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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Noon – Hudson's

### 1. Roll Call

#### A. PRESENT:

- Frank Stabile - Chairman (Superior Oasis)
- Michael Morgan – Co-Chairman (First National Trust & Wealth Management)
- Jenn Wallner – Treasurer (Tailored CPA's)
- Michelle LaJoie (CAAM)

#### B. ABSENT

- Chuck Williams (mediaBrew)
- Jim Borowski (Goodwill)

#### C. GUESTS

- Ernie Johnson
- Erik Powers

### 2. Consent Agenda

#### A. Treasurers Report:

- a. Bank Statement Balances as of January 31, 2024:
  - i. Checking: \$3,961.17
  - ii. Savings: \$3,553.15
  - iii. CD: \$7,088.13
- b. Invoices to be Paid:
  - i. Media Brew: \$100.00
  - ii. Sarah Stabile for Secretarial Services: January \$90
  - iii. Hudson's Catering: \$300
- c. Raffle Income

#### B. Correspondence: None

### 3. Regular Agenda

- #### A. Motion for Approval of February Agenda, January Meeting Minutes, Joint Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda- Mike Morgan motions, Michelle LaJoie supports, motion passes.

#### B. Reports:

- a. **Marquette Township Board Treasurer (Ernie Johnson):**
  - i. It is a slower time of the year for the Township.
  - ii. The solar panels are going up at the Township Hall. Not sure when they will be complete and ready for use.
  - iii. Once the solar panels are up and running, they should generate about 50% of the power needed for the building.
    1. It will take a little bit of time, but the solar panels will pay for themselves in time, and will be

worth it.

2. They have a 30-year life cycle.
  - iv. Board meeting tomorrow night. Karl Bohnak will be there.
  - v. Water Department is asking for money to go to California because we were voted the best tasting water in the State of Michigan, which means we qualified to go to nationals!
  - vi. Working on priorities and what needs to be done, which will happen two meetings from now.
  - vii. PFAS in solid waste category of water bills will be about \$10-\$15 more. This is to make up for the high cost of building the new plant and running it.
    1. Also, recycling fee may be going up \$15 as well. This has to do with too much trash coming in from outside the State of Michigan. Michigan's fees are lower than other states, so trying to keep other states trash out.
  - viii. Something to keep an eye on is Senet bill 329 and House Bill 4681: Has to do with insurance premiums, both for personal and businesses. Could be largely affected by these bills.
    1. Insurance payments for businesses and families could go up anywhere in between 11% and 40%.
- b. **Events (Chuck Williams):** Chuck not present, no updates.
- c. **Marquette Township Planning & Zoning Administrator (Erik Powers):**
- i. Again, it is a quiet time of year, but permit applications, both personal and business, are slowly starting to come in with Spring around the corner.
  - ii. One of the main focuses for this year is updating the master plan. The plan expires this year. Time frame for the current plan is 2020-2024.
    1. Jason and Erik have been going through some of it already.
    2. Will begin to have public meetings to get public input.
  - iii. Texas Roadhouse is scheduled to open at the end of the month.
  - iv. Applied for the housing readiness grant and awarded \$50,000! Plan on putting this towards the master plan update, specifically the housing component of the plan.
- d. **DDA Update (Frank Stabile):**
- i. Not much going on with the DDA. The quarterly meeting is coming up.
  - ii. Michelle was appointment to the DDA to fill an empty seat for 2024!
- e. **MTBA Facebook Page & Website (Sarah Stabile):** No Update.

### C. Membership:

- a. Paid Members: 43, all paid!
- b. Nothing to add from the membership committee as of now.

### D. New Business:

#### a. Event Sponsorships:

- i. Community Days (Marquette Township)
- ii. Car Show & Tree Lighting (mediaBrew)
- iii. The MTBA has always donated to the three Township events, but now they are being held by two different organizations, therefore we have to decide how we will be donating money.
- iv. Previously the MTBA has donated \$500 total for all Township events.
- v. In 2023, the MTBA donated \$500 to the Township for Community Days, and \$500 to mediaBrew for the car show and tree lighting. With the total being \$1,000.
- vi. How do we move forward?
- vii. It has been suggested to hold off on deciding what we are donating until we have a definite answer from our strategic meeting and how we are moving forward.
- viii. Has been mentioned that these are important events that we have always supported and events that we should continue to support.
- ix. Where is our money most needed?
- x. The support we give to the two schools seems to be very well received by the schools and community.
- xi. Maybe we should reach out to the Township and mediaBrew to ask what level of sponsorship is needed.
- xii. Board will hold off on making a decision on how much money and who to donate to until we get more specific information from both organizations on their sponsorship levels and what the MTBAs return will be and the benefits for us.
- xiii. Important to look at what the benefit to the Township is and to consider that the MTBA was originally donating to a nonprofit, but now would be donating to a for profit business.

**E. Unfinished Business:**

**a. Raffle:**

- i. Sarah is finishing reporting the 2023 raffle and will be starting to apply for the 2024 raffle.

**b. Strategic Meeting Discussion:**

- i. LSCP Follow Up Questions: What would the cost be for the MTBA to join? What benefits would be provided to the MTBA? What benefits would that provide for our members?
  - ii. LSCP did not seem to have a clear picture as to what they would be doing for us. If we were to move forward with them, we would need a lot more information.
  - iii. We might need to provide specific information as to what LSCP can do for us.
  - iv. Some board members are confused as to what LSCP does.
  - v. It's possible LSCP could do a full presentation to provide us with more understanding.
  - vi. It has been suggested to change the meeting time to get more board members. This has been tried many times and did not seem to increase board members.
    1. We have tried many times over the years to get more members and more participation, but it is very hard.
  - vii. How can we enhance our advocacy for our members?
    1. Sarah could send out the Township meeting minutes for the board to look over and decide if there is anything that needs to be discussed or shared with our members.
  - viii. The communication between the Township and business owners has been very important and needed. The Township has asked for this. This has been a big part of the MTBA and an important aspect to continue.
  - ix. The MTBA has the ability to be the bridge between the Township and businesses in the Township. This is something we have done but can continue to build on. We can get more information out to members and talk with the Township about issues.
  - x. Have to be proactive with our members for this to work.
  - xi. Sending out our meeting minutes and the Townships could be very helpful.
  - xii. At our meetings we get information sooner than the public does at times.
  - xiii. The more valuable information we can get people, the better.
  - xiv. Have to start with simple steps such as sending meeting minutes out to members.
  - xv. Has been suggested for Chris to come back for another meeting so we can better understand what LSCP does and if they can help us.
  - xvi. We need to know if they are going to work on specific Township issues with us or just provide the same information, they provide all members.
  - xvii. We should be moving forward with advocacy on our own no matter if we will be going with the LSCP or not.
  - xviii. Chuck and Jim are not present but their opinions are requested.
  - xix. Board would like Sarah to follow up with Chris regarding questions above.
  - xx. Since not all board members are present, this discussion should be continued via email. Sarah will start this.
- c. Business Cards:** Sarah will discuss at March meeting.

**F. Donations**

**a. Yearly Donations to North Star Academy and Marquette Alternative High School:**

- i. Continue with the agreed upon \$250 each.
- ii. Could discuss raising the amount for 2025 depending on how much money we generate from our raffle.

**G. Round Robin**

- a. Early voting has started! Have already had some people coming in to vote at the Township.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Noon – Hudson's**

Jenn Wallner motions to end the meeting, Mike Morgan seconds, motion passes. Meeting ends at 1:05pm.