

**Cass City Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
August 8, 2023**

The Meeting was brought to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chairman Kranz.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Brown, James Kranz, Joey Kreeger, Jon Ligrow, Amy Peters, Geraldine Prieskorn, David Weiler, Tuscola EDC Director Steve Erickson and Village President Robert Piaskowski

EXCUSED: Tyler Erla

VILLAGE STAFF PRESENT: Village Manager Debbie Powell, Director of Community Development Melanie Radabaugh, Administrative Assistant Linda Miller

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2023, meeting by Weiler and supported by Brown. Motion Carried.

No comments during Citizen Comments.

Motion to approve the July 31, 2023, Financial Report was made by Brown and supported by Peters. Motion Carried.

Tuscola County DDA Report – Tuscola EDC Director said the \$600,000 Brownfield Grant was awarded and engineering has started for the concrete floor to be removed. Then the windows will be next.

Chamber of Commerce: Jon Ligrow, Chamber Member, mentioned everything ran smoothly for the Freedom Festival. There have been more vendors at the Farmers Market, but the traffic has been slower. They are scheduling a Web Safety Seminar for September 20th at 11:00 am at the hospital. They would like to get a QR code for the Chamber. They are looking at a possible fundraiser idea of raffling off a Side by Side.

Tuscola County Land Bank Grant for Cultural Center Update and Demolition of 6473 Main Street Property – Tuscola EDC Director Erickson mentioned they do not have the contract yet but should soon. Some clarifications were needed. This grant will also include the money for the demolition of the 6473 Main Street Property.

Leach Street Property: After some discussion regarding possibly selling the Leach Street Property and how many parking spots would be gained, it was decided to have Manager Powell contact Spicer Engineering and get their input on how many parking spaces could be gained by this property and also the possibility of turning the street into a one-way and implementing angle parking. We need to know what we are gaining or losing before we put the house up for sale for a fair market price.

Business Builders Project: Melanie Radabaugh, Director of Community Development, mentioned she is still looking for a couple of people to help with finishing up the application for the event. Chairman Kranz recommended she contact Joann Schultz from Huron County for her experience in these types of events. EDC Director Erickson mentioned LEAD Tuscola is starting up again and they are looking for a project.

Taco Bell – Some DDA members had questions regarding the process of how Taco Bell was interested in opening a restaurant in Cass City and nothing was mentioned in previous meetings. Village Manager Powell said when investors/developers are interested in business opportunities in the Village, it is of upmost importance to keep things confidential. If information leaks out, investors may walk away, and it is their story to tell when they are ready to announce their new business.

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda W. Miller
Administrative Assistant