

Munising Downtown Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting
February 21, 2024
Fuzzy Boyak Welcome Center, 8am

Members Present: Dale Immel, Travis Cross, Tom Hall, Mike Nettleton, Pat Gariepy, Angela Gerou, Debbie Nedeau

Members Absent: Rick Bowerman (e), Cori Cearley (e)

Others Present: Kathy Reynolds, Pat Sanderson, Devin Olson

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

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

Public Comment:

a. Event Funding - Rotary Club of Munising, funding for “Salmon in the Classroom”: Kathy and Devin are both members of Rotary. The funding request of \$375 would be used to promote the event to raise funds for testing equipment. The request will be taken under advisement with a decision made at the next meeting.

b. Event Funding – GMBPCD, funding for Pictured Rocks Days on June 8 & 9. Kathy said the requested funding of \$500 will help with the overall costs of putting on the two-day event, including marketing, bands, entertainment, sound, etc. All bands have been booked, sponsorship requests are being made, and vendors are beginning to sign up. The request will be taken under advisement with a decision made at the next meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2024: Travis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Angela supported. **The motion passed.**

Approval of Bills for Payment:

a. HTC	Phone land line	\$43.08
b. Kathy Reynolds	Cell phone data pkg	\$60.00
c. Imperial Electric	Streetlight repair/M28 & Superior	\$150.00
d. Mike Stockwell	Website maintenance (July-Dec 2023)	\$23.00
e. GMBPCD	Dropbox K Reynolds (50%)	\$59.94

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

Budget:

a. January 2024 Financials: The board received the January 2024 financial reports. No action was needed or taken.

New Business:

a. UTV, golf cart, sprayer for gardening: The board received various quotes for a UTV, golf cart and pull behind garden sprayer to be used for hauling water for gardening in the downtown and hauling dirt, mulch, etc. Kathy had originally been looking at a Bobcat UTV, but a utility golf cart is about half the cost. If outfitted with flashing lights, etc. it would be approved as a city/DDA owned vehicle to operate in town. It would be parked out behind the office and could be stored by the city in the winter. Dale will try to get a price for a Yamaha UMAX2 with a larger cargo box and information will be presented at the March meeting.

b. AED purchase: Devin said the city will be purchasing several AEDs with Sheila Peters with the county providing training. Kathy would like the city to purchase an additional one that the DDA will pay for, and it would be housed at the office. The cost is about \$1,000. Deb made a motion to approve the purchase by the DDA, Angela supported. **The motion passed.**

c. Event Funding application revisions: The board reviewed the current application. Kathy had some suggestions, and more were added after board discussion. The application will be updated. The board also discussed the 4th of July funding and Pictured Rocks Days funding, which are both long running events supported by the DDA. A line item will be added to the next budget with \$3,000 in funding to cover the two events.

Old Business:

a. Renovare: Dale said Renovare is still working on trying to get committed retail tenants to satisfy MEDC requirements for funding. The Alger County Landbank is looking for the community to form a food co-op to occupy a retail space in the building and the Landbank would guarantee the monthly lease. The Landbank is an autonomous board that can be a pass through for projects, such as the Renovare development. The Landbank is funded by tax foreclosed property sales and grant funding. Renovare is also looking at a fast-food restaurant as a tenant. Retail on the ground floor is required for city zoning and financing requirements of the project.

Executive Director's Update: Kathy talked about a historical mural she is pursuing for the Auto Value building. There is a UPEDA virtual event tomorrow regarding tourism with Dave Lorenz as the keynote speaker. The lack of snow in the region has had a big impact on many businesses. Kathy has talked with business owners and the MVB and many businesses reported being down 70-90%. Many tourism/hospitality workers are deeply impacted. Talks are going on around the state and region to see if there will be any help from the government, such as possibly low interest government backed loans.

City Manager's Report: Devin said the city is waiting for some projects to begin and some could start early if the mild weather persists. There is a list of items related to the M28 road project that need to be taken care of.

Round Table Discussion: Mike said the county wants to implement a tax on tourists. He will be following any developments.

Adjournment: Angela made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 am, Deb supported. **The motion passed.**

Next Meeting: March 20, 2024