

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA)
August 4, 2015

SoDA Board meeting was held at the Township Hall. At the request of the Chairperson, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Corey Ashley at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Theresa Spurr, Chair
Corey Ashley, Vice Chair
Deb Jung, Secretary
Dennis Patzer, Treasurer
Joe Gesmundo
Kelly Bringman
Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Jackie Kimble
Dale Shugars

Also present were Planning Director Greg Milliken and Township Attorney James Porter.

Minutes

Motion by Ashley, second by Bringman to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2015 meeting. Carried 9-0.

Public Comment

None.

Review of Draft Budget for 2016

Attorney Porter indicated that since the draft budget had been prepared, new information regarding tax appeals had been processed. The projected revenue to be captured by SoDA had reduced from over \$10,000 to approximately \$4,700.

Mr. Milliken explained that at this point, SoDA needed to recommend to the Township Board a draft budget. The budget would then be incorporated into the larger Township Budget. Upon approval of the Township Budget, the SoDA budget would return to this group for final approval.

Mr. Gesmundo asked if there was an estimate of revenue for 2017 considering likely development in 2016. Mr. Milliken indicated there was not due to the many changes that had already occurred to those projections. Attorney Porter also commented that it was challenging to make accurate projections due to the fact that Costco had also filed a tax appeal and that was pending. The Board discussed the tax appeal process and its impact on the budget process.

Mr. Milliken indicated that the draft budget proposes that the \$4700 in projected revenues be utilized for the proposed non-motorized facility due to the fact that that was a project that had been previously discussed. It was a draft however, and the Board should discuss if there are other ways it wants to utilize this money.

Mr. Ashley indicated that there had been other projects discussed including crosswalks across Drake Road.

Mr. Gesmundo stated that there will be several projects completed in the next 12-18 months that will generate revenue for SoDA and only help with the group's ability to complete improvements.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Milliken and Ms. Heiny-Cogswell provided an update on the status of the non-motorized facility project along Drake Road. Ms. Heiny-Cogswell indicated that survey work should be completed next week that will allow for a greater understanding of design constraints and limitations and allow for more detailed conversations with property owners along the route.

Ms. Jung suggested that perhaps the Safety Grant from the City of Kalamazoo could be used as matching funds for the MDOT grant.

Mr. Patzer asked if the money needed to be spent this year or if the Board could wait until additional moneys were saved. Mr. Milliken explained that tax entities do not like to see the authority sitting on its captured tax money, but that can be explored.

Mr. Patzer suggested the budget designate a few different options for the expenditure of the money in order to provide flexibility for different projects or opportunities that may arise in 2016.

Mr. Ashley moved to recommend the 2016 SoDA budget to the Township Board showing the total captured revenues currently projected at \$4700 to be designated for capital outlay for sidewalks, crosswalks, bus shelters, and/or lighting. Mr. Gesmundo supported the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Any Other Business

Mr. Shugars encouraged the Board and Township to engage property owners and stakeholders in an open process during and prior to the design work on the Drake Road non-motorized facility in order to work through the opposition. He has heard concerns and thinks they need to be addressed. Mr. Ashley and Ms. Spurr indicated concerns they had with a non-motorized facility including maintenance and snow removal. Ms. Heiny-Cogswell explained the process that is on-going including the various public input opportunities that had been completed and the many more that will be held.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.

Greg Milliken