

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission
303 Franklin Street
January 23, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Vice President Allison Hultman, Russ Erwin, and Don Craft,

Absent: Brian Finley, Dave Phillips and Beth Mehling

Also Present: Attorney Laura Frost, Director of Development Michael Barry, Public Works Superintendent James Spanier, and Secretary Karen Spanier

Approval of Minutes

Don Craft made the motion to approve the August 22, 2023 meeting minutes, with Russ Erwin making the second.

Motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Claims

Motion to approve the January claims in the amount of \$21,298.50 was made by Don Craft. Russ Erwin made the second.

Motion carried 3-0.

Audience Participation

Jim Morsch, 2912 Wabash St., questioned why Johnson Beach Inn is still standing. Despite ordinance violations, despite closure violations, despite Mr. Barry requesting it be taken down.

He states it is probably the most valuable piece of land in Porter, and yet is told the town lacks the money to take it down.

He is requesting the RDC allocate some money to take the structure down as it is an eyesore.

He said the Beach is the number one thing valuable in Porter, and number two negative is the Inn in 1930-1950's stop being an Inn.

As an attorney he knows you can recoup money with a lien.

Mr. Barry will be discussing with the attorney in next few days he should have more by next meeting.

He has spoken with neighbors and same story nothing is getting done.

Reports

Michael Barry stated last month we were awarded \$2,770,000 from the Next Level Trails grant for the Mnoke Prairie section of the Marquette- Greenway Trail. Burns Harbor also received their grant. The contract for SEH isn't ready for tonight he will have for the next meeting.

He received two Brickyard reports back from Amereco, Inc. One is the soil testing and borings and the second is the soil management plan which tells you how to develop it and is sent to IDEM. You are free to read it and email questions now with documents. Currently the south half of property is the Town's leaf/brush storage area. Barry has had people ask if he would like to relocate that area and he asks where the free piece of property for public works use is. We do need to come up with a purpose for that property, and Barry is going to go over it with consultants and see what to come up with. Allison Hultman asks what the cost would be. Barry states he doesn't know yet, we need to determine if trees would need to be tore down. Public Works is staying out of contaminated area. They put asphalt millings down and that was ok with IDEM.

Attorney Reports

None

Old Business

PW Superintendent James Spanier states back in August Commission ask for him to check with lowest responsible bidder for concrete work on Lincoln Street to see if they would honor that price this year. They sent back a new proposal with wording as long as the work is completed by July 1st, 2024.

Allison Hultman explains the process that happened in back August. Attorney Frost advised that we will have to get new quotes as the project was never awarded. She said there is a time limit that quotes must be accepted.

Russ Erwin made a motion to requote the Lincoln Street project, Don Craft made the second.

Motion carried 3-0.

New Business

Michael Barry has four Consultant Contracts for approval, they are Haas Engineering, MCR Partners, Baker Tilly, and Global Engineering. They all have been reviewed by the Attorney.

Don Craft made a motion to approve the four Contracts, Allison Hultman made the second.

Motion carried 3-0.

Commission Comments

Allison Hultman asks if lampposts are in. PW Superintendent Spanier replied yes.

Adjournment

Don Craft made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Approved this 27th day of February, 2024

TOWN OF PORTER REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Allison Hultman, President

William Lopez, Vice President

Russ Erwin, Secretary

Laura Madigan

Jamie Hogan

Attest: Karen Spanier, Recording Secretary

