

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

ROLL CALL

Thomas Haeberle called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on September 19, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: William Franklin, Jr., Charles Sheridan, Thomas Haeberle and Katie Troccoli. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Reed Wilson, David Noble and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from August 19, 2016 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by Thomas Haeberle and second by Charles Sheridan.

TREASURERS REPORT

Katie Troccoli provided bank statements and account balances (\$10,039.46 in money market and \$236.39 in checking). The financial report was approved on motion of Charles Sheridan, second by William Franklin, Jr. and a unanimous oral vote. No outstanding bills were reported.

COMMUNICATIONS

A revocable proxy mailing from Ottawa Savings Bank and a solicitation mailing from Ottawa Lions Club were received.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd Palmer spoke about two requests for information from manufacturing companies, which is encouraging that the city has made the final cuts for both projects. A barbeque restaurant will move into the old Carretto's facility around October 1.

Boyd spoke about the candidate's night. Dave, Reed and Boyd will be in Springfield soon regarding the creating opportunities for expansion.

Reed talked about the continued work and progress of a possible 50 plus unit senior housing facility. A few downtown stores are looking for space and the new bookstore should be open by the holiday season. Work on the downtown street bumpouts is progressing.

Reed spoke about the EDC moving forward, picking a vendor for a new website and using pooled resources to market our area aggressively. MCAT is now serving 75,000 rides per year and their fleet continues to grow via grants through IDOT. The state has approved the City of Ottawa to partake in a Medicaid program, which allows ride reimbursement. Ad space on buses will also be coming.

Reed spoke of anticipated upcoming festivals including a Kris Kringle market and craft beer event. The Planning Commission is working through various site issues with CVS.

Reed also spoke about the Starved Rock brand and promoting healthy eating and agri-tourism. He spoke of a recent visit to Epiphany Farms south of Bloomington, which is a farm to

table operation. Other related notes include a person from Streator starting a food hub, which matches food growers with markets and the Streator Incubator having a commercial kitchen available for use.

Dave Noble talked about performing site searches for businesses. Street scaping projects are continuing. Some anticipated work will be rebid in the Spring of 2017.

Dave further spoke of the flood coalition that Mike Sutfin has organized and coordinates. Four of the five area grant applications through FEMA will be funded, including a levy at the Ottawa High School and flood walls for the cities of Peru, Marseilles and DePue. FEMA appears to appreciate and reward the efforts of regional coalitions.

MEMBER REPORTS

William Franklin, Jr. provided an update on the multi model preliminary report and the three sites for projects: Streator, Wenona, and LaSalle.

Katie Troccoli lead discussion about noise, traffic, and safety concerns arising from the Railnet tracks through Ottawa. Katie Troccoli suggested that the port district, in cooperation with the city of Ottawa, investigate alternative rail options to resolve traffic and noise problems. Such work could be a Port District Project and coordinating with other parties such as the City of Ottawa and Sue Rezin. Dave Noble shared information he has collected relevant to rail issues and provided comments on how the Port District might approach this project. Katie Troccoli make a motion that the Port District undertake as a project work on rail traffic and noise problems in Ottawa. William Franklin, Jr. made a second to the motion which was adopted by unanimous oral vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion took place about the Port District forming committees to address projects such as the rail problem, airport runway and access improvements and Fox River improvements. Committees could be formed with the entire board reviewing committee work perhaps at quarterly meetings. Rich Burton spoke about changing the meeting schedule from monthly to quarterly. To change meeting dates in 2016, a legal notice is required and would cost around \$100.00. Such cost could be avoided by waiting until January 2017 to make said change. Discussion was tabled until the October meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further reports or business, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:15 a.m. upon motion of Katie Troccoli and second by William Franklin, Jr. and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the district will be October 21, 2016.