

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Record of the March 20, 2013 Board Meeting
APPROVED**

Members Present: Roscoe Smith, Gail Perrin, John Hirzel, Matt Barnes, Dale Feigley, Rick Hamill, Mike Maher, Doug Bourgeois

Absent: Beth Lewis

Staff Present: Melissa Dashevich, Executive Director
Karen Beardsley, Recording Secretary

Visitors: Chris Kopecki, resident
Pam Deneweth, Insightful Counseling
Lynn Hansford, resident
3 Milford High School Students

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM

Board Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2013

MRS. PERRIN MOVED TO APPROVE the Board Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2013 as presented. SUPPORTED BY MR. BARNES and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote (8 yes votes).

Director's Report

Ms. Dashevich reviewed her Director's Report and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hirzel stated that he does have current financials this month, thanks to the township treasurer's dept. as well as Mrs. Dashevich and Mr. Hamill's help. Revenue so far is 25% of annual in the first two months. Expenses are at 10% of total in the first two months. There is not capital budget amount yet; it still shows negative since it has not been carried over yet. Cash flow to date is approximately \$718,000.

MR. FEIGLEY MOVED TO APPROVE the Treasurer's Report as presented. SUPPORTED BY MR. BARNES and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote (8 yes votes).

NEW BUSINESS

1. 179 N. Milford Road

Mrs. Dashevich stated that she received a call from ReMax regarding this property inquiring as to whether or not it had historical significance and if the HDDA would be opposed to this home being demolished. When Mrs. Dashevich returned the call, she was unable to locate the person who called.

There was much discussion on the condition of the subject property, who owns it, and who is responsible for it. Pam Deneweth, Insightful Counseling, neighboring property owner, commented on her concerns with the debris on the property and its condition as well.

It was the general consensus of the group that if someone wanted to buy the property and tear the house down, the HDDA would not object.

Mr. Hamill will look into having the property cleaned up and the property owner billed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sidewalk/Streetscape Plan Update on Progress

Mrs. Dashevich updated the Board on a meeting with the Design Committee, engineers and Land Design to finalize options on aesthetics, i.e. light poles, retaining wall options, etc. It was also determined that thirty easements need to be obtained in order to be able to proceed. It would also be prudent to get permission from everyone residing on the street since contractors may need access to other properties in order to perform their work. It was decided that the best way to discuss this with homeowners would be for Mrs. Dashevich to send a letter and invite homeowners to a meeting to discuss. Mr. Smith shared an article on cost saving L.E.D. lights which cut power consumption by 80%. Mr. Hamill stated that it may cost less, in the long run, if we stay with what was chosen, but seek grant money to retrofit to L.E.D.; Mr. Bourgeois will look into this option.

2. Highland Middle School Update

Mr. Hamill received a legal document from Huron Valley Schools and he and Mr. Dittmar have looked it over. He feels there are still some language issues, such as referring to 'gym' and 'buliding' with no mention of land, and depreciation of our investment if property is sold, etc. In summary, Mr. Hamill continues to negotiate and remains optimistic.

3. Business Round Table Update

Mr. Hamill shared that Round Two of the Business Round Table was held at the beginning of March. Thirty people in attendance formed groups to discuss and rate the current sign ordinance. Improvements were suggested, as well as additions, and it was determined that different types businesses require different signage. Another meeting will be held in April; they are successfully working towards improvements.

4. Main Street Evaluation & Accreditation

This was covered in Mrs. Dashevich's Director's Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Design – in addition to above remarks in Sidewalk update, Mr. Hamill added that regarding lighting, it was decided that many options were not needed, but electrical outlets were desired. Also light poles would be 14' high instead of 12' high. Mrs. Dashevich mentioned the importance of forming a fundraising committee soon for sidewalk art.

Main Street Oakland County

1. Main event and award discussed in Directors Report.

2. National Main Street Conference – New Orleans, LA

MR. MAHER MOVED TO APPROVE up to \$1,500.00 for Mrs. Dashevich's travel expenses relating to the National Main Street Conference. SUPPORTED BY MRS. PERRIN and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote: Perrin-yes; Hirzel-yes; Hamill-yes; Bourgeois-yes; Feigley-yes; Barnes-yes; Maher-yes; Smith-yes.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Pam Deneweth, property owner, shared her concerns about the property across Milford Road from hers, which has a fallen awning. Property is vacant. She also voiced concern over the condition of the former Marathon Gas Station on the corner of Milford Road and M-59. She asked about restaurants coming to Highland Station. Mr. Hamill discussed many ideas in the works.

Mr. Kopecki thanked the HDDA for considering him for the services he has performed in the past and would like to continue to be considered.

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

A. Roscoe Smith
ARS/kb