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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018 – Noon – Hudson’s Classic Grill**

1. **Roll Call/Round Robin**
2. **Roll Call**
   1. **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)
* Alex Baysore, Guest (Great Lakes Radio, Inc.)
* Adele Jacobson, Guest (Honor Credit Union)
* Ernie Johnson, Treasurer (Marquette Township Board)
* Lyn Durant, Township Supervisor (Marquette Township Board)
* Jason McCarthy, Zoning Administrator (Marquette Township Board)
  1. **ABSENT:**
     + Peggy Loy (Century 21)
     + Todd Noordyk, Co-Chairman (Great Lakes Radio, Inc.)

1. **Agenda 1 – Board of Directors Election – Dr. Cynthia Wiggins**. **Motion made to elect Dr. Wiggins to the Board of Directors. Motion made by Michael Morgan and seconded by Tina Henson. Motion passed unanimously at 12:10 pm.**
2. **Consent Agenda**
   1. Approval of March 20, 2018 minutes
   2. **Treasurer’s Report**
      * Bank Statement Balances
      * Budget Report –The major thing to point out is that we budgeted $ 5,000 of revenue for 2018 membership and we are short 5 members and $ 500 from meeting our goal.
      * Invoices to be Paid
        1. Ashley Krook: $ 111
        2. Great Lakes Radio: $100
        3. Frank Stabile: $ 16.94
   3. **Correspondence**
   4. **Motion made to approve consent agenda made by Michael Morgan. Jenn Wallner supported. Motion passes unanimously at 12:12 pm.**
3. **Regular Agenda**
   1. **Motion made by Scott Patrick. Supported by Michael Morgan. Motion passes unanimously at 12:14 pm.**
   2. **Membership**
      * **5** New and **49** total (New members – Zambons’, Tadych’s Super One, Alpha Omega Dental, Culver’s, UP Kubota)
      * **Potential New Business List for 2018**
        1. Meijer Store and C-Store (Meijer Gas Station), Subaru Car Dealership, Beam and Barrell, Gander Outdoors (opening in late February or early March), New Lash Parlor in old Curran Coffee Shop, Superior Chaga
        2. Ashley visited Fraco Concrete Products, Riverside Toyota and Honda Car Dealership, Ashley Furniture, Cosmo Prof (Cosmetology Supply Company), Sally Hansen Beauty Supply, and the Embroidery Warehouse.
        3. **UP Kubota First Dollar Presentation** – Ashley, Frank, Todd, Michael, and Tina attended the ribbon-cutting at 11 am on Friday and presented UP Kubota with their First Dollar. UP Kubota included our board members in their ribbon cutting photos, so we will get some publicity out of this. Great Lakes Radio was there to provide live on-air coverage. The first dollar presentation and ribbon cutting were posted on our Facebook page and our website.
      * **Membership Drive –** It was suggested to bring Community Profile Brochures to distribute while visiting the new business list. Chairman Stabile also asked that if any of the board members know these business owners personally to please reach out and try to recruit them.
4. **New Business**
   1. **Public Relations Discussion** – $ 2,500 donation to Marquette Township in support of the upcoming underpass project. Pictures were taken and will be posted on our website and Facebook page. The underpass project is now fully funded. The Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant that the Township received was originally written for $ 225,000; however, it has been revised to be increased to $ 300,000. The township credits Stacey Lund from the DNR, Representative Cambensy, and Senator Casperson to their success on revising the trust fund grant. Along with the revision of the trust fund grant, the township also received a large pledge from a local developer who will be named later. This was a huge catalyst to this; it’s been a lot of smaller GoFundMe donations. There has been 55 individuals, businesses, or organizations that have contributed to raise $ 195,000 locally. With the $ 300,000 trust fund grant, this does provide the $ 495,000 match funds for the $ 2.5 million grant. Jason McCarthy thanked the MTBA for it’s contribution and advised that the township needs the pledged funds in October but will probably start canvassing in September.
   2. **2018 Community Profile Brochure Discussion** – Frank has been spearheading this. He has been working with James Larson from the Mining Journal. Frank sent out a support letter to the membership and board as an introduction for the Mining Journal to begin canvassing for sale of ad space. The sale of the ad space is what makes the brochure possible. The Mining Journal has taken over production and distribution of this. Frank also spoke with the Mining Journal about the possibility of including the brochure as an insert in the newspaper. There is a cost associated with distributing the brochure through the newspaper, so that is dependent upon sale of ad space. This would be a great tool for distribution. We’ve only produce approximately 5,000 per year for the past few years, and we still have 1,000-1,500 remaining from last year’s publication. We would like this put out in an insert to be distributed county-wide. There was further discussion on this with Chairman Frank Stabile encouraging board member participation to include suggestions for improvement or contributing through articles. Jason McCarthy expressed his willingness to provide new photos as he has provided photos in the past. There was a suggestion for an article detailing new upcoming developments, growth of the township, and what the future looks like. It was also suggested to post this article on the website and to update the article as we learn of new developments. Jason McCarthy did say that he thought it would be important to highlight the upcoming highway projects, the DDA expansion, and the importance of the role of the business community in these projects.
5. **Unfinished Business**
6. **Catch the Vision/DDA Update –** None. Todd absent.
7. **Beautification of the Corridor –** We are still interested in adopting a roundabout. Jason McCarthy did say that he may get more information on that at the MDOT meeting. Jason McCarthy shared what he does know about the roundabout – MDOT will put a base number of plantings in the roundabout to make it look nice. The township board does take over ownership of the roundabout once it’s completed, so we’ll have to coordinate with them on that. Jason did suggest putting a Welcome feature/sign in; however, we do have to comply with MDOT regulations as well. Frank did question if we could put in a sign designating the business corridor of the township to let our tourists know where the businesses are located.
8. **Follow up on Joint Meeting with Township Board (Discussion)** – May 15 at the township hall. We decided to cut this down to twice a year – in May and November. The MTBA will be providing lunch for the attendees at the joint meetings.
9. **Reports**
   1. **Marquette Township Business Association Facebook Page (Ashley Krook)** – Our latest posting was on the First Dollar Presentation with UP Kubota. Ashley shared the website posting produced by Great Lakes Radio on our Facebook page. We also had two new friend requests in the last week from business people in our community. We are also seeing increased viewings on our site and postings. As always with Facebook, there is room for improvement, so please like and share our posts. Ashley is trying to keep the website postings and Facebook postings in conjunction with each other.
   2. **Website (Ashley Krook)** – Our latest postings were on the First Dollar Presentation with UP Kubota. Great Lakes Radio put the article together and put it out on the website. Alex Baysore did comment that the more posts we have, the more feedback it will generate. He also touched on the importance of continued communication.
   3. **Marquette Township Board Treasurer (Ernie Johnson)** – The Township Board is currently looking at the roads; the township voted for a millage for the roads. The Road Committee can come up with what’s going to happen this summer. Ernie Johnson also shared that the township is again looking at budgets. Township Superintendent Lyn Durant shared that the Planning Commission is going to suggest another community survey. It’s been approximately 8 years since the last one. It was a 300-person random survey that was done to find out that the roads were the number one concern of the citizens. The Road Committee was than put on this issue and Dave Wiggins and Pete LaRue have been integral to this project. They are recommending that the Planning Commission do another survey. The first survey was done through a company and cost about $ 10,000. It was initially a written survey and then the company did follow-up calls. Jason and Planning and Rec are confident that they can do the survey themselves this time which will save a lot of money. This is a completely random survey with no names attached. The Planning Commission will present that to the board at the Township Board Meeting tonight. Round-about lighting will also be discussed at tonight’s meeting because the township does have to pay for the lighting which they were unaware of ($ 125,000). Jason McCarthy was able to come up with some County Road Commission safety grants which means that the township will have to contribute $ 25,000 for lighting per roundabout and then the Township is also responsible for the cost of the lighting (electricity) and the maintenance of the roundabout. There will be a presentation from the Rotary Foundation to pay for a new swing set at Lion’s Field. The Rotary Foundation is donating $ 5,500 to purchase the swing set. The township is also currently seeking a new Fire Chief and reviewing applicants for this position. The current Fire Chief’s last day is the end of May.
   4. **Marquette Township Planning & Zoning Administrator (Jason McCarthy)** – Meijer is opening on May 24. The C-Store (Meijer Gas Station) should be open in the next week or so. The township board has passed the DDA expansion so that takes the boundary and basically encompasses all the properties to be zoned for commercial development. The next step would be to formulate some type of plan to identify projects that the DDA would benefit from, categorize them, prioritize them, and then come to a consensus on moving forward. As far as new businesses go, there’s not a lot now. There is one institutional-type building that is proposed to come into the business park, but there’s not a lot of information on that yet. There is going to be some infill projects in the business park that we are aware of, where the township hall is located, office-type buildings. Fran Sevegny bought Remax and the entire Remax group will be relocating to the property that was developed kitty-corner to the fire hall and right next to the eye care facility in the business park. Remax was based out of south Front Street in Marquette. This will happen May 1. Short-term rentals were approved by the Planning Commission with a special-use permit in Marquette Township. This does have to go to the County Planning Commission for their input and then it must be ratified by the board. If nothing changes, you would be able to have a short-term rental in Marquette Township. The township is treating it as a commercial-land use (because it does generate revenue) which means the owner would have to get a business license in the township and have a fire-inspection every couple of years to ensure renter’s safety. All the neighbors within 300 feet of a short-term rental will be notified and if there are no major red flags, they will be allowed to conduct a rental for less than 90 days. There was further discussion on how short-term rentals will be conducted. Jason was attending a meeting the MDOT after this meeting to discuss the design of the underpass. There is an interested party in the Westwood Mall and they are marketing that property. It could potentially be a really nice development, but it is very early in discussion. The owners of the Westwood Mall (there’s approximately 15 owners) are looking at land division to turn the current stores and make them their own properties and the residual would be sold.

**Adjournment: Jenn Wallner made a motion to adjourn. Scott Patrick seconded. Passed unanimously at 12:57 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley D. Krook

Ashley D. Krook, Executive Secretary