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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – 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 - (Lost Creek Apartments/CAAM)
- Chuck Williams - (mediaBrew)
- David Weigand - (TruNorth)

B. ABSENT

- Jim Borowski (Goodwill)

C. GUESTS

- Chris Germain (LSCP)

2. Consent Agenda

A. Treasurers Report:

- a. Bank Statement Balances as of January 31, 2025:
 - i. Checking: \$4,804.67
 - ii. Savings: \$3,054.87
 - iii. CD 4.425% (Matures 7/29/2024): \$7,411.84
- b. Invoices Paid:
- c. Invoices to be Paid:
 - i. Media Brew Website Fee: \$100
 - ii. Sarah Stabile for Secretarial Services: January \$135

B. Correspondence:

- a. Luke Hubbard – response to tax issue email

C. Budget:

- a. Jenn presented a mock budget.
- b. The raffle is not included in the budget because it was still being decided on.
- c. It has now been decided that we will continue the raffle for the 2025 year.
- d. With the raffle income, we will have enough money for our yearly donations and will not have to dip into our reserve fund.

3. Regular Agenda

- A. **Motion for Approval of February Agenda, January Meeting Minutes, and Consent Agenda-** Mike Morgan motions, Michelle Lajoie support, motion passes.

B. Reports:

- a. **Marquette Township Board Treasurer (Andrew Rickauer):** Andrew not present, no report.
- b. **Events (Chuck Williams):**
 - i. The Christmas tree is still up because of the cold weather, but will be coming down soon.
 - ii. The tree lighting went very well.
 - iii. The car show and tree lighting will be happening again in 2025.
 - iv. Everything is already in the works, but nothing solidified to report on yet.
 - v. mediaBrew will not be a part of community day again.
 - vi. The status of the mall selling is unlikely to affect the events for this year.
- c. **Marquette Township Planning & Zoning Administrator (Erik Powers):** Erik not present, but sent email update.
 - i. No development updates.
 - ii. The Jacobetti Veteran's home planning continues to move forward in a positive direction.
 - iii. The matter of creating a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for the proposed Renovare development goes before the board soon.
 - iv. The master planning is coming along.
- d. **DDA Update (Frank Stabile):**
 - i. There has not been a DDA meeting since the last MTBA meeting.
 - ii. There's about 100 thousand in finances and will be collecting another 100 thousand this year.
 - iii. Will be using this money to support DDA Project Priorities.
- e. **MTBA Facebook Page & Website (Sarah Stabile):**
 - i. Sarah has been doing twice a week social media checks for anything new to post on the Facebook page or website.
 - ii. Keeping an eye on the Township and LSCP's Facebook pages for new updates to share.
 - iii. As a reminder, please send Sarah anything you'd like shared regarding your Township business.

C. Membership:

- a. **Members:** 42 members!
 - i. One unpaid member (Alpha Omega) from last year and we will not be pursuing this business for renewal.

D. New Business:

- a. Chris Germain (LSCP):
 - i. Chris had joined the MTBA for a meeting back in October 2023. During that time the LSCP was at the end of their strategic planning. Since then, the LSCP has settled into their focus and goals. Chris joined the meeting today to discuss these updates and changes.
 - ii. Over the years the LSCP has had an unsure focus and they had to decide what to focus on. They realized that since most other businesses are very specialized that they needed to be broader and more general.
 - iii. LSCP has been rebuilt with three different focuses:
 - 1. Business network: Business after hours, ribbon cuttings, love on local gift card program, key to the county, directory listing, social media promotions, access to business support, marketing opportunities, business-related advocacy.
 - 2. Economic alliance: Special studies and programs on critical issues such as housing and air service, targeted business retention and expansion program, site selector services, business attraction services, economic-development advocacy.
 - 3. Professional services: Economic impact studies, regional ED contracts, local government contracts, backend support contracts, special projects.
 - iv. With these three focuses, they are able to direct people to one of the three depending on their needs.
 - v. Focuses of the new strategic plan:
 - 1. Retaining and growing existing business. They won't be focusing on getting new business at this point, but rather focus on the business they already have.
 - 2. Creating vibrant communities. This is essential for retaining and attracting population.
 - 3. Encouraging entrepreneurship by fostering and enhancing the ecosystem which will allow entrepreneurs to thrive.
 - 4. Advocating for shared interest at the state level, but has now expanded to the federal level as well.
 - 5. Connecting and informing members. This is at the heart of what the LSCP does.
 - 6. Expanding revenue.
 - 7. Investing in the LSCP.

8. Communicating clearly and often.
- vi. Dickinson and Baraga are funded by the LSCP.
- vii. Membership has grown 25% in the last two year, gaining 90 more members.
- viii. The LSCP connected with 613 businesses last year. They have a group that goes out specifically to sit down individually with businesses and chat.
- ix. LSCP has created The Hub - Central UP Small Business support.
 1. The purpose of establishing hubs across the state is to streamline delivery of resources and support to small businesses in Michigan.
 2. The Hub is available in seven counties throughout the UP.
 3. Was established in November 2023 when the Michigan Economic Development Corporation awarded \$73 million to established Small Business Support hubs across the state.
 4. So far, they have captured 3.4 million.
 5. 426 thousand to go to direct grants.
 6. The LSCP cannot take an indirect cut from this money.
 7. Some of the money goes to paying the LSCP staff.
 8. Four on the ground businesses created in the last year, within the seven districts.
- x. LSCP has been working on the housing issue. Renovare project and Forestville are on their radar. The area can handle a lot more new homes.
- xi. Childcare Spark is an in-home childcare business. There are two in the Township and six in the UP.
- xii. LSCP is working on Airservices and improving our airport. They are working on getting a Minneapolis flight back and a second Delta flight. American will be bring back a second flight.
- xiii. They have done a lot of advocacy and spent a lot of time in Lansing. Especially with the new sick leave and minimum wage increase.
- xiv. There will be a free local economic event at the NMU Jacobetti Center on October 10th.
- xv. LSCP is already working on a second office.
- xvi. They are hoping to create a new category of membership with lower prices.
- xvii. Right now, LSCP has 383 members, with a goal of 400 plus by the end of the year.
- xviii. Hannah will contact Sarah regarding events happening in the Township, so the MTBA can help promote.
- xix. Chris will send Sarah a list of Business After Hours events happening in the Township.
- xx. The MTBA would like to be a part of all new business ribbon cutting ceremonies, and the LSCP will contact Sarah about these, and Sarah will inform the board.

E. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Raffle:** It has been decided that we will be doing the raffle again for 2025!
 - i. Might need to set up in a different area for the car show to attract more people.
 - ii. David has proposed some ideas and would like to help with the raffle and outreach.
- b. **Personal Property Tax Issue:** The executive board decided to send an email out to inform members about the issue and to collect more information.
 - i. We have already been contacted and informed about the issue from Steve Anderson.
 - ii. Sarah received an email back from Luke Hubbard (Fox Motors) explaining that they also received a tax notice for 2019. They were not happy, but they did pay the taxes and fees. But they're trying to get the fees waived and will let us know what happens.

F. Donations

- a. **Yearly School Donations:** Donations completed and posted on the Facebook page and website!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 – Noon – Hudson's Classic Grill

Mike Morgan motions to ended the meeting, Jenn Wallner supports, motion passes, and the meeting ends at 1:19pm.