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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 – Noon – Hudson's Classic Grill

1. Roll Call/Round Robin – Noon

2. Roll Call

a. PRESENT:

- Frank Stabile, Chairman (Superior Oasis)
- Jenn Wallner, Treasurer (GMWWP, CPAs, P.C.)
- Ashley Krook, Executive Secretary (Superior Oasis, Days Inn)
- Tina Henson (Tru North Federal Credit Union)
- Michael Morgan (First National Trust & Wealth Management)
- Scott Patrick (Carpet Specialists)

b. ABSENT:

- Peggy Loy, Co-Chairman (Century 21)
- Todd Noordyk (Great Lakes Radio, Inc.)

3. Consent Agenda

a. Invoices

- Ashley Krook: \$ 207 (for 2 months secretarial service)
- Great Lakes Radio: \$100
- Peggy Loy: \$ 30.82 (Postage Reimbursement)

b. Correspondence – Marquette Charter Township Letter regarding donating funds to help support the underpass

c. Jenn Wallner moved to approve Consent Agenda. Michael Morgan supported. Motion carries unanimously at 12:13 pm.

4. Regular Agenda

a. Scott Patrick moved to approve Regular Agenda. Tina Henson supported. Motion carries unanimously at 12:14 pm.

b. Membership

- 4 New and 47 total
- **Potential New Business List for 2018**
 - a. Meijer Store and C-Store (Meijer Gas Station), Fraco Concrete Products, Riverside Toyota and Honda Car Dealership, Subaru Car Dealership, Ashley Furniture, Beam and Barrell, Kubota Dealership, Cosmo Prof (Cosmetology Supply Store), Sally Hansen Beauty Supply
- **Membership Drive** – 30 members have paid for 2018. At this point, the invoices that went out stated that the business owners had until the end of the year to make payments. The A/R Aging Summary Report shows the unpaid members currently which totals \$ 2,700. We also have a list of potential new businesses for 2018 that Ashley will be preparing a letter for those open businesses so that we may approach them about becoming members. Jill Leonard from State Farm Insurance will not be renewing their membership due to reconsidering what would be most beneficial to generate more business for their own businesses. An email was shared from Jill Leonard by Chairman Stabile. Discussion was had regarding what the MTBA is doing to benefit their members. Access to other

members, joint meetings with the Township Board, our website, and our Facebook page were touched on briefly as benefits that the MTBA provides to its members. The energy saving seminar was also touched on as a benefit for our members. There was also a suggestion to research other Business Associations to see what they do and what they offer to their members.

5. New Business

- a. **Board of Directors Election** – Scott and Todd up for reelection. Will be done in January 2018. Scott will be absent for elections in January; however, he is willing to serve on the board again. The Executive Board will also be up for reelection in January.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. **Catch the Vision** – Todd absent. The Tree Lighting happened on November 28 and was a successful event. The MTBA does sponsor this. The next event is the car show in the spring.
- b. **Beautification of the Corridor** – No new updates on this.
- c. **Annual Spring/Summer Picnic and Membership Meeting Event** – Discussion was had to generate ideas on what we are going to do. UPAWS and the possibilities of sponsoring an adoption event was briefly discussed. There was also a suggestion to use the funds earned from the event to support the Township's Underpass Project; however, Jason McCarthy brought up the fact that we are going to need more beautification once the roundabouts are in and suggested an annual project where the business community gets together to do spring planting and weeding in the roundabouts. The Township would put the MTBA logo on a sign on such a project. Jason also brought up the 2021 project which will also need beautification. Scott Patrick also brought up the idea of adopting a roundabout and utilizing the funds from the event to fund the beautification of a roundabout. Further discussion was had about the MTBA adopting a roundabout to include how we would decorate it and the benefits to our members to include publicity and networking opportunities.
- d. **Follow up on Joint Meeting with Township Board (Discussion)** – It was stated that these meetings are informative and beneficial to the MTBA especially with all the upcoming projects. Jason McCarthy, from the Marquette Township Board, feels that these meetings are very important and that it is imperative to keep the lines of communication open. The MTBA would like to reduce the number of meetings that we have. Currently we have quarterly joint meetings (4 meetings per year); however, we are wondering if we should reduce the number of meetings and if there are certain times throughout the year when it would be more appropriate. Jason McCarthy suggested a meeting in the spring when site plans are coming through, another in July or August when the Township starts working on their budget, and then a final meeting in the fall. April, early August, and November were suggested as meeting times.

7. **Marquette Township Business Association Facebook Page** – We've had a little bit more traffic this week. We've had around 400 people visit our Facebook page and view our posts; however, of those 400 people, only 1 person (Jenn Wallner) consistently liked and shared our posts. Ashley is trying to focus more on sharing our member's posts on Facebook to hopefully help generate business and marketing for our members. Ashley will continue working on this Facebook page and will reach out to other resources for help on including the Executive Board as administrators on the page. Further discussion was had regarding the benefits of adding the Executive Board as administrators.

8. Reports

- a. **Website** – Todd Noordyk Absent
- b. **Marquette Township Board Treasurer (Ernie Johnson)** - Absent
- c. **Marquette Township Planning & Zoning Administrator (Jason McCarthy)** – A general presentation (paper copy) of the underpass project was passed around for viewing. The Township needs help to generate matching funds for the project. A list of businesses that have provided easement contribution, free promoting (The Mining Journal, TV6), and/or funds to help support the underpass project was also part of the report as well as pictures showing what the highway would look like once the project and roundabouts are completed. Two Michigan Lefts will also be added in addition to the underpass and the

roundabouts. The Township is looking into conducting a speed study once the project is completed because they are thinking about lowering the speed limit in that area. This project will add lighting for an 1/8 mile on either side of the roundabouts.

The Riverside Auto Dealership site plan was just approved, and construction will begin in Spring 2018. It is an approximate \$ 4 million project. Riverside has hired a landscape architect. They will have Honda, Toyota, and Nissan will be on site and the signage is incorporated into the architecture. The current driveway will be moved west to accommodate the turning movement for the mining trucks. The right lane will now be a continuous turning lane with no stop which is a huge benefit for the mines. Eagle Mine donated \$ 25,000 and the township is hopeful that Cliffs will follow suite. There was a question of whether a service road and/or pathway will be incorporated into the plans for Riverside. There are plans for a pathway to be put in in front of the roundabout and Riverside will be putting in a pathway to the roundabout pathway. This is not required because their development will be finished before the roundabouts are finished. However, it was negotiated during site plan review, that Riverside will put in a pathway from their parking lot to the pathway in front of the business. Along with the roundabouts, there are pedestrian crossings on 3 sides of the roundabout.

Jason did ask for a monetary contribution to this project. This project does benefit the business community on this end of the township by setting a precedence for the future 2021 project. The township would like to see the same pedestrian pathways installed down here in 2021. It is the township's feeling that if the 2019 project is done correctly, then it would set precedence for demonstrating how important pedestrian safety is in our community.

Essentially, the pathway from the Iron Ore Heritage Trail is done. The DNR has already constructed that pathway as a process of the snowmobile trail # 14 relocation because Crimmins basically kicked them off their property. They had to negotiate with Riverside and Pete O'Dovero to the north and Up the Sky to get back up to the power line. The Township is hoping that the DNR will continue working on a permanent trail (nonmotorized in summer, snowmobiles in winter) once the tunnel is installed. This trail would go all the way to Little Presque Isle, NTN North, and connect to the North and South Trails via the underpass. For our purposes, we want to install the trail from the Iron Ore Heritage Trail to the tunnel, the tunnel under the highway, and then a pathway on the north side of the highway that goes from the tunnel to the roundabout. In 2021, it would be a safe-routes to school grant application or a TAP grant application which we have received now that would link all the way over to Wright Street and then put in a separated pathway to North Star Academy. This scored higher as a safe-routes to school project versus a recreation project because it benefits more people. The Township received a \$ 2.5 million federal grant for the underpass. The funds are awarded on a points basis and are competitive. Of the \$ 8 million available in the State of Michigan for 2017, Marquette Township got \$ 2.5 million with the contingency of being able to come up with matching funds. A list of current donors was passed around. Marquette Township's General Fund cannot sustain a sizeable donation to make this project happen. Because of this, they are seeking \$ 196,250 of matching funds. The township got a \$ 300,000 recreation grant from the DNR which will be used as a match on this project. So far, the township has raised \$ 131,344 in private donations and Jason had just got off the phone with another donor donating \$ 20,000. The township is down to only needing \$ 45,000. Jason really encourages us to donate because we will be able to have our logo displayed on the underpass as a contributor. Jason is requesting a \$ 2,500 donation from the MTBA.

The question of ease of access to the business community for the pedestrian utilizing the underpass was raised. In 2019, if a pedestrian is utilizing the tunnel, when they exit the tunnel, they will be at road grade at the Target/Walmart roundabout with pedestrian crossing options. The goal of the 2021 project is to connect the 2019 pathways all the way through the corridor with safe pedestrian crossings on both sides of the highway. Commerce intersection may change a little bit and then when they get closer to this area, they are going to have to figure out another safe pedestrian crossing.

There was also a brief discussion on getting snowmobilers into the business district in the township. We feel that the township needs to make a proactive statement supporting snowmobiler's access to the business community and possibly create some supporting trails to connect to the businesses. Traditionally, the snowmobilers are the highest spending tourists and there was discussion concerning the benefits to local businesses of allowing snowmobilers into town.

Michael Morgan made a motion for the MTBA to contribute \$ 2,500 to the highway/underpass project. Tina Henson supported. Motion was passed unanimously at 1:13 pm. Jason McCarthy just needs a letter of intent from the MTBA and we do not have to pay until September 2018.

Adjournment: Frank Stabile, Chairman adjourned meeting at 1:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley D. Krook

Ashley D. Krook, Executive Secretary