

West Branch Township DDA

1705 S. Fairview Road, West Branch, MI 48661
Phone: (989) 345-5450 EXT 2. Fax: (989) 345-8419
www.westbranchtownship.org/wbtwp-dda

Meeting Minutes January 18th 2024

Meeting Called to order at 4:00 pm with Pledge

Members Present – Bob Griffin Jr., Greg Morris, Jay Spaulding, Mark Pecella, Jim Morris and Brad Neubecker

Members absent – Ken Gildner & Laura Hanlon

Others Present at Meeting – Scott Bell, Jeremy Hickmott & Diane Philbrick

Meeting Minutes – Meeting Minutes from December 21st 2023 were approved with Motion from M. Pecella and 2nd by J. Spaulding. ALL YES ON ROLL CALL.

President's Report – Not much to Report at Time of Meeting other than Library issues which was on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jay Spaulding provided a written Treasurers report to the board at the time of the meeting (digital copies were sent to board members) as of time of Meeting, which included details regarding T.I.F allocations and expenditures for the past month. The report included a review of the DDA checking, savings, and CD accounts which combine had a total of \$491,007.89 as of January 18th 2024. The board was also provided information from West Branch Township Treasurer Diane Philbrick regarding CD'S that the DDA currently has and also about the interest rates for those CD's.

Motion by B. Neubecker and 2nd by J. Morris to approve the Treasurer's report. ALL YES ON ROLL CALL.

The Following Invoices were submitted to the Treasurer for Payment.

- Jeremy R. Hickmott (Contracted Work), Invoice Number 03-10 - \$1,000 (Payroll).

Motion by M. Pecella and 2nd by J. Morris to approve the above invoice totaling \$1,000. ALL YES ON ROLL CALL.

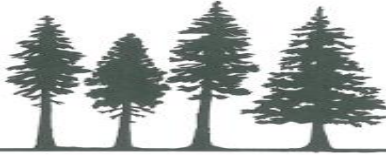
Old Business:

Library Legal Results from Appeal - Attorney Client privileged information was given to the DDA Board members prior to the scheduled meeting. The DDA board had some general discussions on the results of the appeal including the fact that the DDA no longer sees a financially viable path to push for an additional appeal and considering that the library collection would stop in 2029 regardless, the general consensus was that it made more sense to stop spending money on appeals and focus forward on activities within the DDA district. It was noted that the DDA though this legal action did create a future precedent for other municipalities that may run into this same issue.

NO MOTION WAS NEED ON ABOVE SUBJECT.

Future Projects –The board also discussed options pertaining to the Outlet Mall, the Ogemaw Hills Recreation facility, and needed upgrades at the Disk Golf Course. In regards to the Ogemaw Hills creation facility the board also had discussions regarding the leases that are involved with the properties and also about grant funding for future improvements.

NO MOTIONS WERE MADE ABOUT FUTURE PROJECTS.



New Business:

Ogemaw County Economic Development (EDC) Contribution – The board was presented an annual request from the Ogemaw County EDC. The board had some discussions on when the last EDC contribution was made and it was mentioned that it had been over a year since the last contribution (which was \$6,000 in December 2023). The board also had discussions on what the money goes for and the activities that the EDC has been doing for the county. The EDC report was also shared with the DDA Board.

Motion by G. Morris and 2nd by J. Morris to approve a contribution to the Ogemaw County EDC in the amount of \$3,000 for the year. ALL YES ON ROLL CALL.

Public Comment – Comments were brought up regarding an interested individual being placed on the DDA board and if the board had vacancies currently. It was mentioned that the DDA board does have room for one more member. The board asked that regulations on who can set on the board be looked at and also that information be sent to the interested individual.

The Date for the Next Meeting was scheduled for February 15th 2024 at 4:00 PM at the West Branch Township Hall.

Motion by J. Morris and 2nd by B. Neubecker to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, ALL YES.

Bob Griffin Jr.
Chairperson

Jeremy R. Hickmott
Recording Secretary