

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of January 28, 2013

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, January 28, 2013, 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, Judy Hodges, Jered Ottenwess, Elaine Racine, Stuart Skauge, and Rosemarie Strom

Also present were Chamber of Commerce Director Elizabeth Peterson, Mike and Jill Koski of Congress Pizza, Kimme Peterson of Loy Lawns, and Pat Coleman and Brian Savolainen of U. P. Engineers & Architects.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes of December 17, 2012, as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Mrs. Keto presented a tentative December 31, 2012, financial report. She stated the fund is in good shape with the expenditures. Only Cliffs Shaft lights is over budget by \$72. Some expenditures for engineering and promotions are still outstanding. Budget amendments were adopted, and year end adjustments will be made.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Aro to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

It was announced that Treasurer Anita Keto will be retiring next month.

Chamber of Commerce Report

The Arctic Blast Color Dash was held on January 5, 2013. \$2,500 was divided between the U. S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette County, Bell Hospital Strength From Within Program, YMCA of Marquette County, and Love, Inc. The winner of the \$500 Chamber Bucks was Judy Charbonneau. A Business After Hours will be held on February 28, 2013, at the Main Street School of Cosmetology. Work is continuing with a text campaign, newsletter, the website, membership renewals, and updating the Chamber bylaws. The Chamber has 221 members.

Congress Pizza and former J. C. Penney Lot

Mike Koski, Congress Pizza, has an interest in purchasing the former J C Penney lot to expand his business. Mr. Koski indicated it has been a struggle to get a firm price towards purchasing the lot.

Mr. Aeh stated he would like to see a drawing that shows the proposed plans for expansion.

Mrs. Racine reported she had the lot appraised by Irv Krellwitz, who estimated the value at \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Mr. Skauge stated the Congress is one of the most viable businesses in the downtown and feels the DDA should try to convey the lot to Mr. Koski. He said the number one interest of the DDA is to enhance and develop the downtown, and this business expansion is more vital than a bandshell on the lot.

Mrs. Racine commented that there is not sufficient room for public restrooms if a bandshell were constructed on the lot. She recommended a bandshell in the parking lot at Pearl and First Streets and restrooms in the former Pat's Party Store lot.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Skauge to obtain the appraisal prepared by Mr. Krellwitz for the former J C Penney lot and to designate a committee to work with Mr. Koski on finding a solution for the use of the lot. Motion carried.

David Aeh, Stuart Skauge, Jered Ottenwess, and Elaine Racine were appointed to meet with Mr. Koski. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at the Congress.

Award Bid for Gateway Project

Two bids were received. The low bid was from Moyle Trucking and Excavations for \$273,760, with an option to use steel plate for \$241,960, and the other bid was from Associated Constructors for \$297,000. The low bid came in approximately \$100,000 over budget. Two options would be to award the bid or to work with the contractor to reduce costs. The bid was lump sum, with no breakdown of one cost versus the other.

Mrs. Racine inquired about eliminating the obelisk. She stated there is a lack of funds for a lot of necessary services, and citizens will not tolerate the amount of money spent for this project. The obelisk will be constructed at a dangerous intersection, and this could cause accidents by distracting people driving on the highway.

Mr. Aro asked if there are sufficient funds to do this project. Mr. Ottenwess said funding changes every month, there is enough money from other projects, and reallocation of funds is possible. .

A motion was made by Mr. Ottenwess and seconded by Mr. Anderson to award the bid to the low bidder, Moyle Trucking and Excavation for \$273,760 .

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mrs. Racine to table consideration of awarding the bid.

It was clarified that a motion to table supersedes another motion. Discussion followed.

The vote on the motion to table: Ayes: Elaine Racine and Stuart Skauge (2). Nays: David Aeh, Dave Aro, Charlie Anderson, Diane Gauthier, Jason Gauthier, Judy Hodges, Jered Ottenwss, and Rosemarie Strom (8). Motion defeated.

The vote on the motion to award the bid: Daivd Aeh, Dave Aro, Charlie Anderson, Diane Gauthier, Jason Gauthier, Judy Hodges, Jered Ottenwess, and Rosemarie Strom (8). No: Elaine Racine and Stuart Skauge (2). Motion carried.

Lake Bancroft Committee - Informational

In 2012, the Lake Bancroft Committee requested funding to assist in the cleanup of Lake Bancroft. The 2013 budget includes \$5,000 in Promotional Professional Services. The Committee is requesting the funds to commence the work planned for 2013. .

Rock and Mineral Club Request for Funds

A motion was made by Mrs. Racine and seconded by Mr. Aeh to allocate \$500.00 towards promotional items for the Rock and Mineral Club event on August 3, 2013. Motion carried.

Façade Improvements at 200 East Division Street

The façade grant of \$21,031 given to Dan Perkins was successful and was finished within budget. This is the only grant award made to date. Other businesses have expressed an interest, but have not submitted an application. In the future, the boundaries for the program could be changed to include other downtown areas.

Bond Project Update

Mr. Savolainen said he is continuing talks with Lindberg about Malton Road final earthwork and quantities. He estimates the cost to be around \$600,000 for 12 foot lanes. Current plans only have paving at railroad crossings and entrances. There might be a reduced rate because of quantities.

The U. S. 41 water and sewer project has not been awarded. They are working with Lindberg and have a reduced scope that meets what was desired. The project cost is now below \$700,000.

Mr. Aeh said a priority is to fulfill the promise to the City Council and residents to pave part of the Malton Road. He would like to pave the entire road, even if it takes two or three years to complete the entire paving.

An analysis on what funding is available should be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr. Coleman would like to schedule a work shop about the downtown streetscape work between the City Council, DDA, and Planning Commission. A possible date is Tuesday, February 12, at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. It was suggested holding the meeting at the Senior Center, but Mrs. Racine indicated she would prefer to hold the meeting at the Library.

Ishpeming Business Association

Meeting are held the first Thursday of the month at City Hall and the third Thursday at Rollies Furniture. Work is starting on the Festival of Treasures.

Old Business

Mr. Aeh noted the recreation grant for Hematite Heights was not received.

New Business

Mr. Racine stated the City Council would like to have their meetings broadcast from the Library, but it would require \$35,000 to run fiber optic cable to the Library. She asked if the DDA would be willing to participate in funding.

Mr. Ottenwess reported that the City Council is amending the DDA ordinance to require residency for DDA members who are at large members.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Aeh and seconded by Mrs. Racine to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary

