

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

The Oshtemo Charter Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2011, commencing at approximately 12:00 p.m. at the Oshtemo Community Center at 6407 Parkview Avenue.

Members of the Board of Directors present: Bruce Betzler, Jay Brown, Terry Schley, Chip Everett, Ron Zuiderveen, Tom Brodasky, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Mike Lutke, and Kathleen Garland-Rike.

Members of the Board of Directors absent: Stephen Dallas, Jack Siegel, Dana Slocum and Glenn Steeg.

Also present was Jodi Stefforia, Township Planning Director.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. by Chair Bruce Betzler. Terry Schley suggested the addition of an item to the agenda to discuss the ITC project. Motion by Terry Schley, support by Tom Brodasky to adopt the Agenda as amended, the motion carried.

The Chair then called for consideration of the minutes of July 28, 2011. Motion by Tom Brodasky, support by Mike Lutke to approve the Minutes as presented, the motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Jay Brown. Motion by Mike Lutke, seconded by Kathleen Garland Rike, to accept the report. Motion passed.

The Chair then moved to the next agenda item being an update on the Citgo property. The Chair reported that with Attorney Jim Porter's help, a letter of understanding has been drafted between the DDA and the Lawson family regarding the DDA's right to review the environmental records for the property. It is the Chair's understanding that the owner is going to sign the letter of understanding. The Chair will coordinate the review of the files with Jim Porter and report back to the DDA.

The DDA then turned to discussing the ITC proposal. Terry Schley described the plans of ITC and his concerns of how the crossing of 9<sup>th</sup> Street in two areas instead of a single crossing and the associated clearing of trees in the village area will impact the planning efforts to date by the DDA and Township in this important area of the community.

Terry Schley added that while he recognized the need for the project, he feels the DDA should strongly oppose the splitting of the lines west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and that as a group the DDA should urge ITC to keep the lines together and have them cross 9<sup>th</sup> Street south of the village area thereby avoiding the park and increasing the distance between the crossing and clearing of trees and the village core. He noted that perhaps ITC representatives were not aware in laying out the lines initially that the V&V Lumber business was closing and that property may be a candidate location to cross the lines now that there is not an active business on the property.

Mike Lutke stated he believed the DDA should take a stance on opposing the lines running through Flesher Field Park urging the protection of the park and its value to Township residents and users and the hot air balloon launch.

Chip Everett asked what the best way to communicate the status of the V&V Lumber site to ITC is. Terry Schley noted per his communications with ITC representatives, they know about it.

Terry Schley presented a statement and read it in the form of a Resolution from the DDA vigorously opposing the dual crossing of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and urging the consolidation of the lines into a single crossing of 9<sup>th</sup> Street south of Flesher Field Park in recognition of the years of planning efforts undertaken by the DDA and Township and in being inconsistent the Village Area Form Based Code. Terry Schley made a motion that such a Resolution be adopted by the DDA; the motion was supported by Ron Zuiderveen. Upon roll call vote, the Resolution was adopted with unanimous support.

It was discussed that the Resolution should be sent to Fred Upton and the Kalamazoo Gazette in addition to ITC. Mike Lutke suggested that copies of all the plans adopted for this area be sent as well.

Libby Heiny-Cogswell added that ITC representatives have said that they will only consider an alternate route if all affected property owners along the new route agree to it.

Under Any Other Business, Jay Brown inquired into the status of pursuing rear access for 9<sup>th</sup> Street properties. The Chair noted that a committee needs to be formed to look at the issue and meet with Township administration and planning staff to review the history of the issue and determine how it can move forward this time creating a win-win for all. The committee will consist of Jay Brown, Mike Lutke and Terry Schley.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Oshtemo Charter Township  
Downtown Development Authority

Minutes Prepared: September 30, 2011

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2011