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DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Laingsburg, MI 48848
Approved Minutes
February 24, 2020

The regular meeting of the Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority was called to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Laingsburg City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Darr, Geasler, Culpepper, Woods & Hunt

Absent: Kribs, Brink, Ridsdale & Shinsky

Also Present: Paula Willoughby, Clerk/Treasurer & Dave Casler, DPW

Public Comment: Jody Frank looking for confirmation that the DDA was supporting a movie in the Park this summer as it enters the 13th year, she discussed the need and uses for the Amphitheater project.

Moved by Geasler, supported by Culpepper to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Culpepper, supported by Hunt to approve the Treasurer's report. All in favor, motion carried.

Ridsdale arrived at 6:07pm

The Board offered a warm welcome, with introductions to Rosemary Ridsdale, the newest DDA Board Member.

Bob Ford, LAP, provided an update on the Amphitheater Project. The bids came in higher than anticipated and he and City staff are working with the low bidder to value engineer the project in order to get back into the budget allotted for the project. Specific items that will be removed or updated in the project include: replacing the concrete seating with grass seating, reducing the size and type of construction for the actual structure from prebuilt to stick built, changing the storage area from two on the side to one in the back and reducing the electrical. He mentioned the planning and scheduling of events that will be held at the Amphitheater and how that process may be handled. There was a brief discussion regarding food trucks and locals providing the food.

DDA Plan update- Christopher Germain RRC Planner discussed the current DDA plan that has an open-ended expiration date. He explained the reasons for updating and including an expiration date that included transparency and accountability. The plan could be challenged as it is currently written with goals and objectives that have not been updated in more than thirty years. Updating the plan will ensure the DDA has legal authority to collect and spend TIF money, removing and grey areas in the legality of their authority. The RRC also offers community assistance dollars that Laingsburg is eligible for due to Laingsburg's RRC certification status.

Brink arrived at 6:45pm

The board was informed on the new laws and the required Annual Reporting for the DDA. At this time the City staff will be assisting with the required reporting.

Moved by Culpepper and supported by Wood to accept the proposal from CIB Planning to update the Laingsburg DDA/Tax Increment Financing Plan (TIF) in an amount not to exceed \$7,725. Roll call vote: Ayes: Darr, Geasler, Culpepper, Woods, Ridsdale, Brink & Hunt. Nays: None. Absent: Kribs and Shinsky. Motion approved.

As part of the FIT Program the DDA was given a Prosperity Award of \$2,000 to use toward an item identified during the FIT Assessment. The board would like to ask for approval to use the \$2,000 toward the purchase of a Historical sign that will compliment the other Historical signs in the downtown. This sign would be placed in the area of the amphitheater and depict the historical timeline of the site. Approval will be sought, and vendors will be contacted to provide a cost estimate for the project.

Adjourned at 7:30 pm

Paula Willoughby
Clerk/Treasurer