

Joint Township Meeting

November 16th, 2021 – 12:00pm – Township Hall

MBTA Members Present: Frank Stabile, Michael Morgan, Jenn Wallner, Chuck Williams, Michelle LaJoie.

Township Members Present: Eric Powers, Ernie Johnson, Jason McCarthy, Pete LaRue, Lyn Durant, Jon Kangas, John Markes.

1. Pete asked the MTBA how we feel about the Township government. All board members had positive comments to share.
 - a. Michelle had a lot of positive comments.
 - b. Frank has seen a big change over the years. All good and positive.
 - c. Chuck is impressed with the growth of the Township. It's a lot to manage and grow, and the Township has done a good job.
 - d. Mike thinks the Township has done a good job with the explosive growth the Township has had. Businesses have positive relations with the township.
 - e. Jenn is pleased with the forward thinking and business growth the township has shown.
 - f. Pete expressed that many have complained about the lack of good shopping in the Township. Which was discussed a bit.
2. DDA Highlights:
 - a. DDA is currently working on a strategic plan, which contains all of the priorities of the DDA.
 - b. A lot was accomplished in the old strategic plan. Required to update the plan every three years. The plan grows and changes, but a lot remains the same, with small changes.
 - c. Previously were able to attract new and different businesses.
 - d. Now there will be changes in the landscape.
 - e. Road map for land use in the future.
 - f. First project of the strategic plan is to connect the multiuse pathways. Want to extend all the way down the highway, hopefully on both sides. This is a challenging and big goal.
 - g. There is a lot the DDA could do to assist business partners in the future.
 - h. DDA should have an outline next month for the strategic plan. And will continue to add to it.
 - i. DDA wants to start having meetings where business owners can come and talk with the township.
 - j. Public opinion is very important.
 - k. DDA wants not just business voices, but also the residents that live in the township.
 - l. Residents would most likely want to have a say on the trails being put in.
 - m. DDA hopes to take whatever milage is levied and then multiply it for future projects.
3. New Park Talk:
 - a. Township is acquiring land behind the Westwood Mall. 16 acres. 100 thousand an acre, so 1.6 million.
 - b. 480 thousand hopefully acquired through a grant. And hopefully without tax payer money.

- c. The Dagenais park in 2012-2013 was done this way.
 - d. Idea is to create more of a recreational park.
 - i. Dog area, pickle ball, outdoor entertainment, pump tracks, music setting, picnic tables, etc....
 - ii. There's a lot of interest in the area. Fox Motors and the Marquette Alternative High School have expressed interested.
 - e. The main goal right now is to acquire the property. The action and recreational plans need to be updated to include this.
 - f. Township wants public input for what to do with the land. And will have to figure out how to maintain the land.
 - g. At first the Township wanted 37 acres, but now leaving some land for private purchase.
 - h. There is a meeting tonight to gathering ideas. Meeting is open to the public and was advertised on multiple sources. No final decisions will be made at this meeting, it is just for the public to come, learn, and share their thoughts.
4. Development:
- a. Not much new in terms of development.
 - b. Construction prices will hopefully go down in the next year.
 - c. Best Buy building is interesting, because they want to lease, not sell. This is the same for the old Fish and Wildlife building.
 - d. Westwood mall is going well.
 - e. Highway project was a huge deal. Nothing like that will happen again for 20 years.
 - f. There will probably be some new office spaces going up in the next year.
5. Launch Pad:
- a. Questions on if the launch pad will help us or harm us.
 - b. Some of Granot Loma is in the township.
 - c. No one is really clear on what's going on.
 - d. They were supposed to have some type of plan by October 5th.
 - e. There will be five years of stuff to do with the EPA, State, and Federal.
 - f. Powell Township is still rejecting this.
 - g. If and when launches take place, residents will have to leave the area.
 - h. People are speaking against this.
 - i. Not getting much information.
6. Rate Increases:
- a. No rate increase for this year hopefully!
 - b. Solid waste (garbage and recycling) is the biggest issue and increase in rate.
 - c. Businesses are on their own to get best rate.
 - d. Water and sewer rates will hopefully not go up. And trying to secure water rates for the future.
7. Sands Landfill will take any type of batteries to dispose.