



Charter Township of Meridian  
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)  
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864  
Monday, March 1, 2021 – Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Susan Fulk, Renee Korrey, Scott Weaver, Peter Campbell, Bill Cawood, Supervisor Ron Styka, Jim Raynak and Tom Stanko

**Members**

**Absent:** Jim Spanos and Will Randle

**Staff**

**Present:** Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, and Township Manager Frank L. Walsh

**Others**

**Present:** Treasurer Phil Deschaine and Planning Commissioner Mark Blumer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Korrey called the meeting to order at 7:31am and read the mission statement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER WEAVER. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Member Cawood stated he was not in attendance at the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and his name should be removed as present.

**MOTION BY MEMBER RAYNAK TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER STANKO. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Mattison provided a summary update on the unaudited December year-end financial statements. She did mention that there was a bank error on the bank statement in December for \$209.90. This withdrawal was posted to the DDA account in error and was quickly corrected by the bank in January. Report is on file.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

Director Clark stated the February Consumers Energy bill of \$158.13 was prepaid.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Village of Okemos Progress Report

Director Clark reported that the pandemic has impacted construction costs. Additional financial resources are being investigated. The Match on Main program through the MEDC would reimburse up to \$25,000 for a new or existing business renovations in an established DDA. The DDA must apply on behalf of the business. The application window closes Friday. Should we have a project next year, we can apply for this benefit. The developers are working on site preparation this fall with an anticipated 2022 construction.

b. Township Transportation Plan 2021

Director Clark stated included in the packet is the summary of the 2021 Transportation Plan that was presented to the Township Board in December. Also, included in the plan is the Okemos Road Bridge Project over the Red Cedar River between Mt. Hope Road and Clinton Street. This project will include replacement of the existing NB and SB structures with single 5 lane, single span bridge including a pedestrian facility along the east side, along with bridge approach and Mt. Hope intersection reconstruction, traffic signal and sidewalk/ramp reconstruction. This project is set to begin early 2022, and be completed in summer 2022.

c. Village of Okemos Celebration Subcommittee Update

Chair Korrey reported there is no new updates. She has had conversations with residents that seem to be interested in an open air market with goods to buy and sell along with some music on a small stage. Manager Walsh mentioned the Township is considering offering a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display this summer. Other communities are considering that, as well.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. REPORTS

A. Township Board

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- The Board has continued the emergency order allowing for virtual meetings.
- The Board approved small food pantries to be available throughout the pandemic to the community at the two libraries and local churches.
- Recreational marijuana is being discussed.

B. Planning Commission

Planning Commissioner Mark Blumer provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

C. Chair Report

None.

#### D. Staff Report

Director Clark reported on the upcoming developments. The DDA will be discussing outreach and retention in the DDA area next month. She is also working on a community survey.

#### E. Township Manager

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Working on the once every 3 years citizen survey
- Please share your opinions with the Board or the Planning Commission regarding recreational marihuana.
- The Township has applied for an art grant through LEAP for the Marketplace on the Green.
- The enhanced deer management program is going well with 301 of the 326 deer goal.
- Solar will be installed on the roof of the Service Center building and it will power 100% of the electricity in the building.
- The Central Park Boardwalk is complete.

#### 10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine announced today is the final day to turn in taxes before it goes onto the County for collection. Taxes paid this year were similar to pre pandemic levels.

#### 11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

#### 12. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. April 5, 2021, 7:30am

#### 13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection.