

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY
AUGUST 10, 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, Elliott, Fountain, Jungquist, O'Connor, and Council Representative Klenow.
Members Absent: Mooney and Ruster.
Staff Present: City Manager Leslie, Director Pasakarnis and Clerk/Treasurer Baker.

Elliott moved, Fountain seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2010 meeting as presented.

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

Director Pasakarnis reported that the Sawyer Street parking lot project is out for bids and the bids are due on August 18th. She also reported that she is still waiting to receive two of the sidewalk easement agreements. She indicated that a special TIFA meeting will be needed to award the contract once she and Russo Engineering are ready to make a recommendation.

Director Pasakarnis reported that an evaluation from Wilcox Professional Services, LLC of the four ramps in the downtown that do not meet MDOT ADA guidelines indicates that the ramps are safe. The City Council received that report at its August 2, 2010 meeting. Council members indicated that even though the ramps have been determined to be safe, they would still like the Authority to have the ramps reconstructed as they have funds available. Elliott moved, Brewer seconded, CARRIED, to set aside \$10,000 per year for the next three years to reconstruct the three ramps that are within the TIFA District to make them MDOT ADA compliant.

Director Pasakarnis reported that pruning and fertilizing will probably help most of the struggling trees in the downtown although the Sycamore trees in the Main Street parking lot should be moved to a location with more water and space available. Director Pasakarnis also reported that there were no buyers for the brick pavers from the Streetscape project so they will now be put up for sale by auction.

Director Pasakarnis reported that Gary Nelkie was interested in obtaining banners for the Corsair Trail and Corsair Concert series. He had wanted these banners placed on the West Bay Street - Church Street corner but they would need to be on US 23 to be consistent with the locations of the other banners. The East Tawas Business Association is looking at putting flowering baskets at the intersections within the Central Business District that do not have banners or baskets. Irrigation would not be available so we would need to use an alternate watering system.

Director Pasakarnis reported that the East Tawas Business Association briefly discussed the potential UDAG façade grants at their August meeting when Councilman Joe Cano attended the meeting and asked for comments. General comments indicated they were in favor of the concept but wanted additional information on how the program would function. A summary of the proposed program will be given to the Association and Chairman Steve Fountain will attend the September meeting.

Director Pasakarnis reported that the Port of Call study is nearing completion. The ferry to Caseville will be on August 20th and the bus tour will be on August 28th. She also reported that the Sunrise Coast campaign is going well and increased web traffic has been documented. The Fall campaign is set to begin on August 20th and will continue to mid-October. Representatives from the MDNRE will be at the East Tawas Harbor on Friday, September 3rd to promote the Recreational Passport program. The application to host one of the Michigan Downtown Association conferences has been submitted. Some exceptional photos were included and will also be incorporated on the City Web site.

Director Pasakarnis indicated that she will begin to work on grants for purchase of blighted and waterfront properties.

Director Pasakarnis distributed an article concerning potential cuts to City-provided services for downtowns. The article discussed Level of Service agreements to be negotiated with the municipality when downtown services are augmented through Business Improvement Districts.

Director Pasakarnis distributed information concerning a new Iosco County Small Loan Program that has been established through efforts of Develop Iosco, Inc.

Discussion was held concerning the approval process with USDA Rural Development for awarding the contract for the Sawyer Street parking lot project. If TIFA does not recommend that the lowest bidder be awarded the contract, it will need to provide the rationale for the decision to Rural Development. A special meeting will be scheduled as soon as Director Pasakarnis and Russo Engineering are ready to make a recommendation on awarding the contract. Final approval from USDA Rural Development will be needed before the contract is awarded. Due to the tight time frame, the City Council will be asked to authorize TIFA to award the contract based on the recommendation from Director Pasakarnis and Russo Engineering. The construction startup date is projected to be September 13th and is must be completed within 45 days.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Blinda A. Baker
Clerk/Treasurer