

**MINUTES OF THE CLAY TOWNSHIP DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009  
IN THE CLAY TOWNSHIP BOARD ROOM, 4710 PTE. TREMBLE ROAD,  
CLAY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN 48001 AT 7:30 P.M.**

Chairman Mark Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL / ESTABLISH QUORUM:**

Present: Artie Bryson, Jay DeBoyer, Richard Wagner, Robert Johnson, Joseph Little, Chairman Mark Thompson

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Ann Horeftis; William Seifert; Thomas Bynum

A quorum was established.

Also Present: Connie Turner, Township Treasurer; Dorothy DeBoyer, Township Deputy Clerk; Jeff Horner, Project Control Engineering, Inc.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA / AMENDMENTS:**

Chairman Thompson: Requested amending the Agenda to include (2) Discover The Blue under (8) New Business.

**Motion by Wagner, supported by J. DeBoyer to approve the Agenda as amended.**

**AYES: All NAYS: None ABSENT: Horeftis; Seifert; Bynum**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009:**

**Motion by Bryson, supported by Johnson to approve the Minutes of September 15, 2009 as presented.**

**AYES: All NAYS: None ABSENT: Horeftis; Seifert; Bynum**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2009:**

**Motion by DeBoyer, supported by Wagner to approve the Treasurer's Report of August 2009 as presented.**

**AYES: All NAYS: None ABSENT: Horeftis, Seifert, Bynum**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. BILLS PAYBLE:**

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2009**

Page 2

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Christine Holcomb - Minutes of September 15, 2009    | \$ 45.00         |
| Phillips Sign & Lighting – Installed Fall Banners    | 993.75           |
| PCE – MEDQ-USACOE Permit Application                 | 2,026.00         |
| PCE – Phase 4 Sidewalk Engineering                   | 2,050.00         |
| PCE – Pedestrian Bridge                              | 2,580.00         |
| J & R Engineering, P.E. – Pedestrian Bridge          | 10,625.94        |
| North Shore Enterprises – M-29 Sidewalk Improvements | <u>58,869.27</u> |
| TOTAL  | \$77,189.96      |

**Motion by Wagner, supported by Bryson to approve the Bills Payable as presented.**

**AYES: All NAYS: None ABSENT: Horeftis; Seifert; Bynum**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chairman Thompson: Stated that the DDA had received The Downtown Idea Exchange, the Downtown Promotion Reporter, and The Shopping Center News Today and same are available for review.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

a) Sidewalk Phase IV:

Horner: He received a call from the DNR that the federal government has preliminary approved the easement request and the DEQ representative has stated that it is now in his hands. However, he cannot say when he'll have his part done. Because of this Project Control Engineering has proceeded with the DEQ permit portion of the work.

A discussion occurred regarding the DEQ and DNR now being one entity.

Chairman Thompson requested that the DEQ real estate representative be contacted to try and get the easement as soon as possible.

Wagner: Questioned whether the contractor has the right to withdraw from the job due to the delay in obtaining the easement and possible increase in costs?

Horner: Absolutely.

b) Bridge Update:

Chairman Thompson: The bridge is completed and the final payment to J & R has been made.

Horner: He will be getting some of the paint used on the bridge from Joe Rockwood.

## **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2009**

Page 3

c) Report on Park:

Chairman Thompson: Phase I is pretty much completed. The grass seeding has been completed. A barrier along M-29 for the volleyball court will be put up in the Spring. He spoke with Craig from Project Control Engineering regarding the grant from the DNR for Phase II and III. Jay DeBoyer has agreed to make a presentation about this project to the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Board when he goes before them on October 21, 2009. The grant coordinator came out and did a preliminary walk-through.

Horner: Read some comments that Craig had given him from comments the grant coordinator had made after her walk-through of the site. She further stated that based upon the type of project, there are no comments provided which would strengthen the submittal. There is nothing more the Township can do to strengthen their ability to get more points to get the grant.

D. DeBoyer: Stated that they need to make sure to convey that this is a new park and not an existing park and that money from the Township has been contributed to the current development and they are looking for help to complete the park.

Chairman Thompson: They need to be aware that we spent \$665,000.00 for the property. We have put \$300,000.00 into the park already and convey how much more we want to do.

A discussion then occurred regarding benches and garbage cans for the park.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) Façade Program:

Chairman Thompson: Requested moving this item to the next meeting's agenda.

b) Discover the Blue for 2010:

Chairman Thompson: He and Dorothy DeBoyer attended some conferences last year where they pushed to have Clay Township included in the next program. The BlueWater.org site and Pure Michigan site have had substantial increases on their sites. This is a phenomenally successful campaign. We have an opportunity to include Clay Township in the campaign for 2010. Discover the Blue would basically go from Port Austin to Clay Township. If we opt into this program, anyone in the area that has a tourist-related business will be able to advertise in the Discover the Blue brochure for \$99.00. The businesses would also be able to have virtual video tours on the site. The cost to us would be approximately \$4,800.00.

A discussion occurred regarding establishing the Township's identity.

**Motion by Wagner, supported by Bryson to participate in the 2010 Discover the Blue program at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.**

D. DeBoyer: Stated that Clay Township wants to be recognized as its own community and not a spin-off of Algonac.

A discussion then occurred amongst DDA members.

**Chairman Thompson restated Motion by Wagner, supported by Bryson to participate in the 2010 Discover the Blue program at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.**

**AYES: All                      NAYS: None                      ABSENT: Horeftis; Seifert; Bynum**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Thompson: Stated a new business coming into town is the Kroger gas station.

A discussion then occurred regarding same.

**9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

J. DeBoyer: Wanted the DDA's opinion on possibly forming an independent board of 4 or 5 people on the context of an advisory business development board possibly comprised of some local businessmen. This board could sit down on a monthly basis and discuss ideas outside of our scope and how to court businesses that would fit into the community. This board could then come to the Township Boards and relate the information and get the Boards' opinions as to whether they would support those businesses coming into the community.

A discussion then occurred amongst DDA members regarding same.

Chairman Thompson: Suggested DDA members give this idea some thought and requested having it placed on the agenda for the November meeting.

Wagner: Stated that he was amazed at the local track teams using the sidewalk and felt terrible that when they got down to the marsh they had to go onto the road. It really accentuates the need to get the sidewalk completed.

Chairman Thompson: The DNR has received permission to extend the pathway at St. John's Marsh another ¼ to ½ mile. Also, Russell Island is looking at possibly purchasing Down Rigger's restaurant for a possible parking lot, ferry landing, and boat slips. And, they have continued clearing trees on the other property across from Kroger that has been re-zoned multiple housing.

J. DeBoyer: Presented invitations to all DDA members and their significant others and friends to attend the Township Christmas Party. He requested that everyone entertain the idea of attending and let Connie know if you plan on attending.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

D. DeBoyer: Stated that Clay Township will be sponsoring donuts and cider at the pavilion at the new Township Park on Halloween from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the trick or treaters.

J. DeBoyer: Cortis Brothers Trucking has said that they will foot the bill for all the cider and donuts.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by J. DeBoyer, supported by Bryson to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.**

**AYES: All   NAYS: None   ABSENT: Horeftis; Seifert; Bynum**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine J. Holcomb  
Recording Secretary