

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**

**South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA)  
December 1, 2021**

SoDA Board meeting was held virtually through Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Patzer at 12:07 p.m.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>LOCATION:</b>
Corey Ashley, Chair	Oshtemo
Joe Gesmundo	Yorkville, MI
Libby Heiny-Cogswell	Oshtemo
Dennis Patzer, Treasurer	Oshtemo
Kelly Bringman	Oshtemo
Theresa Spurr	Portage, MI
Dale Shugars (joined around 12:30PM)	Oshtemo

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
Christine Morse  
Galen Rike

Also present were Planning Director Iris Lubbert, Township Attorney James Porter, and Public Works Director Marc Elliott.

**Minutes**

Chair Ashley asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Minutes of June 22, 2021. Hearing none, he asked for motion to approve the Minutes.

Mr. Patzer made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 22, 2021 as presented. Mr. Gesmundo seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 6 to 0, with 3 absent.

**Treasurer's Report**

Chair Ashley asked for the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Lubbert shared the unaudited Treasurer's Report for the period between June 1, 2021 through November 31, 2021.

She reported that to date the SoDA has received \$40,554.84 in Property Tax Revenue and \$12.02 in Interest Earned.

Expenditures for this period include \$950.00 for accounting and audit fees, \$255.00 in legal fees, and \$1,000.79 for 2020/21 Sidewalk Winter Maintenance. The \$30,000 annual payment to the Township for the Drake Road Path is currently being processed.

Ms. Lubbert also noted that SoDA had been charged twice for a \$45 invoice for legal services and staff is currently looking into correcting this.

Mr. Patzer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Spurr seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 6 to 0, with 3 absent.

## **Drake Road Path Update**

Marc Elliott, Public Works Director provided an update on the Drake Road Path.

He shared that the Drake Road project was completed early in the spring, The Green Meadow path, which is also within the SoDA boundary, was completed in mid-summer.

Chair Ashley inquired how far south the sidewalk now goes past Green Meadow. Mr. Elliot responded that the sidewalk is fully completed down to KL Avenue. The piece below this area crosses the railroad; this section is still under negotiation between MDOT and M-Trak.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell asked for an update on the KL path as it is within the SoDA boundary.

Mr. Elliot noted that the planned 10 foot wide KL path will span between Drake Road to Copper Beach Drive and will be located on the north side of the road. The Township has been awarded a grant from KATS to cover the installation of the eastern portion of this path up until the bridge. The Township has submitted materials for a second grant to cover the remainder, which comprises of the area under the bridge to Coper Beach Drive.

Mr. Patzer inquired about the reconstruction of Speedway on Drake Road and whether it would effect the installation of the sidewalk along that segment.

Mr. Elliot noted that detailed engineering plans have been submitted and that Speedway will be installing the continuation of the sidewalk down to the railroad right of way as part of their project.

Chair Ashley asked if the other SoDA Board members previously knew that another path was going down KL Avenue and that SoDA would be responsible for it. Other members responded that they had been aware of the project.

Ms. Lubbert clarified that the path along KL Avenue is being planned for installation by the Township and is not the financial responsibility of SoDA. She asked Ms. Heiny-Cogswell to confirm.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell noted that this path has been in the Township's nonmotorized plan for years and has been incrementally worked on. She noted that grant money from MDOT never covers 100% of the cost and anticipates that the Township will cover the remaining amount. Once the project costs are known the SoDA can consider contributing to the project.

Chair Ashley commented that based on the SoDA's incoming revenue more funding would be needed before the Board could consider taking on new projects. Revenue sources for the SoDa were discussed.

Mr. Shugars inquired if the Road Commission was financially contributing to the planned KL path.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell responded that the Road Commission's policy precludes them from

participating. The project will be funded by MDOT TAP money and Oshtemo.

### **2021 Informational Session Update**

Ms. Lubbert reported that the required second open house for the SoDA is scheduled for 3 to 5 PM later that day. She shared the flier advertising the open house. With this open house the SoDA has met the requirements of Public Act 57 of 2018.

Chair Ashley inquired if there was a lot of participation at the last Open house.

Ms. Lubbert noted that roughly 10 members of the public attended that meeting. She added that that open house was also tailored to be an opportunity for property owners to come and comment on the DDA's Stadium sidewalk project. Most of the people that attended that open house were property owners interested in knowing how the Stadium Drive sidewalk project would affect their property. She added that in the previous open houses that she ran for the SoDA typically about three members of the public attended.

### **2022 Meeting Schedule**

Chair Ashley asked the Board if the two proposed meeting dates of June 1, 2022 and December 7, 2022 were suitable.

Hearing no comments he asked for a motion to adopt the 2022 SoDA meeting dates. Ms. Spurr made a motion to adopt the two proposed meeting dates. Mr. Gesmundo seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 7 to 0, with 2 absent.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Ashley asked if there was any Public Comment. There was none.

### **Other Business**

Chair Ashley asked if the Township has heard of any concerns regarding electric bikes on non-motorized path.

Ms. Lubbert noted that she has not heard of any such concerns yet. She added that shared use paths are designed to be wider to allow individuals to safely pass each other and avoid conflicts.

Mr. Elliot commented that motorized scooters are limited to a maximum speed.

Chair Ashley asked if there had been any accidents reported regarding pedestrians using the path or crossing the road.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell, Ms. Lubbert, and Mr. Porter all responded they have not heard of any accidents of this nature.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell asked if Mr. Ashley had witnessed anything.

He noted that he has almost been hit multiple times on his way to the post office along this stretch. He shared his experiences and commented on the vision impairments he has noticed.

Mr. Shugars asked about setting up a system to keep track of concerns or incidents. He noted this information could help the Board determine if any specific actions can be taken to help mitigate problems.

Mr. Porter noted that the Township does have an ordinance that states that pedestrians should notify the Township if there is an accident. But in addition to that he agrees that a database would be helpful. Staff will look into a database along with visibility requirements.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared:  
12/3/2021

Minutes approved:  
6/1/2022