

West Branch Township DDA

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Meeting Minutes March 21st 2024

Meeting Called to order at 4:00 pm with Pledge

Members Present – Bob Griffin Jr., Greg Morris, Jay Spaulding, Jim Morris, Laura Hanlon & Brad Neubecker

Members absent – Ken Gildner & Mark Pacella

Others Present at Meeting – Eight (8) citizens present at meeting.

Meeting Minutes – Meeting Minutes from February 15th 2024 were approved with Motion from J. Morris and 2nd by G. Morris. ALL YES ON ROLL CALL.

President's Report – Not much to Report at Time of Meeting but mentioned things have been holding steady.

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 \$601,143.64 as of March 19th 2024.

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

The Following Invoices were submitted to the Treasurer for Payment.

- Jeremy R. Hickmott (Contracted Work), Invoice Number 03-12 - \$1,000 (Payroll).

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

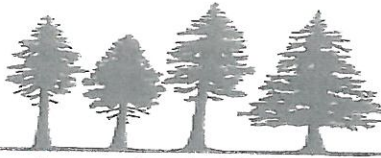
Old Business:

T.I.F Plan Projects / Surplus Planning – the board was presented a detailed sheet detailing and explaining first off the detailed projects in both the 2007 and the 2020 T.I.F Plans. The sheet also detailed the costs associated with projects listed in the T.I.F plan which ranged from \$75,000 up to 6.275 Million dollars. This information was provided in an effort to explain why the DDA saves money and also looks for way to earn further interest for upcoming projects. It was also mentioned that by the DDA saving money it helps so the DDA does not take on further bonded debt which ultimately costs the DDA and the Tax payers more money by paying added interest on the debt if debt is taken on.

NO MOTION WAS NEED ON ABOVE SUBJECT.

New Business:

Annual Schedule –The board was presented with the annual schedule for the 2024 – 2025. This schedule included the dates and time for the scheduled meeting for the year. It was noted that in August 2024 the DDA Board will not be having a meeting due to the Ogemaw County Fair. It was also mentioned about the two informational meetings in a year which were scheduled for April and October of 2024.



Motion by J. Morris and 2nd by J. Spaulding to Approve the schedule for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year. ALL YES ON ROLL CALL.

Banner Information (Re-design) – The board was provided information about the Banners along the Business Loop. It was mentioned that the current Banners have been up for about 5 years now and that it might be time for an update / upgrade to the current design. The board was given a design for the new banners that was more in line with the Project Rising Tide information from back in 2017 and 2018 and it was also mentioned that the opinion of the visitor bureau was sought out and they had supported the redesign as well. Details were provided on a separate sheet that detailed costs, materials, and the fact that the “Farm Meets the City Slogan” would remain on the banners as well. S. Gilbert did interrupt the board with questioning why the Chamber or the Visitors bureau were even part of the equation and also went on with a confusing statement about a Veterans Banner program he was doing but details were limited on that.

Motion by J. Morris and 2nd by L. Hanlon to purchase the redesigned banners for the Business Loop area including a portion of M-55 and M-76. Yes – J. Morris, G. Morris, J. Spaulding, L. Hanlon, No – B. Griffin Jr. & B. Neubecker. Motion Approved.

Informational Meeting Info. – The board reminded of the Upcoming Informational meeting scheduled for April 18th 2024 at 4:00 PM at the West Branch Township Hall, this is the first of the two required informational meeting for the year as required by law. It was also mentioned that there was a joint DDA Meeting scheduled for March 28th 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Ogemaw Township Hall.

NO MOTION WAS NEEDED ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.

Gilbert Presentation – Gilbert Presentation – S. Gilbert presented to the West Branch Township DDA board a presentation about his opinion of numerous different things in the community, including the Township. Claims that were made included numerous codes blight and zoning violation which included pictures of private residences, commercial businesses, and real estate signs. The items in the presentation also included pictures of a daycare facility, real estate signs that are (exempt under zoning), and equipment that is part of approved & established businesses. Much of the presentation was beyond the scope of the DDA and, was outside the DDA district all the way around. The main theme seemed to be to stop the Townships West Branch Steel project, as too expensive, and to create further maintenance to the township or DDA by mowing grass on both sides of the business loop, from I-75 to Sunrise Gas station. Currently grass is mowed on both sides of the walking paths, but not on the east side of the business loop. It was discussed that those additional areas are within the MDOT right away, and permissions would need to be given, and also that it would likely be very expensive.

Public Comment – Tommy Dault provided a bit of information pertaining to a proposed mixed use development on M-76 on township owned property. Also citizens brought up claims about the false hoods S. Gilbert made pertaining to several images in his presentations including trailers on M-55 that are used as part of a business that has been well established even before zoning was implemented in West Branch Township in 2006.

The Date for the Next Meeting was scheduled for April 18th 2024 at 4:00 PM at the West Branch Township Hall.

Motion by J. Spaulding and 2nd by B. Griffin Jr. to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 PM. ALL IN FAVOR, ALL YES.

Bob Griffin Jr.
Chairperson

Jeremy R. Hickmott
Recording Secretary