



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING NOTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Christensen.

Present: Case (arriving at 8:40 a.m.), Christensen, Lutke, Smith and Yoder

Absent: Bahle and Suppes

Staff present: Fay, Larrea, Miller, and Huggard of Jacobs

WWTP Report

The WWTP Monthly Operations Report was submitted by Huggard of Jacobs and can be found in this packet. Huggard added that an open house will take place at the Waste Water Treatment Plant on September 29th, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Tours will be provided. The Vactor truck will be on site as well.

Treasurer Report

The Revenue and Expenditure Report was submitted by DeVol and can be found in this meeting packet.

Managers Work Plan

Larrea stated the updates are highlighted in blue. Smith stated the completed striped crosswalks are nice.

Report VSB-2023-48 DDA Joint Meeting – Set agenda

Larrea provided the following information:

- The DDA does not meet often. Many past meetings have been canceled due to lack of business or lack of quorum.
- For the last four years, the DDA has been hyper focused on bathrooms, and the Ferry.
- The other tax jurisdictions, Suttons Bay Township, Leelanau County and Suttons Bay Schools are not interested in participating which has never changed since the original adoption. The only participating entity is the Fire department.
- Money for a consultant to lead the DDA will be in the 2024 budget.
- The DDA is a young DDA with small tax captures therefore patience is required as the funds continue to grow.
- The DDA could contribute the money captured to help improve/replace bathrooms at the Marina, perhaps as a match.
- There are little things that could be accomplished with the money the DDA has, such as benches or investments in wintertime enhancements.

- Additional funds could be raised if the DDA would tax themselves by passing a millage. They also have the authority to apply for loans.
- The DDA currently captures around \$20,000 per year, and have a current balance of approximately \$70,000.
- The DDA does not want to deal with the things they placed in their plan, such as roads, etc.
- The DDA continues to ask Council to pay for things that are in their plan.
- The DDA is not a second Chamber.

Committee members had the following comments

- The tax capture is pretty clear, and the DDA continues to go outside the adopted plan.
- Since formation, the group has been lost and non-focused; nothing happening.
- The DDA should take another avenue and focus on what they can afford.
- There are things the DDA can do that no other entity can.
- When the DDA was formed, they may have been misled as to their role, creating confusion.
- The DDA is a self-funded entity.
- What are the overall goals and objectives of the DDA other than enhancing the downtown?
- The joint meeting with Village Council should provide clarity.

It was the consensus of Committee that clarification of roles is necessary at the joint meeting scheduled for next week. The DDA is its own authority and can spend what they capture without Council involvement. They are not funded by Council. The DDA and Council are two separate entities with their own goals and objectives. Council is not interested in funding bathrooms and the subject is off the table. A consultant for the DDA will be paid out of DDA funds. An understanding of the division of projects should be emphasized and that the DDA cannot throw projects at Council. Village Council has their own priorities. Council supports the DDA, just not financially.

Committee member comments

Smith stated the revised STR ordinance will be ready to wrap up at the next Village Council meeting.

Larrea stated that a grant has been applied for, and arrangements for volunteers are being made, for the planting of 20 trees in October. The trees will be planted at North Park creating a parameter around the area where the Farmers Market currently sets up. Straggling trees will be removed as well. The trees will help create a really neat place that could be used for other things.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Shar Fay, Clerk.

