

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA) June 22, 2021

SoDA Board meeting was held virtually through Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Patzer at 11:06 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Corey Ashley, Chair
Joe Gesmundo
Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Dennis Patzer, Treasurer
Galen Rike
Kelly Bringman
Theresa Spurr
Dale Shugars

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Christine Morse

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 December 2, 2020. Hearing none, he asked for motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Rike made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2020 as presented. Ms. Spurr seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 8 to 0, with 1 absent.

Election of Officers

Chair Ashley asked the Board members if there were any nominations. He noted that he has been the chair for two cycles and would be prepared to step down if someone else was interested in taking the role.

Ms. Spurr asked if the same slate of officers were willing to continue in 2021. Both Chair Ashley and Treasurer Patzer indicated they were willing.

Mr. Rike made a motion to approve Corey Ashley as Chair and Dennis Patzer as Treasurer. Mr. Gesmundo seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 8 to 0, with 1 absent.

Treasurer's Report

Chair Ashley asked for the Treasurer's reports. Ms. Lubbert shared the 2020-year end Treasurer's Report and the Treasurer's Report for January 1st, 2021 through May 27th, 2021.

She reported that the main two activities that occurred in 2020 were a \$30,000 payment to the Township for the Drake Road Path and a \$35,944.44 reimbursement to BOR/MIT for mis-captured tax revenue. Due to the reimbursement, approximately \$3,000 needed to be carried over from SoDA's fund balance to cover all 2020 expenses.

In 2021, to date, the only expenditure has been \$165 in legal fees. \$40,554.84 in tax revenue has been collected.

Mr. Patzer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Spurr seconded the motion. The motion was approved 8 to 0.

Drake Road Path Update

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

He indicated that there is still ongoing negotiation between AMTRAK and MDOT regarding how the sidewalk will cross the railroad line. He is hopeful that negotiations are coming to a close. He reported on the sections of the sidewalk that have been completed.

2022 Budget Discussion

Ms. Lubbert proposed that the budget for 2022 follow the adopted 2021 budget with no changes. She noted that in 2021 \$40,554.84 in tax revenue has been collected. It is anticipated that the same amount of tax revenue will be collected in 2022.

She added that it has come to her attention that the sidewalk on the north side of Green Meadow is scheduled to be constructed this year (Green Meadow to Round Hill Dr.) A portion of this sidewalk is within the SoDA boundary. The SoDA Board should consider whether they want to take on funding the snow removal of that portion of the sidewalk.

After discussion the Board unanimously agreed that they were not interested in taking on snow removal of other sidewalk segments at this time.

Ms. Spurr made a motion to approve the 2022 budget as presented by staff and forward it to the Township Board. Mr. Patzer seconded the motion, The motion was approved 8 to 0.

2021 Open Houses

Public Act 57 of 2018 requires that Corridor Improvement Authorities hold at least two informational meetings a year. These meetings do not have to be official Board meetings but can be designed as Open Houses to inform the public of the goals of the Board and the projects that the South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority is financing. Due to Covid19, SoDA's two informational meetings in 2020 were held virtually on November

19th and December 2nd. For efficiency, these two Open Houses were combined with the two Open Houses required for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

The DDA is currently finalizing their plans to install sidewalk on the north side of Stadium Drive that is within their boundary. To collect public input on the project they scheduled a virtual Open House on June 2nd and also utilized this meeting as one of their two required informational meetings. Given the SoDA Board's previous permissions to staff, for efficiency, this meeting was also designed to be utilized as one of the two informational meetings required for SoDA.

With Covid-19 restrictions changing, Ms. Lubbert requested input from the Board on how they wish to approach the second required informational meeting for 2021 and if they would be comfortable continuing to have joint informational meeting with the DDA.

Ms. Spurr she was in favor for whatever was most convenient for staff and had no concern with the SoDA and DDA informational sessions being combined. The Board unanimously agreed.

Public Comment

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

Other Business

Chair Ashley asked if there was any other business before the Board. Mr. Rike indicated that this would be his last meeting with the SoDA Board as he is moving out of State. The Board thanked him for his service and wished him the best with his future endeavors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared:
6/23/2021

Minutes approved:
12/1/2021