

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Record of the February 17, 2016 Regular Board Meeting**

APPROVED

Members Present: Roscoe Smith, Jim Stevenson, Mike Maher, Matt Barnes, John Hirzel, Mike Zurek, Supervisor Hamill (arrived at 6:55pm)

Absent: Cassie Blascyk, Dale Feigley

Staff Present: Melissa Dashevich, Director

Visitors: 1 - Kris Kopacki

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:27 PM.

Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2016

MR. STEVENSON MOVED TO APPROVE the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 21, 2016 as corrected (add Mr. Maher's name to 'Members Present'). MR. BARNES SUPPORTED and THE MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote (6 yes votes).

Director's Report

Mrs. Dashevich reviewed her report, and is attached for board member review.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hirzel stated there are not many changes at this point. There is some discussion about the possibility of TIF dollars being eliminated and if there are provisions in place for the repayment of existing debts. Much discussion took place regarding the politics of these issues, as well as the possibility of attending the second annual MDA Lansing Day in Lansing on March 24th. Advocacy is very important and attendance at this event critical.

NEW BUSINESS

Main Street Oakland County Refresher Meeting

Mrs. Dashevich stated the purpose of the Refresher was to review the four committees and their goals. It is suggested that each committee meet as needed based on projects, rather than a mandatory monthly meeting. Mrs. Dashevich proposes a planning and goal meeting (an annual event/retreat) to reevaluate each committee's work plans and goals. Is a consultant needed to assist with planning? It was also noted the Economic Restructuring Committee was renamed Economic Vitality.

OLD BUSINESS

School Property Update

Much discussion took place regarding Highland Township's proposal to the HVS board regarding the land swap. There was also discussion of using a dedicated Spinal Column package bringing this issue into the public eye!!! Mr. Stevenson thought it might cost approximately \$3,500.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Dashevich stated that work is in process of securing sponsorships for the Summer Concert Series.

MAIN STREET OAKLAND COUNTY EVALUATION IS THIS FRIDAY at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Dashevich distributed packets, and spoke of the agenda and expectations. Business owners are welcome between 1:00 and 2:00. Summary meeting will take place at 3:00.

COMMUNITY REPORT

Thrive and Huron River Quilts have left Highland. Several new businesses have moved in. The lumberyard building on M59 just east of John Street has sold.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith shared results of an internet survey developed through the Highland Community Roundtable. Three Hundred Ninety Two (392) people responded; regarding a question on how the public would like to be kept informed, it was decided that not everyone uses social media, so other ways should be available, including old-fashioned mailings to every household for important events, etc. Favorite things about Highland were rural atmosphere, small town feel, and locally run businesses.

Supervisor Hamill shared that some progress has been made towards Safe Routes for School. They are hoping to fill in the 'gaps' of sidewalks just outside of the downtown area to connect larger areas.

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Roscoe Smith

ARS/kb