

**VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
March 28, 2017**

Chairman Atchinson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present – Chairman Atchinson, Vice-chair Bird, Director Blank, Director Brown, Director Chappell (arrived at 5:35 p.m.), Director Foster, Director Laginess and Supervisor McNamara. Members absent and excused – Director Baskin, Director Bechtel, and Director Delibera. Others in Attendance: DDA Executive Director Ireland, Assistant Executive Director Lothringer, Director of Planning and Economic Development Akers, and an audience of six (6).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Foster moved, Bird seconded to approve the March 28, 2017 Agenda as presented. *Carried*

MINUTES: Laginess moved, Foster seconded to approve the DDA Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2017 as corrected to include a missing “O” from the MDA sponsorship motion. *Carried*

REPORTS: DDA Executive Director Ireland reported that the Rights-of-Way Acquisition project continues to wind down. Stated that the DDA is under contract for the additional parcels on Belleville Road and once the walk-thru is completed she will submit the request for funding to the accounting department. Closing is anticipated to occur around the middle of April. Informed the board that she will be attending a meeting at MDOT on Friday to discuss the aesthetics of the pedestrian bridge and will also be taking part in the QBS qualification selection committee interviews for the township General Planning and Engineering services. She stated that the Civic Fund submitted a request for the DDA to once again be a sponsor of their “Play Ball” event.

Foster moved, Bird supported to approve funding a sponsorship in an event program for the May 20, 2017 Van Buren Civic Fund – Play Ball, Detroit Tigers Alumni Event *in the amount of \$100.00*** to be expensed from line item 247-000-900-000 – printing and publishing.

Carried

***addition/correction made at the April 25, 2017 meeting*

Executive Director Ireland thanked Director Foster for attending the sculpture selection meeting with her and informed the board that the sculptures for the 2017-18 season had been selected and will be placed later this spring. Lastly she let the board know that due to the recent windstorm it may be necessary to file an insurance claim for the damage sustained by the banners. Old Glory was removing them this week to assess the damage and will send her an email outlining options for repair or replacement.

Assistant Executive Director Lothringer reported on the email outreach for March and informed the board that T-Rex Arms will be the monthly spotlight for April. Additionally, she stated that Atchinson Ford has offered up their lot to hold Public Safety Day this year since the normal site will be in full construction mode. She relayed to the board the resourcefulness of the Aldi team in being able to maintain their scheduled Grand Opening the morning after the wind storm. Lastly she reminded the

board to please complete the survey they had each been sent so the information can be reflected in an updated Marketing Strategy for the DDA.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Blank, support by Foster to re-elect Chairman Atchinson and Vice-Chair Bird to their respective positions.

Carried

Motion by Atchinson, support by Foster to elect Director Brown to the position of Secretary.

Carried

Presentation by representatives of Speedway, LLC regarding potential development of the NE corner of Belleville Road and Tyler Road. Discussion on renderings presented, their plans and options.

Motion by Blank, support by Laginess to approve the sale of the 27' wide parcel along the frontage of the proposed Speedway, LLC project subject to a mutually acceptable agreement between the parties to be negotiated by the representing attorneys.

Carried

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion by Laginess, support by Foster to enter in to closed session at 6:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the purchase of real property.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Atchinson, Bird, Blank, Brown, Chappell, Foster, Laginess, and McNamara

Nays: None

Absent/Excused: Baskin, Bechtel, and Delibera

Motion by Bird, support by Laginess to return to open session at 6:29 p.m. ***Carried***

Motion by Foster, support by McNamara to honor the request of Director Blank to abstain from voting on Executive Session item. ***Carried***

Motion by Chappell, support by Laginess to approve contract for sale and purchase of real estate parcel #30 and approve the purchase of parcel #30 as endorsed by DDA legal counsel to be expensed from Property Acquisition line item 247-000-980-000 and authorize the Executive Director to execute all appropriate documents.

Carried

COMMUNICATIONS: None

Brown moved, Bird seconded to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Lothringer - Recording Secretary