

A Special Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, October 5, 2020.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem and Dustin McNees. Absent: Lauri Krueger. Also present: City Manager Mitchell, Finance Director/Treasurer Storbeck, and Members of the DDA/MS Board - Pobocik, Cramer, Bennett, Meles, and Rayburn.

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. DDA/MAIN STREET FUNDING

Finance Director/Treasurer Storbeck gave an overview of the history of the DDA. He went into detail explaining the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – how it started in 1985 and where it is today. He went into detail of how the program started and the funding and where it is today. He answered questions of the Commission and the DDA/Main Street Board.

DDA Chairman Bennett gave a brief overview of the Main Street Program and the six years of its existence. He commented that he feels that “our town is moving forward”. He commented that he thinks that the program is making progress. He explained the opportunities that Main Street provides for the downtown. He gave a brief overview of the recent training that the Main Street Board had in regards to Fundraising.

Mayor Trobeck asked if they have any plans and if they are still moving forward and hiring a Main Street Manager. DDA/MS Chairman Bennett commented that they are moving forward.

At this time a lengthy discussion took place regarding:

1. Funding
2. City’s Budget
3. DDA/MS Budget
4. Budget Shortfalls
5. Main Street Manager Position
6. Fundraising by DDA/MS
7. DDA/MS - potential ways to save money
8. Events
9. Timeline for fundraising
10. Begin a Three to Five Year Plan

An open discussion with the Commission and the MS/DDA Board Members in attendance regarding the above items took place.

Mayor Trobeck commented that this conversation has nothing to do with whether we like the Main Street Program or not, the City just doesn’t have money to fund it. She explained how in the past when the City had to cut positions, provide no raises for the employees, and had to get rid of things – because of a deficit budget there is nowhere to cut now, so the DDA/MS Board can’t look to the City to save the program.

Mayor Trobeck asked that the DDA/MS Board keep the City Commission updated as to how much you are pledging to raise, provide a plan and a three to five year plan for fundraising. DDA/MS Chairman Bennett stated that the Board will put a plan in place.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED – 6:57 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk