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Joint Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 21st, 2022– 12:00pm – Township Hall

Attendance MTBA: Mike Morgan, Jenn Wallner, Michelle LaJoie

Attendance Township: Andrew Rickauer, Missy Bengry, Leonard Bodenus, John Kangas, Erik Powers, Jason McCarthy, Jessie Bell, Randy Ritari, Lyn Durant, Linda Winslow, John Markes, Ernie Johnson, Dan Everson.

1. Township DDA & Current Plans

- a. Time limited for development plan.
- b. Generating revenue for the connectors between the multi-use path along the highway down to Werner Street towards Commerce Drive and down to Moran on Wright Street
 - i. This was the first seed money that the DDA levied a mileage for
- c. Pilot project along the median for native species project.
 - i. Permit with MDOT.
 - ii. 1/3 of an acre east of commerce Drive.
 - iii. \$1,000 to cover cost and \$500 from DDA. Hopefully most of the costs will be covered.
 - iv. Will come back every year, but maintenance will be heavy for the first few years. But then low maintenance.
- d. Finishing the corridor will be the next plan and potential funding from MTRA.
- e. Largest cost is the seed itself, \$1,000 an acre, most likely won't get any cheaper.

2. New Master Plan Highlights

- a. 2020 master plan was updated and will be updated again in 2025.
- b. Demographic will be updated.
- c. Township area is 6% in population.
 - i. Because of the change in type of population, land use was changed to rural residential south of the highway.
 - ii. Now North of the highway there are plans being made in the Forestville area.

- iii. Working with Road Commission regarding this. Township has a plan in their Master Plan.
 - iv. In the past there were some lines drawn out on maps regarding County Road 595. Road heading North from West roundabout, down the power line and connecting up to 550 somewhere.
 - 1. Provides more recreational area and access, reduces emergency response time, and opens up a lot of residential property for development.
 - d. Only growing Township in Marquette County.
 - i. And the Township has the room at grow as long as utilities can be provided.
 - ii. Should see a lot of growth for the next 10-15 years.
 - e. Fly Ash Road has been picked up, which will be a class A road and a local road network. Will connect Forestville to 550.
 - f. Future land use plan was updated to make sure Township isn't spreading out too far.
 - g. Goals/objectives – adjusted a little bit from plans that have been completed.
 - h. Recreational plan is reflected in the master plan.
 - i. Township has had a preliminary talk with J.M. Longyear.
 - i. Tiny homes, short term rentals, affordable homes – all things that are changing the landscape of living for all stages of life.
 - ii. They seem to be proposing a diverse range of options.
 - iii. But this is all market driven so we will see where it goes.
 - j. There's a lot of forward thinking going on with all connects and it is very refreshing. Used to not be this way, but now everyone seems to be on the same page.
 - k. All of this is available online.
3. Upcoming New Business Development
- a. Proposed bakery next to Fraco has had a small delay.
 - i. Prototype buildings had a lot of drive through and take out.
 - ii. Waivered on building size.
 - b. Children's consignment store going in Westwood mall.
 - c. Nothing new regarding new best buy building.
 - d. Things have been quiet.
 - e. Nothing regarding land behind Discount Tire.
4. Parks & Recreational News
- a. New Park Project- Grant submitted and received word that it is administratively complete and now up for review. Won't know anything until the fall and a successful purchase agreement wouldn't be signed until Spring 2023.
 - i. Working on purchase agreement this week.
 - ii. Trying to acquire least desirable spot of land.

- iii. 16 acres to be acquired.
- iv. If acquired will cost tax payers zero dollars because the sellers will put forward a desired match. \$50,000 contribution from sellers and then state covers the rest.
- v. There will be an easement if this goes through.
- vi. Project is within the DDA and has generated a lot of interest.
- vii. The land will be a passive park.

b. Lions Field

- i. Fall 2022 improvements will begin. New batting cage and irrigation.
- ii. They are allowed to sell advertisement spots which go around the field. The three teams a part of the agreement will be allowed to hang their signs.
- iii. These are a 10 year commitment, and no less than \$10,000.
- iv. A lot of parts for improvement are on long shipment or production delays.

5. Roundabout Signage

- a. Right now this is on the backburner.
- b. Having trouble finding someone to design the sign.
- c. Sign has to be low profile, because it cannot be a liability to motorists.
- d. Money is set aside from the MTBA for this.
- e. They will update us when they move forward.

6. Forestville Project/ Residential Area/ Bypass

- a. Right now this is a road commission project.
- b. Looking at feasibility of having another bypass in town.
- c. Seeing if we have the room to grow and the ability for the utilities to be in place.
- d. Concerns have been made known regarding Forestville Wright Street intersection.
 - i. Study will be done regarding this, but they already know the intersection is dangerous.
 - ii. A lot to think about regarding trucks in the winter.
- e. Trying to acquire some funding to help us grow.
- f. Have 54 square miles and only have seven percent developed. But want to grow in a sustainable way.
- g. From a utility perspective, utilities have already been being looked at. Considering working with the City of Marquette regarding water. Two reports underway for this. Should receive this information in October.
- h. Third quarter of the year a lot of information will be coming in.

7. Heartwood Forest Project

- a. Four purchase agreements to buy out part of the city properties.
- b. Problem is that the city paid four times what its worth, but the Township can't afford that.

- c. City planning commission set aside a section to develop in the Southeast corner.
 - d. Township is rezoned for forest recreation to preserve the property. No commercial or residential development allowed.
 - e. City needs money so they are trying to figure out how to do this.
8. Friday morning at 10:30am there is a ribbon cutting at Thomas Theater for the game center and alcohol sales.
- a. Township asked to be invited to the LSCP ribbon cuttings in the future.
9. Mike thanked everyone for attending the joint meeting and for all of the great information!
10. Jason made remarks regarding the corridor project. Very proud of it! A lot of good comments! Has reduced maintenance, good quality, and looks good.
11. Longevity of elected officials is really helpful with this. A lot of forward thinking with staff and board in the Township.

Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.