

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Record of the May 18, 2011 Meeting  
APPROVED**

**Members Present:** Matt Barnes; Doug Bourgeois (arrived approximately 6:45); John Dowson; Dale Feigley; John Hirzel; Beth Lewis; Mike Maher; Paul Mecklenborg; Triscia Pilchowski; Roscoe Smith

**Members Absent:** Gail Perrin

**Staff Present:** Melissa Dashevich

**Visitors Present:** Rick Hamill

**Mr. Roscoe Smith called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.**

**Approve Regular Board Minutes of April 20, 2011**

**MS. PILCHOWSKI MOVED to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2011 as corrected. SUPPORTED BY MR. FEIGLEY and the motion carried with a roll call vote (9 yes votes).**

Mr. Smith asked that the Agenda order be changed so that Call to the Public is heard next for a member of the Milford Historical Society was present this evening who wanted to speak. The Board agreed.

Ms. Linda Dagenhardt, a volunteer who is very dedicated to her community, was present this evening requesting funding and or volunteers for the Huron Valley Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration taking place in Milford Central Park on June 25 & 26, 2011. She distributed a Schedule of Events to the Board Members and stated the majority of the activities are free to the public. The picture on the Schedule of Events was Oscar Ruggles who was born and raised in Highland, Michigan. Ms. Dagenhardt left the meeting so that the Board could discuss the sponsorship opportunity.

Ms. Dashevich and the Board discussed the budget and that the Promotions Committee will not expend its entire projected budget. It was discussed the Schedule Events is very impressive and this is an event that will be enjoyed by the community.

**MS. PILCHOWSKI MOVED to contribute \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars) from the Promotions Budget to The Huron Valley Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration to take place on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2011. Supported by MR. MIKE MAHER and the motion carried with a roll call vote: Maher – yes; Hirzel – yes; Dowson – yes; Lewis – yes; Feigley – yes; Barnes – yes; Mecklenborg – yes; Pilchowski – yes and Smith – yes (9 yes votes)**

**Director's Report**

Ms. Dashevich reviewed her Director's Report and the report is attached to these minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Executive Director** – To be discussed in Executive Session

**Sidewalks**

A Special Board Meeting of May 12, 2011 took place with Tad Krear, Land Design Studios, Steve Sutton and Jeff Hught of Nowak and Fraus. At this meeting a project summary sheet was

presented totaling \$503,155.70. The project costs were broken down into blocks such as Ruggles to M-59 for example. There were different options presented in some of the block breakdowns particularly for the area connecting to Colasanti's. There are flooding issues in front of Colasanti's and the current boardwalk is basically covered by water. The options presented this evening included a new helical boardwalk or directing the sidewalk to the parking lot avoiding the flooding issues. Also presented was an option for an East Livingston Streetscape. This project summary included different elements of the projects and the costs associated with it.

What needs to be decided this evening is if the DDA Board is interested to continue with the project and to what extent.

Ms. Corwin was present this evening. She referenced a memo dated May 19, 2011, reviewing the HDDA conceptual sidewalk plan that was presented on May 12<sup>th</sup>. This memo is attached to these minutes. She discussed her findings with the Board. Some of the points that she noted was there are some permanent and construction easements that will need to be obtained, some of the landscaping proposed is actually in private property and not in the ROW. She also expressed concerns with how the requirements of the Road Commission will affect the cost estimate. Approximately 80% of the \$503,155.70 presented is the actual sidewalk construction. The remaining 20% is extras such as landscaping.

Mr. John Hirzel stated although due diligence needs to be done, he felt it would be a benefit to do the entire project at once including East Livingston. He felt it would be an efficient use of tax payers' money being that interest earnings are low. It would actually be more costly to do the projects in phases. He suggested that a loan could be taken out for a portion of the project. He presented examples of different borrowed amounts for different time frames.

Mr. Hamill stated Huron Valley State Bank is interested in purchasing a bond for the project.

Discussion took place about the improvements on private property and how it can be addressed, for example obtaining easements or having property owners fund some of it.

There was discussion of the merits of doing the project all at once as well as the merits of bonding or borrowing money. There will need to be a presentation to the Township Board presenting the details and legalities of borrowing money for this entire project.

Mr. Smith asked each board member their thoughts on the scope of the project.

Ms. Pilchowski stated she is in support of a sidewalk project none of the extras such as lighting.

Mr. Mecklenborg stated he would be interested in the entire project.

Mr. Barnes stated he would be interested in the entire project especially if bonding is possible. He felt strongly that sidewalks are needed.

Mr. Bourgeois was not in favor of borrowing money, he would be interested in scaling the project back and doing only what money on hand allows.

Mr. Feigley stated if the numbers are close, we need to do the entire project as once. He feels it will be more costly to do the project in phases.

Mr. Dowson stated he is not in favor of borrowing money. He would be interested in doing what we can afford.

Ms. Lewis was in favor of financing to do the entire project; however, she feels an alternate plan should be in the place should the financing option not happen.

Mr. Hirzel was in favor of financing in order to do the entire project.

Mr. Maher was in favor of financing. He felt the project could be trimmed a bit, such as removing some of the lights etc.

Mr. Smith was interested in doing the entire project at once; however, he is concerned with financing because of the DDA issues in Lansing.

The HDDA board members would like to have a special board meeting with the Township Board. Mr. Smith will form a Special Task Force Committee to prepare a presentation for the Township Board.

Mr. Hamill has hired a lawyer to investigate bonding and DDA's.

**MR. FEIGLEY moved to pursue the project in total and to secure any funds necessary to accomplish that. Supported by MR. MECKLENBORG and the motion carried with a roll call vote: Maher – yes; Hirzel – yes; Lewis – yes; Dowson – no; Feigley – yes; Bourgeois – no; Barnes – yes; Mecklenborg – yes; Pilchowski – no and Smith; yes (7 – yes and 3 – no)**

#### **PARADE**

Those marching will meet at the Church of the Nazarene on Livingston near M-59 at 9:15 am. The plan is to have a golf cart representing the DDA sporting the DDA Banner with one of our local musicians playing the guitar. Magnets of the concert schedule will be passed out to the crowd.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hirzel reviewed the Treasurer's report. There were no concerns expressed.

Committee Reports:

Design: Sidewalks discussed earlier in the minutes.

Economic Restructuring – The current co-op advertisement in Home Town Connections was reviewed. The next ad will be for the arts in the district and the summer concerts will be promoted. This group is working jointly with Highland White Lake Business Association with getting a shop local logo in place and both bodies are considering a page layout with the Milford Times to promote local business.

Organization Meeting – Did not meet this month.

Promotions: Ms. Pilchowski reported that the main acts for the concerts are secured and now the opening acts are being selected. The first concert is Gemini and face painting for the children is being arranged. We are also arranging for some small farm animals to be present, this is still being investigated.

#### ***District Review***

Huron Valley Quilts has moved into our district. They are located near the Basket Sampler in the same area as Comeback Inn and D's Café.

***Community Reports***

***Upcoming Meetings/Events - None Offered***

***Call to the Public*** – None

**At 8:15 pm Mr. Smith adjourned to the Executive Session.**

APPROVED