The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Peterson.

Present: Bahle, Lambdin, Lutke, Peterson, Pontius, Popke and Wierzba
Staff present: Fay and Larrea

Approval of Agenda
Pontius moved, Lutke seconded, CARRIED, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 4, No: 0.

Approval of Downtown Development Authority Minutes
Lutke moved, Pontius seconded, CARRIED, to approve the December 12, 2018, DDA meeting minutes as presented and submitted by Fay. The meeting minutes can be found in this meeting packet. Ayes: 4, No: 0.

Board members Bahle, Lambdin and Popke arriving.

Old Business
Ferry Update – DDA board member Kim Pontius led a Power point presentation consisting of an update on a proposed Ferry route called Project B-3. The presentation is attached to these meeting minutes. Discussion points were:
- Funding a feasibility study, perhaps Rotary if the DDA’s from the Village and Elk Rapids collaborated. Jason Allen has stated that partial funding is likely.
- The DNR and the DEQ may not agree to remove the pilings at the Village marina, and because the fishing pier was funded with DNR Trust money, removal may be prohibited.
- Ferry services are looked upon favorably.
- The big questions are: Facilities and vessel type.
- This project is part of a transportation system.
- Everything is ADA compliant and meets homeland security criteria.
- The Acme/Elk Rapids bike trail will be complete with 3-5 years, so the timing of this proposed project is optimal.
- Should other facilities be considered outside of Elk Rapids?
- Think small now, expand later.
- Elk Rapids Marina may have structure issues.
- 45’ vessel is the limit for Elk Rapids.
- The Ferry would help keep Suttons Bay vibrant.
- There are currently several ferry boats within the state that may be interested.
- This is a pedestrian/bicycle concept; no vehicles.
- The boat needs to be coast guard certified.
- There is a good market of used boats.

Bahle moved, Popke seconded, CARRIED, in support of this project, and further recommends the project moving forward for Village Council approval. Ayes: 7, No: 0.

It was the consensus of the board to recommend the following:
- Harbor Master Aylsworth to provide her assessment and ideas at the next DDA meeting.
- DDA monthly meetings necessary to continue discussions.
- Pontius will now present to the Elk Rapids DDA.
- Form a coalition of the two DDA’s to continue the process.
- An adhoc committee consisting of private and public entities should be formed.
- Assistance from a transit authority is needed.
- Check with the tribe again to see if they would like tribal involvement.

Lambdin and Lutke left the meeting at 10:05.

New Business
Pontius moved, Popke seconded, CARRIED, to accept the resignation from board member Alicia Evans. Ayes: 5, No: 0

Popke left the meeting at 10:10.

Manager Update
Larrea stated the budgeting process has begun and will be on next month’s agenda.

Information and comments
Pontius encourages the DDA and the Chamber of Commerce to attend the Council meeting in support of the Ferry project.

Public Comment
Karen Pontius stated that local businesses appear to be very supportive of the Ferry project.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Shar Fay, Village Clerk.