

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2016

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on December 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Charles Sheridan, Katie Troccoli, Thomas Haeberle and John Stone. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Reed Wilson, David Noble and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from November 18, 2016 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by William Franklin, Jr. and second by Thomas Haeberle.

COMMUNICATIONS

The YMCA provided a solicitation for support of their fund drive.

TREASURERS REPORT

Katie Troccoli reported that there is \$236.39 in checking and \$9,050.45 in savings. The financial report was approved on motion of William Franklin Jr. and second by John Stone

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd spoke about positive results arising from activities of the Chamber and Visitor's Center over the past year. Ottawa has become a model for community revitalization due to partnerships and planning dating back to 1999. Boyd noted that he and Reed are responding to more inquires than ever concerning business developments throughout the city. There have been sales of the Woolworth, Fastprint and Fulton St. buildings, land purchased for retail development for Gailey Eye Clinic, Verizon, Dairy Queen, and a new medical complex will be going in north of future CVS site. Heritage Harbor has been active. Dave and Boyd put finishing touches on the Ottawa industrial park website. Drone footage will be coming soon to [www.ottawaindustrialpark.com](http://www.ottawaindustrialpark.com). There will be a quarterly Economic Development Taskforce meeting on Tuesdays.

Reed Wilson spoke about new upscale restaurant opportunities coming along with two new retail stores. Reed also noted he is working with three senior organization centers looking at Ottawa as a potential senior living centers. Reed spoke about the positive response to the Cris Kingle market, which should expand next year to include more vendors within more huts selling over the course of several weekends. There will be a craft beer festival coming in May which will track more people downtown.

Dave Noble reported that 205-207 West Main Street is for sale. Dave spoke about the State and Federal release of CDAP funds. Such funds, for the most part, had before been restricted to revolving loan fund approved purposes. Now funds would be more generally available through the City's Enterprise Fund and other City accounts. Dave led a discussion about home rule and possible referendums to approve home rule. Dave also discussed I-fiber and other internet connectivity issues under consideration.

## MEMBER REPORTS

Discussion took place about the feasibility study for an Ottawa sports complex with an estimated cost of about \$21,000,000.00 without consideration of land acquisition.

Discussion took place about the possible loss of several of the murals in the downtown area.

Katie Troccoli spoke of her concerns about the railroad and shared pictures of traffic backed up to Norris Drive. Discussion took place about possible signage that could warn motorists at Norris Drive that that travel north was halted due to rail traffic.

## OLD BUSINESS

Dave Noble spoke about the Central School Environmental Remediation project which has changed to a more traditional approach of digging and removing hazardous substances. He anticipates long delays in planning before any actual cleanup will take place. Dave commented that the Port District could be an element of remediation and riverfront development. Keith commented about the possibility of adding a parking garage downtown with profits going to the port district.

Dave provided updates in discussion and investigation into a relocating of railroad switching facilities to the East side of Ottawa off of Boyce Memorial Drive.

District Attorney Rich Burton presented a *Resolution Regarding Meeting Dates*. The resolution was amended to include the meeting time, being 8:00 A.M. The resolution, as amended, was approved by unanimous vote following a motion by Thomas Haeberle and second by William Franklin, Jr.

## ADJOURN

There being no further reports or business, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 a.m. upon motion of Katie Troccoli and second by Charles Sheridan and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the district will be January 20, 2017.