

Village of Pentwater - Downtown Development Authority
Special Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2020

Call to Order – Schumaker called a Special DDA Meeting to order at 11:30 AM through Zoom, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Attendance Roll Call – Schumaker, Witt, Dunn, Graettinger, Loisch, MacDonald, Haack, Hodges, Ressel-Hodan and Schumaker.

Absent – Henley and Lambrix.

Also, present – Brown, Village Manager, Siok, Village Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Listerman, Village Clerk/Treasurer.

Agenda – Approval of Agenda

Motion Graettinger to approve agenda as amended and adding Banners to New Business, second by Ressel-Hodan. Roll Call Vote: Graettinger, yes; Ressel-Hodan, yes; Schumaker, yes; Dunn, yes; Witt, yes; Loisch, yes; MacDonald, yes; Haack, yes; Hodges, yes. Motion carried.

Public Comments – None.

New Business

a. Approval for expenditure for Legal Opinion Regarding Relief Grant from Current Budget– Schumaker said the business community is hurting and it is urgent that we show them some sort of support with relief. She said this is our chance to demonstrate and show our support to businesses that were forced to close due to the Governor’s Executive Order. Discussion followed regarding businesses that have applied for grants and some of the grants that are available. Rande Listerman shared the letter on screen from Village Attorney Brian Monton as Village Manager Chris Brown read the letter stating “the Pentwater Village Code 33.30-33.44 DDA Section 333.31 of the Village Code.... Section 33.35 enumerates specific powers of the DDA... continuing DDA Public Act 197 of 1975... forbids the expenditure of public funds for an unquestionable private purpose. It goes on to say, “Therefore, it is my opinion that the DDA cannot lawfully give relief grants to private businesses.” Schumaker asked Buzz Graettinger to explain. He replied if the opinion had been different, he would say otherwise, but the language is clear that it is not legal. Schumaker said that with that we can move down to Banners. Graettinger said let’s not give up yet, suggesting that we should think about if there is some way that we could hire the businesses to do something or give them work to do. Witt said that he had suggested to pay them in advance for work. Schumaker said that Fife Lake DDA had given their businesses money without legal advice. Hodges asked to get a list of the downtown businesses that are really in need and have the DDA promote a fund to raise the money for those businesses that apply. Discussion followed as Hodges suggested asking the Community Foundation to set up a Pentwater Downtown Businesses Survive Go Fund Me and contact Tammy Carey at the Community Foundation of Oceana County to get that project fund set up for Pentwater Downtown Businesses Relief. Schumaker said let’s skip down to the request for Banners.

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~~b. Relief Grant Approval~~ – Removed

~~c. Budget Amendment for May 11, 2020 Village Council Meeting~~ – Removed

d. DDA Banners for Pentwater HS Seniors in the Village - Ressel-Hodan explained that she talked to the Pentwater HS Superintendent, Scott Karpathian about replacing the DDA Banners displayed in the Village downtown with banners displaying the current 2020 Pentwater High School graduating seniors, paid for by the school. Hodges asked about parental permission; the school has a list of parents that have given permission allowing their graduating student’s picture displayed on one of 19 banners to be displayed downtown Pentwater, (answering Hodge’s question about permission given by parents.)

Motion by Graettinger, second by Dunn to replace the 19 Downtown Village Banners with Banners showing the Pentwater High School 2020 Graduates as permitted.

Roll Call Vote: Graettinger, yes; Dunn, yes; Schumaker, yes; Witt, yes; Ressel-Hodan, yes; Loisch, yes; MacDonald, yes; Haack, yes; Hodges, yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment – There be no further business, meeting adjourned at 12:12 AM by Schumaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Siok, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Date

Approved at DDA Regular Meeting, June 10, 2020