

**VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 – 5:30 pm**

This meeting was held in a webinar/video conference format using Zoom.

[Minutes were corrected on April 27, 2021 to reflect Chairman Atchinson called the meeting to order](#)  
~~Vice Chair Bird~~ called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present by Video or Telephone: Chairman Atchinson, Vice-Chair Bird, Secretary Brown (5:44 p.m.), Director Baskin, (5:37 p.m.), Director Chudzinski, Director Foster, Director Delibera, Director Laginess, Director Rochowiak and Supervisor McNamara. Members Absent: Director Chappell. Also in attendance: DDA Executive Director Ireland, Rec. Secretary Lothringer, VBT Planning & Economic Development Director Powers, Aerotropolis Executive Director Girdwood and an audience of one (1).

**Approval of Agenda:** Foster moved, Vice-Chair Bird seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

**Minutes:** Rochowiak moved, Vice-Chair Bird seconded to approve the DDA Minutes of Tuesday, January 26, 2021 as presented. Carried.

**Reports:** Aerotropolis Executive Director Christopher Girdwood provided a power-point of the 2020 Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation Annual Report. Additionally, he provided some insight to how leads are fielded and the selection process for proposed properties within the four participating communities of Van Buren Township, Huron Township, Romulus and Taylor.

Executive Director Ireland informed the board that the generator has been fixed and seems to be working appropriately. Wolverine, the company that handles the inspection and maintenance of the Township's generators, will be handling the same tasks for the generator at the DDA building. She notified the board that she has reached out to the three landscape vendors who handle the streetscape maintenance throughout the district and they are all planning to continue with their respective service areas. In addition, she is soliciting for quotes on having the stamped concrete in Harris Park sealed as is recommended every two years.

Ireland provided a recap of the SEMCOG webinar with Senator Gary Peters to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act and how it will impact Van Buren Township. Lastly, she informed the board that Grosse Ile Lawn provided the quote for holiday lights at Harris Park and the Quirk Road Triangle and it reflected the promised 10% returning customer discount. She also noted that she had a conversation with GIL about the possibility of lighting Belleville Road and at this time, staff does not recommend moving forward due to the projected cost.

DDA Assistant Executive Director Lothringer recapped the most recent email and social media outreach efforts listed in her written report. Additionally, she outlined work that is currently in process at this time. She inquired if the board would be interested in having her pursue holding a "Movie in the Park" at Harris Park this summer, sometime after the township holds the one they have planned during Lake Fest. The response was positive, so this will be given further research and brought back to the board at a future meeting.

Lastly, she provided an update on the various meetings that she has attended and/or attends on a consistent basis.

Executive Director Ireland reminded the board that she and Deputy Lothringer would be taking part in the Michigan Downtown Association's Virtual Conference on Friday.

**New Business:** None

**Non-Agenda Items:** Chairman Atchinson took a moment to thank everyone for their calls, texts, cards and prayers during these past few months. He said his father was very proud of this community and to have served on the DDA board. He stated that whenever they would talk about the DDA, his dad always took the time to ask how Susan (Director Ireland) was doing. He said his Dad had great respect and admiration for Director Ireland and the work she does on behalf of the DDA.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Laginess, support by Supervisor McNamara. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Lothringer  
Recording Secretary