board introductions were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2023: Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Travis 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. GMBPCD	Dropbox P Sanderson (50%) 59.94 Printer (50%) 34.50	\$94.44
d. Fishbeck	Renovare/Munising Marketplace/ Brownfield Consulting Oct 2023	\$460.00
e. Imperial Electric	Downtown streetlight repairs	\$1,795.60
f. Madigan's Hardware	Supplies for downtown decorating	\$72.51
g. Embers CC	Light bulbs for Art in the Alley 19.99 Trophy for decorating contest 21.98	\$41.97

Discussion on streetlight improvements. Kathy said it seems to be a constant thing with either the lights themselves or issues with the holiday decorations. She also said we did end up spending over the amount initially discussed for Fishbeck on Renovare brownfield consulting.

Travis made a motion to approve the bills for payment, Angela supported. **The motion passed.**

Budget:

a. November 2023 Financials: The board received the November 2023 financial reports. Devin said the audited numbers for FYE June 2023 will be in the next financial reports. Dale said the budget still looks good. No action was needed or taken.

New Business: None

Old Business:

a. Event Funding, Munising Car Show (Requested \$1,000): Rick made a motion to approve funding of \$500 to the Munising Bay Cruisers for the car show in September 2024, Travis supported. **The motion passed.**

Other Business: The board discussed the Renovare projects. Kathy said they are still trying to get a grocer to lease space in the Marketplace building. Devin said it is his understanding that some final approvals are still needed for funding and the final purchase of properties cannot take place until then. There are purchase agreements in place.

Executive Director's Update: Kathy said that as part of DDA requirements the City Treasurer will be preparing the necessary financial report. Rekindle the Spirit was a great success with a good turnout. The DDA decorating contest was won by Denman's Hardware and there was very good business participation this year. There was over \$9,000 in prizes awarded for the Rekindle Grand Giveaway with 94 total winners. Kathy said the office will be mostly closed until after the 1st of the year with messages and mail checked, bills paid, and deposits made. Chris Berry is the new city rep on the GMBPCD board. Kathy said Lisa Howard with Munising Township reached out for help looking for grant funding opportunities for McQuisten Park. They want to put in pickleball courts, bathrooms and upgrades on their boardwalk. Kathy suggested the MEDC Public Spaces Community Places crowdfunding platform for the pickleball courts. They will look at other state funding options for the bathrooms and boardwalk. She also discussed the seats available on the County Brownfield and her being up for reappointment. Devin said he just found out he was appointed along with Roxanne Steinhoff and Kathy was not reappointed.

City Manager's Report: Devin said the audit report will be submitted and everything looks good. The city fund balance is healthy.

Round Table Discussion: Mike said Devin just celebrated his 10th anniversary as the city manager and commended him for all that has been accomplished in that time. The DDA board agreed. Kathy discussed a UPCDC labor study, and the board was emailed the entire study. Devin reported the city is working with some local partners to purchase some property on the east side of town. Alger County Conservation District would manage the property and it would be a good bird watching and hiking area. It's about 370 acres. Kathy said PRNL reported flat visitation numbers. Cori discussed an issue with trail 422 leading to Miners Castle. The Alger County Road Commission wants to close access in November 2024. Cori will be working on a solution with MDNR. This trail has been an issue since 2016.

Adjournment: Mike made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 am, Cori supported. **The motion passed.**