

VILLAGE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Lincoln Village Council met at 7:30 pm on Monday November 2nd in the Fire Hall for a Public Hearing. This meeting was held to hear questions and concerns regarding a 25 year extension for the Downtown Development Authority, herein after referred to as the DDA.

In attendance: Council Members John Stutzman, Bonny Gauthier, Sara Healy, Patricia Somers and Richard Somers. Also present were President Phillip Jordan, Clerk Linda Somers and Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Holly Hussain. DDA Board Member Present were; Dennis Kruttlin, Evelyn Good, Eric Monnier, Karen Godi, Brian Ankner and Joe James. Community residents included Mary Rivera, Debbie Shaneour, Kathy Putsky, Scott Latham and Edna Byce. Also present was Gustin Township Supervisor Adam Brege, fire chief Mike Serafin and Attorney David Cook.

President Jordan gave a brief opening statement and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Adam Brege asked for clarification regarding the tax monies that are captured from his township for use by the DDA. He asked to have someone attend one of their meetings and present the information so that all of the board member can better understand what is taking place.

Mary Rivera asked about whether sidewalk will be done in the next year between her home and the barber shop. President Jordan assured her that we will be doing more work there in the spring.

Kathy Putsky stated that she hopes support continues for the DDA because they are very generous in the financial support they have given to the beautification.

John Stutzman stated that he feels that he is always on the negative side. He stated that the streetscape project was supposed to bring in new business and instead we've had 4 businesses close down. He feels that if we didn't give our funds to the DDA we could fund many projects we need to take care of. He pointed out that there are roof projects for the village hall and maintenance building that need to be done. He also expressed concern about the dump truck that needs to be replaced, several road projects he feels could be better funded if we kept the funds that are currently going to the DDA. President Jordan stated that we have responsibilities to maintain our roads; it is not the responsibility of the DDA. John stated that he feels we can't compete with Meijer or Walmart by any business we try to bring in, several in attendance stated that we should not try to either.

Bonny Gauthier stated that we have been fortunate to have the DDA members work free gratis' on all the projects, things that we can't do on our own.

Stutzman talked about the things we haven't been able to do, things we keep adding to the list of "wants". He said he is frustrated that we do not have enough money coming in to do all the projects we want or need to do. He further stated that he feels the Brownlee Lake Association pays taxes and dues and he feels that is being double taxed.

Others in attendance voiced their disagreement saying they pay their dues gladly and do not feel they are being taken advantage of.

President Jordan stated that there are some businesses that would be a good fit for our community and there are currently somethings in the works.

Gauthier stated that even if the village did capture all the funds that DDA currently gets we would always have to still stick to a budget, we'd still have wants and needs, the money would not make the only difference.

President Jordan asked for any final comments, none were heard. The public hearing was closed at 7:53.

Linda K. Somers

Village Clerk

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