

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY  
JULY 13, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jungquist at 7:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the East Tawas City Hall.

Members Present: Brewer (arrived at 7:38 a.m.), Elliott, Fountain, Jungquist, Mooney (arrived at 7:32 a.m.), O'Connor, Ruster and Council Representative Klenow.

Staff Present: City Manager Leslie, Director Pasakarnis and Clerk/Treasurer Baker.

Fountain moved, Ruster seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting as presented.

Discussion was held concerning an invoice from the City for maintenance of the irrigation system that was performed by the Department of Public Works. Elliott moved, Brewer seconded, CARRIED, to approve payment of an invoice from the City in the amount of \$362.68 for maintenance work on the irrigation system performed by the Department of Public Works. Yes: Brewer, Elliott, Fountain, Jungquist, Mooney, O'Connor and Ruster.

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

Director Pasakarnis reported that she is still waiting for authorization from USDA Rural Development to proceed with seeking bids for the project. Once approval is received, there is approximately a seven-week process for advertising the project, obtaining bids, and awarding the contract. She noted that she is still waiting for the sidewalk easement agreements from three property owners.

Director Pasakarnis gave a report on the trees in the downtown. The warranty from Weyand has expired. There are still some trees that are not doing as well as expected but research completed by Bruce Buchinger revealed that the majority of the problems are caused by the trees not being appropriately placed or the wrong type of tree was planted. Director Pasakarnis reported that several of the trees that were planted are not appropriate for Northern Michigan. She also noted that some of the trees need professional pruning and feeding. She indicated that some of the trees can be moved to the pocket park in the Sawyer Street parking lot. There is also a possibility that a trade can be made with Tawas City and some of the larger trees used at Gateway Park. It was suggested that Director Pasakarnis contact Weyand to determine the validity of the research by Bruce Buchinger so a decision can be made on how to proceed with the trees. Chairman Jungquist requested that Director Pasakarnis put together a spreadsheet showing each of the problem trees and the reason why they are a problem.

Director Pasakarnis reported that there was only one purchaser of bricks from East Tawas based on the two-week publication of the offer to sell. She has placed another ad offering the bricks for sale to residents of Iosco County. After that, she and City Manager Leslie will place the balance of the bricks for sale on the State auction Web site.

Director Pasakarnis reported that the City Council requested an engineering evaluation of the four corners that are not MDOT ADA compliant to determine if there is a safety issue with the three foot ADA ramps. Wilcox has been hired to do the evaluation and a report is expected within the next two weeks.

Director Pasakarnis reported that the Port of Call project is proceeding and three “dry run” excursions are being planned. One of the excursions will be in collaboration with the Michigan Sea Grant and will be an educational eco-tourism tour of Tawas Bay/Saginaw Bay and Charity Island. Another excursion is to Caseville during the Cheeseburger Festival and the third excursion is a bus tour of Iosco County. Software is available to the Port of Call project that allows for the evaluation of the excursions while they are being conducted. The Committee is preparing a list of people who will be invited to participate in the excursions.

Director Pasakarnis reported that the Sunrise Coast Pure Michigan campaign seems to be working with a significant increase in hits from the Pure Michigan Web site. The Summer campaign wraps up in early August with the Fall campaign beginning in late August. She also reported that Tawas City Councilwoman Sandy Brugger is working on a new sign for the intersection of U.S. 23 and M-55 that would say Sunrise Coast.

Director Pasakarnis asked if the Authority members would be interested in supporting submission of an application to host a Michigan Downtown Authority conference. It was the consensus of the members that this would be a great opportunity to showcase our community.

Director Pasakarnis reported that Develop Iosco, Inc. has a summer intern who is compiling an inventory of the commercial facilities in the County. She also noted that the information from the MSU Land Policy Institute on “economic clusters” is expected this month and will be given to Develop Iosco, Inc. She further noted that the owners of JGM have a vision for the community and are working to develop new job opportunities.

Clerk/Treasurer Baker reported that the new City Web site is now operational and encouraged members to visit the site.

It was the consensus of the members that a joint meeting be scheduled with the City Council to discuss how maintenance costs for the downtown will be handled. Discussion was also held concerning the establishment of a Principal Shopping District and determining what the City Council expects from TIFA in regard to maintenance within the TIFA District.

Director Pasakarnis was asked to contract Consumers Energy for input in regard to locations to plug in electric-powered vehicles.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Blinda A. Baker  
Clerk/Treasurer