

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of September 24, 2012

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, September 24, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman David Aeh called the meeting to order.

Present: David Aeh, Charlie Anderson, Dave Aro, Diane Gauthier, Jason Gauthier, Jered Ottenwess, Elaine Racine, Rosemarie Strom, and Stacey Willey

Also present were Treasurer Anita Keto, Chamber Director Elizabeth Peterson, Councilwoman Claudia Demarest, Pat Coleman and Brian Savolainen of UPEA, Adelle Whitefoot of the Mining Journal, and Gary Saari of Lindberg & Sons.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Willey and seconded by Mr. Aeh to approve the minutes of August 27, 2012, as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Mrs. Keto said the expenses have mostly been for project engineering and concert performers.

A motion was made by Mrs. Strom and seconded by Mrs. Gauthier to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Mrs. Peterson reported there were 1,188 participants for the mud plunge, and revenues were up by about \$7,000. Next year's mud plunge may be a two day event. The power book is done, they continue to promote the texting campaign, and are working on the newsletter. The annual dinner will be held on October 13. She is working on renewals, and there are now 220 members. The Chamber and Marquette County and Convention Bureau developed a video about the west end, which was presented at the meeting. The video is available on the internet and on DVD.

2013 Budget

Mr. Ottenwess stated the Executive Committee met and prepared a proposed 2013 draft budget. He said in 2014 the DDA will no longer get the school's portion of the taxes. The U. S. 41 utilities project has not been awarded, and efforts are continuing with Lindberg to get a better price. Recreation grant applications are being reviewed by the DNR. There is \$19,500 budgeted for beautification, and this includes installation of an irrigation system at Old Ish Park. Promotional includes \$5,000 to the Lake Bancroft Committee. The torch light trek budget has been reduced to \$2,000 total. The Chamber of Commerce contribution is under Promotions. There is a cushion for unexpected expenditures.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Strom to accept the 2013 proposed budget as presented. Motion carried.

Penney Building Lot Development

A letter from Ray Roberts, Chairman of the Planning Commission, outlined the consensus of the Planning Commission meeting on September 20, 2012, where the Penney lot was discussed.

Discussion followed on what would be the best use for the lot. It was noted the lot may not be the best location for a band shell. There should be more revenue coming in for the business district, and whatever is done should enhance the downtown. Discussion could be reopened with Congress Pizza, with a timeline when Mike Koski must have a definitive plan. A possible sale price for the lot would be \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Mrs. Racine proposed that Santa's house be put on the lot for this holiday season.

A motion was made by Mr. Ottenwess and seconded by Mr. Gauthier to table adoption of conceptual plans for use of the lot until January 2013; send a letter to Congress Pizza that, if they desire to acquire the lot, a detailed plan for developing the property is required by the end of the year; if the development plans are not completed within an agreed upon schedule the property will revert back to the DDA; and the cost of the land will not become a stumbling block to the process. Motion carried.

Harvest Half Marathon and Family Festival

A request for financial assistance was received for the event sponsored by Bell Foundation/Big Brothers Big Sisters. During discussion it was noted no dollar amount was indicated, the route does not go through the downtown, and DPW is already providing assistance.

A motion was made by Mrs. Willey and seconded by Mrs. Strom to reimburse the City for costs incurred in providing services to the event. Motion carried.

Bond Project Update

Mr. Savolainen stated work on Malton Road has started. There was a minor problem when two big foundations were found in the way, but Lindberg made some earthwork adjustments. A redesign was submitted to Lindberg for the U. S. 41 water and sewer utility project, but the proposed amount is still over budget. If it can be done within budget. this project most likely will not start until spring.

Due to the additional work required for Malton Road, Mr. Savolainen submitted a request to increase the budget for Malton Road construction engineering services by \$25,000 and decrease the U. S. 41 water and sewer utility project by \$25,000.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Racine to approve the budget transfers as proposed by UPEA for the Malton Road and U. S. 41 utility projects. Ayes: Eight (8). Nays: None (0). Abstained: One (Jason Gauthier). Motion carried.

Mr. Coleman stated that the City obtained a grant for downtown improvements. The budget for sidewalk replacement increased from \$150,000 to \$700,000. Mr. Coleman said engineering fees for the sidewalk replacement were used to prepare the DIG grant application. As the project scope has increased, he is requesting that the current sidewalk replacement contract be cancelled and a new agreement in the amount of \$83,288 be executed. If approved, they can prepare the contract for signature.

A motion was made by Mr. Ottenwess and seconded by Mrs. Gauthier to terminate the current service agreement for sidewalk replacement, approve a new service agreement in concept as proposed by UPEA, and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement when completed. Ayes: Eight (8). Nays: None (0). Abstained: One (Jason Gauthier). Motion carried.

Ishpeming Business Association

Mr. Anderson said they are meeting weekly. Ladies Night Out is scheduled for November 20, and the Christmas parade will be on November 23.

Old Business

Mr. Aeh said the 30 second Charter ad is almost done.

New Business

Mr. Aeh welcomed David Aro on his return as a DDA member.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Ottenwess to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary