

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission Meeting
303 Franklin Street
June 23, 2009

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: President Mike Genger, Vice-President Al Raffin, Jon Granat, Bruce Snyder, Trevin Fowler, and Ron Stone

Also present: Director of Engineering Matt Keiser, Attorney Patrick Lyp and Secretary Karen Spanier.

Bruce Snyder made a Motion to have Attorney Lyp present Dennis Martinson and Ronald Owen, upon execution of Warranty Deed, a check in the amount of \$42,000.00 for the U.S. Hwy 20 land acquisition. Al Raffin made the second.

Motion carried. 5-0

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion to approve minutes of the April 28, 2009 and the May 18, 2009 meetings were made by Jon Granat; second by Al Raffin.

Motion passed 5-0

Consideration of Claim Docket

Bruce Snyder made the motion to approve the June claim docket as presented, with Trevin Fowler making the second. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Genger announced the Redevelopment received a partial payment of the 2008 tax collections from Porter County in the amount of \$457,777.88.

Audience Participation

None

Reports

Mr. Keiser asked the Commission's approval to research the possibility of a municipal/public parking lot, located behind the Town Hall. The Town currently owes a small lot that is used for access to Lincoln St., but would be difficult to get any parking spaces on it. Mr. Keiser would like to work with the property owner of vacant lots to the east of the commercial building located at 300 Lincoln St and inquire about a combined parking lot serving Town Hall and existing business located at that intersection.

Haas and Associates submitted to Mr. Keiser a status report on the Orchard Pedestrian Way, Mr. Keiser noted the public hearing portion has been completed and sent to INDOT for their approval. The Orchard Pedestrian Bridge is complete and Haas is looking for a formal acceptance to close this report for the Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

Mr. Fowler made the motion to accept final report with Mr. Granat making the second.

Motion carried. 5-0

Mr. Keiser also reported the cost of the Brickyard Trail will increase by \$780,000.00 due to a new travel lane that will need to be built on the north side of U.S. 20 near Howe Road during construction of a tunnel under the four-lane highway. However, no additional lane will be required for the tunnel being built under U.S. 12. By consensus the Commission gave approval for Mr. Keiser to seek additional grant options, perhaps federal stimulus dollars. Mr. Keiser also agreed to look into the option of a bridge crossing over rather than a tunnel under U.S. 20.

Old Business

None

New Business

A presentation was given by Shannon Armstrong, consultant for Brick Industry Association, which is a non-profit organization who trains brick layers and architects on how to design with brick, noting there are only two brick manufactures left in the U. S. and both of them are in Indiana. Ms. Armstrong stated communities mostly have uniform commercial corridors and that the design standards need to include a theme for their design. She has offered her planning services to assist the Town with the design standards for the U.S. Hwy 20 corridor at no cost to the Town.

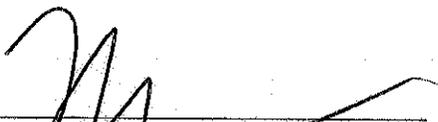
Commission Comments

Mr. Genger announced the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority has agreed to consider the Towns application for a \$19million grant for the gateway improvements of the proposed Marquette Plan Phase 2 and Dunes Kankakee Hike/Bike Trail. The application will now be reviewed and the RDA Board will make the final decision. Mr Genger stated such redevelopment projects would boost tourism and create new jobs.

Mr. Raffin made the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Fowler seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

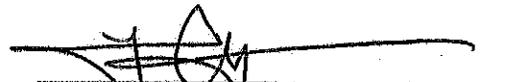


Mike Genger, President

Albert Raffin, Vice-President



Jon Granat



Trevin Fowler



Bruce Snyder

Attest: 

Karen Spanier, Secretary