

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PORT HURON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY "we make a difference.."

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## DDA MEETING MINUTES Of January 15,2021

**Members Present:** Bacheller, Kenny, Bowman, Pringle, Beedon, Chairman Huegli, Director Paul Maxwell Supervisor Lewandowski, Sec./Treasurer Shonka.

Members Absent: None.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Huegli. Meeting conducted virtually via ZOOM.

Motion by Kenny, second by Bowman, to approve the minutes of the, 10/23/2020 meeting. **Motion Passed.** 

Motion by Bowman, second by Pringle, to approve the minutes of the, 9/4/2020 meeting. **Motion Passed.** 

Motion by Pringle, second by Bowman. to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. **Motion Passed**.

## Unfinished Business -

Director Maxwell updated the board on:

Director Maxwell welcomed D Scott Beedon in his return to the board.

**MDOT Rail/CN** – Bergman and associates received a \$1 million grant to help study the project. Some groups interested in having a pleasure rail with a route from Port Huron Township to traverse city as well as another group who wants a mass transit service to Detroit. Blue Water Transit Authority is the lead on this project. It was suggested by Bob Lewandowski to invite Dave McElroy to the next meeting to give us his perspective on the project.

**Covid-19** - The Governor has extended the shutdown until February 1<sup>st</sup>. a lot of people are hurting including many bars and restaurants as well as many small businesses. Director Maxwell attended an Economic Development Alliance seminar on grant opportunities. Board

member Bowman mentioned the PPP loans are now available again. Director Maxwell mentioned COvid-19 is the most challenging time in his business career.

**Blue Water Fallen Hero's Program -** Ongoing project open for Twp resident who served in previous wars (WWI, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.) and lost their lives in the line of duty. Contact the County Veterans Administration for more information.

**Super K Mart Property** – Property was sold at auction. There were 3-4 bidders on the property. On of the bidders was the U-Haul corp. They wanted to convert the building to a combination of storage and retail. U-Haul has converted over one Hundred former K-Marts nationwide. No deed restrictions on out-lots removed. The Twp. will issue permits on out-lots and work with permit holders to alleviate those issues.

## New Business -

**New Board member D Scott Beedon -** Acquired the former Port Huron Pastry Shop and rehabbed the building into offices. Farm Bureau insurance, Board Member Beedon's real estate company as well as his Motto Mortgage Forefront Franchise with focus on residential and commercial lending is currently in the building. Mr. Beedon is happy and excited to be back in the Township.

**EDA -** Seminars were held on 1/14/21 on Michigan Covid-19 Survival Grants. \$696,000 available for grants. Flint is the lead entity on awarding the grant money. Eastern Michigan Bank is also listed in participating in the grants as well. More opportunities to help businesses are forthcoming later.

**Loves Furniture -** Loves Furniture is closing. Has filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy. All stores including the Port Huron Township facility will close. The director will be working hard to assist in sale on the property.

**Chris Kellerman** – Member of the DDA Board passed away due to Covid -19 complications. He was the former owner of Star Oil Company/Plums Stores. Board Member Pat Pringle now owns the location with his company Bio-Pro at 2929 Lapeer.

Fallen Heroes - Please let the Director know if you find new information on this project.

**Dollar General –** The second and newest location on Dove Rd. is now open and thriving. The company has been very easy to work with throughout the building process.

Brainstorming – No new at this time.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2021

Motion by, Bacheller, Second By. Bowman, to adjourn. Motion Passed.

Adjourned @10:52: pm.