

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA)

June 8, 2016

SoDA Board meeting was held at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Ashley at 12:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Corey Ashley, Vice Chair
Kelly Bringman
Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Dale Shugars
Joe Gesmundo

Theresa Spurr, Chair arrived at 12:30 pm

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Deb Jung
Jackie Kimble
Dennis Patzer, Treasurer

Also present were Planning Director Julie Johnston and Township Attorney James Porter.

Minutes

None.

Public Comment

None.

Drake Road Non-Motorized Path Construction Costs

Ms. Johnston outlined the memo provided in the packet on construction costs.

The estimated cost of the path from Stadium Drive to West Michigan from the Viridis Design Group, the design firm developing the plans, is approximately \$126,435. With a 15 percent contingency, the price increases to approximately \$145,400. These dollar amounts are intended to reflect the cost if managed through an MDOT grant.

If the path was constructed outside of an MDOT process, the cost of the trail would likely decrease by around 15 percent, reducing the estimate back to the \$126,435 total. If the Board decided to spend their full revenue on the project, it would be paid off in approximately seven to eight years at the current rate of tax revenue. If half of the revenue was utilized on the path, the total cost would be paid off in approximately 14 to 15 years, again depending on current revenue projections.

The Viridis Design Group indicated a concern regarding removing this section of the path from the overall MDOT grant proposal. MDOT will not allow connections to a grant sponsored trail unless it meets all American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) requirements. They ensure this by evaluating plans through their review process. Developing outside this process could jeopardize the ability to seek MDOT grants for the remainder of the path.

Mr. Ashley stated that based on the costs provided, it looks like the Authority would only save approximately 35 percent of the costs by having AVB construct the path, where the grant would allow 60 percent of the costs to be paid. Based on this, it seems like the Authority should wait for the grant.

Mr. Shugars wondered if the Authority paid for the path on the AVB property if this cost could be used towards the match requirements on the MDOT grant for the remainder of the path.

Mr. Gesmundo stated that building the path while they are under construction is the best outcome. But, jeopardizing the grant for the remainder of the path is not a good idea. He stated that building the path later would impact the landscaping that they will be planting this summer.

Mr. Porter suggested that maybe the Township could work with AVB to defer the landscaping along Drake Road until after the path is built.

Mr. Gesmundo indicated that is a workable solution.

Mr. Shugars suggested that we should exhaust MDOT possibilities before making a decision about paying for the path on AVB's property.

Ms. Johnston stated she will get the final word from the consultant about the impact to the grant after their discussion with MDOT and will have this information at the next meeting.

Drake Road Non-Motorized Path Maintenance

Ms. Johnston indicated that she worked with the Maintenance Director for the Township to review past snow removal bids to estimate the cost to complete snow removal on the path from Stadium Drive north to West Main. The estimated cost is \$6,750 for the winter.

Mr. Gesmundo indicated that because of larger revenues than expected, this cost should be reasonably covered by the Authorities budget.

Mr. Shugars stated that he believes everyone supports the Authority helping with maintenance costs and it is important to assist the property owners in the Authority's area.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell said that the path won't be built until next summer so for the first year of maintenance, only the half the cost will be needed in the 2017 budget; the cost for snow during the first half of the 2017/2018 winter.

Mr. Shugars motioned to support the Authority covering the cost for snow removal/maintenance for the path. Mr. Gesmundo supported the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Budget 2017 Discussion

Mr. Shugars asked Mr. Gesmundo if he could provide an understanding of the new construction planned at the Corner@Drake project so we could better estimate future tax revenues.

Mr. Gesmundo stated he would work with Township staff to estimate taxes for the next few years.

Any Other Business

The Authority set their next meeting date for June 29, 2016 at noon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared:
July 11, 2016

Minutes approved:
July 20, 2016