

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission
303 Franklin Street
February 28, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: President Elka Nelson, Vice President Erik Wagner, William Lopez, Brian Finley, Jeannine Virtue, and John Marshall, non-voting member

Also Present: Attorney Gregg Sobkowski, Director of Development Mike Barry, Town Council President Greg Stinson, Director of Parks Brian Bugajski, and Secretary Karen Spanier.

Approval of Minutes

Erik Wagner made the motion to approve the January 24, 2017 minutes with Jeannine Virtue making the second.

Motion carried 5-0.

Consideration of Claims

Motion to approve the February claims as presented was made by Erik Wagner. Jeannine Virtue made the second.

Motion carried 5-0.

Audience Participation

Director of Parks Brian Bugajski said he has received three quotes for the purchase of a Tow-Behind Rough Cut Mower. Riggs Outdoor Power Equipment had the lowest quote; but also, had the highest cut capacity.

Bugajski is asking for approval to for \$2,599.00 (the RDC share from the Trail Maintenance Agreement) and the remaining \$1,000.00 would come the Park Department for a total purchase price of \$3,599.00.

Brian Finley made the motion to accept Riggs quote and approve the RDC Contributing \$2,599.00 towards the purchase price. Jeannine Virtue made the second.

Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Director of Development Mike Barry announced two Appraisers were approved for the Brickyard Project and are currently working on the appraisals.

Attorney Sobkowski had nothing to report.

Old Business

None

New Business

Paving Project Change Order

Change Order #7 – modifies the contract quantities to balance with the installed quantities for an increase of \$101,522.93.

Jeannine Virtue made the motion to approve Change Order #7, with William Lopez making the second. Motion carried 5-0.

Final Pay Request – Pay Request #2 (Final) for Walsh & Kelly in the amount of \$311,218.50.

Motion to disburse final payment for the Paving Project was made by Jeannine Virtue. Brian Finley made the second. Motion carried, 5-0.

Yost School Donation

While other Cities and Towns that have TIF areas have sometimes given back to the School System either by contract or an individual project, Elka Nelson stated she would like the Commission to consider participating in a Donation specifically to Yost School in Porter.

Nelson said she contacted our financial consultants (Umbaugh) to see if they could do a study to determine if it was feasible for the Commission to donate any funds to the Schools. Nelson explained it would cost \$2,500.00 for this study and she would rather give the money for the study directly to the School.

After speaking to Town Council President Greg Stinson, he alerted her of a project that was in need of funding.

Stinson gave the Commission a brief History on how he became involved in this project. He stated Duneland School Corporation Counselors overall have participated in a program called Redesigning School Counseling and that all of schools are doing this and as part of this project they have set up Advisory Councils. Stinson said he is currently serving as a member of such Council. After reviewing some of the data it became clear the need for other learning objectives, some of the students were having social or emotional learning issues that needed to be addressed. This program named Second Step is specifically designed to provide programming for Counselors and Teachers to help the students with such learning issues.

Speaking next was Susan Harmison a counselor within Duneland Schools, she said this year the Duneland School Board provided a counselor at all Schools including all Elementary.

The program she said is called Second Step and it deals with social and emotional learning. They are finding today that the students haven't be taught the basic things such as empathy, or how to communicate with others, even how to pay attention. We keep telling kids to pay attention but not teaching them what that means.

This Second Step program is an actual teaching tool, it involves the Teacher, group learning, you model and give examples. And at the Elementary level we would be sharing this program with other Counselors so the Commission would not just be purchasing it for Yost School, that way all the Elementary Schools will be teaching the same thing. This program has much research behind it and even linking with the employment world. She said she has the research if the Commission is interested.

John Marshall, stated he is also on the Advisory Council at the High School level and have noticed many of the freshman coming into the School System are lacking some of those social skills that they should have received in Elementary School and currently do not have any programs focusing that. This is something we feel very strongly about and a program we want to stand behind. Regretfully, the State gives us funding and we have to divide it between all departments and every School always needs more.

We need these Organizations to help us provide additional funding for this kind of program.

He knows Yost School is very passionate about getting the Second Step program installed into their system.

After a brief discussion, Brian Finley made the motion to have our Attorney prepare a Resolution approving a \$2,500.00 donation to Duneland Schools. Jeannine Virtue made the second. Motion carried 5-0.

Commission Comments

None

Adjournment

Erik Wagner made the motion to adjourn. Jeannine Virtue made the second.

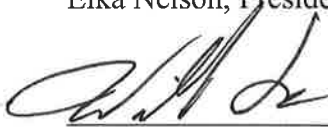
Meeting Adjourned at 6:28 p.m.



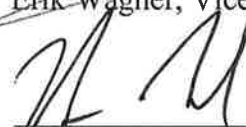
Elka Nelson, President



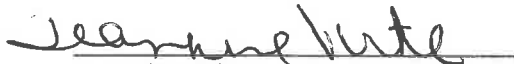
Erik Wagner, Vice President



William Lopez, Member



Brian Finley, Member



Jeannine Virtue, Member

Attest:



Karen Spanier, Secretary