

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY OCTOBER 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jungquist at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the East Tawas City Hall.

Members Present: Elliott, Fountain (arrived at 8:01 a.m.), Jungquist, Mooney, O'Connor and Ruster (arrived at 8:25 a.m.).
Absent: Brewer and Council Representative McMurray.
Staff Present: City Manager Leslie, Director Pasakarnis, and Clerk/Treasurer Baker.

Elliott moved, O'Connor seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting as presented.

Norm Charters and Joe Bettega had requested to be on the agenda for the meeting and were put on the agenda under New Business. It was the consensus of the members to move this issue to the top of the agenda.

Mr. Charters and Mr. Bettega were present to discuss snow removal issues that they felt could occur in the Edward Jones parking lot due to the construction of a brick fence on City property that encloses much of the parking lot. Mr. Bettega reported that he had discussed snow removal with his snow plower who indicated he had reservations about plowing the area due to the brick fence. He indicated that there is probably a way to remove the snow but that the cost will be substantially more than he has paid in the past. Director Pasakarnis reported that she was aware of a similar situation in Traverse City and indicated that she had contacted the business owner and the business owner indicated that they were able to remove the snow without a problem. Members indicated that they understood the concerns of Mr. Charters and Mr. Bettega but noted that the true situation won't be known until snow falls. City Manager Leslie also noted that the Department of Public Works may be able to offer suggestions if plowing is a problem. Members thanked Mr. Charters and Mr. Bettega for bringing this matter to the Authority's attention.

Ruster arrived during the previous discussion.

Elliott moved, Fountain seconded, CARRIED, to approve the TIFA and Construction Fund financial reports as presented.

Director Pasakarnis reported that Chip Hendrick is handling the remaining issues with Porath Construction. Esch Landscaping removed the original sand lock and reapplied it but the result was no better than after the first application. Chip Hendrick is considering having another company correct the problem in the spring. This problem with the sand lock is throughout the downtown. Chip Hendrick will be requiring a bond from Porath to assure that all the work is completed properly. Due to the outstanding issues, Chip Hendrick will be asked to attend the November meeting to provide a report and answer any questions.

Elliott left the meeting.

Director Pasakarnis reported that the leak in the irrigation system was found and was caused by Porath Construction hitting one of the lines. The leak was discovered when the ADA ramp at the Cotton Patch corner was corrected. The costs associated with the leak are being tallied and will be presented to Porath Construction for payment. The irrigation system has been shut down for the winter and the walkthrough of the system with the Department of Public Works will occur in the spring. Director Pasakarnis also reported that the dead or dying trees have been replaced and the warranty on the trees will be extended.

Discussion was held concerning the request that downtown businesses use the salt substitute product, Avalanche. Most businesses used the product last year but there were a few businesses that continued to use salt. This issue was brought to the attention of the City Council but the Council is hesitant to adopt an ordinance to require the use of Avalanche when the majority of businesses are complying with the request. Members Fountain, Mooney, and O'Connor volunteered to contact the businesses that are not using Avalanche to try to convince them of the benefits of using Avalanche and the problems that will occur if salt is used on the exposed aggregate

Director Pasakarnis reported that Russo Engineering will have the bid specs and cost estimates for the reconstruction of the Sawyer Street and State Street parking lots for the November meeting.

Mooney moved, Ruster seconded, CARRIED, to enter closed session to discuss correspondence from our attorney that is subject to attorney-client privilege. Yes: Fountain, Jungquist, Mooney, O'Connor and Ruster.

Entered closed session at 9:01 a.m.
Returned to open session at 9:11 a.m.

Director Pasakarnis presented a PowerPoint presentation concerning the Sunrise Side Coalition's efforts to raise money for a Travel Michigan Pure Michigan campaign for six counties in Northeast Michigan. She requested a pledge for a three-year contribution from TIFA of \$750 per year. She will be asking the City Council to match the pledge from TIFA which would result in a total contribution from the City of East Tawas of \$1,500 a year for three years. Any funds raised by the six counties will be matched dollar for dollar by Travel Michigan and the campaign can be expanded. Travel Michigan will be making a presentation to the group in Oscoda on November 5th.

Ruster moved, Fountain seconded, CARRIED, to donate \$750 per year for three years to Travel Michigan as matching funds for the Travel Michigan Pure Michigan campaign. Yes: Fountain, Jungquist, Mooney, O'Connor and Ruster.

Director Pasakarnis reported on the presentation of the Port of Call Engineering study. Besides the presentation on September 21st, she also made a presentation to the Michigan Waterways Commission. The final draft of the feasibility report is being prepared and must be submitted by March 2010. She will then start contacting Cruise ship lines and will also be working with other ports on Saginaw Bay to organize cruises between the Saginaw Bay ports.

Director Pasakarnis reported that Develop Iosco, Inc. has received a grant to pay for a person to spearhead the push to create and fund a countywide economic development director position and implement the Develop Iosco, Inc. economic strategy. A very capable individual has been identified and has been offered the position.

Discussion of TIFA priorities after the Streetscape project was postponed until the November 10, 2009 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Blinda A. Baker
Clerk/Treasurer