

**OTTAWA COUNTY
BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPROVED MINUTES**

The Ottawa County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority met Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room E at the Fillmore Administrative Complex and was called to order at 3:42 p.m. by Mr. Brugger.

Present at roll call: Rebecca Hopp, Cheryl Clark, Roger Belknap, Josh Brugger, John Gibbs, James Bleicher (6)

Absent at roll call: Kirk Perschbacher, Garry Post, Ken Brune (3)

Staff & Guests: Becky Huttenga and Paul Sachs, Strategic Impact; Renee Kuiper and Jessica Kass-Doornbos, Clerk/Register of Deeds; Kirk Perschbacher (virtual), Fishbeck; Howard Fink, Park Township.

BRA 24-001 Ms. Clark moved to approve the agenda for the January 18, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.

BRA 24-002 Ms. Hopp moved to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting. The motion passed.

Correspondence and Communication - None

Committee Reports – None

Budget Report – Becky Huttenga gave an update on the budget report.

Old Business – None

New Business –

A. Organizational Action Item – Election of Officers, Article IV of OCBRA Bylaws

BRA 24-003 Motion:

1. Ms. Hopp moved to nominate Josh Brugger as Chair, Rebecca Hopp as Vice Chair, Rebecca Hopp as Secretary, and Cheryl Clark as Treasurer. YEAS: Mr. Bleicher, Mr. Belknap, Mr. Brugger, Ms. Hopp, Ms. Clark, Mr. Gibbs (6); NEAS: None (0); ABSENT: Mr. Perschbacher, Mr. Brune, Mr. Post (3). The motion passed.

The Chief Deputy County Clerk, Renee Kuiper, administered the Oath of Office to Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. Brownfield Incentive Program Committee (3 Members)

BRA 24-004 Motion:

1. Mr. Belknap moved to appoint Kirk Perschbacher, Garry Post and Rebecca Hopp to the 2024 Brownfield Incentive Program Committee. The motion passed.

C. Assessment assistance request – Brownfield Incentive Program – Park Township Airport-Howard Fink gave an update on the project. The airport is no longer viable as it could not

receive federal or state funding. Additionally, the township did not have the resources to continue running the airport. The entire site will now become a large park and has been in development. While getting ready for the start of another phase of development, an individual found a black rock on the surface of the ground. It was presumed that the rock was coal. A geology professor later reported that the rock was slag, and it was determined that the rock needed to be tested. The piece of slag came back high for arsenic and chromium when tested. Environmental consultants wanted to test more in the area where the arsenic was found. Fortunately, the other tests came back normal. However, in abundance of caution, Park Township would like to put topsoil in this area so that it limits direct contact with the slag.

Mr. Perschbacher gave an update on the Brownfield Incentive Program (BIP) committee recommendation. It is recommended that the committee give \$5,000 to assist in capping the contaminated soil as this will show support to this project. Ms. Huttenga spoke to the positives of helping this project - it not only meets the criteria of the committee's purpose, but it additionally supports a local unit and supports the decision of Park Township to proactively protect public health. The committee does have \$40,000 left in its budget.

Mr. Gibbs asked what is the total cost to cap everything? Mr. Fink responded that this has yet to be determined. Mr. Perschbacher indicated that a good estimate would be \$50,000-\$60,000 to cap the entire area.

Mr. Belknap asked if the pavement of the runway will be removed? Mr. Fink responded that the pavement has already been removed throughout the area and parts of it have already been turned into trails.

BRA 24-005

Motion:

1. Ms. Hopp moved to approve financial support from Brownfield Incentive Program not to exceed \$5,000 toward capping contaminated portions of the Park Township Airport with topsoil and turf. YEAS: Mr. Bleicher, Mr. Belknap, Mr. Brugger, Ms. Hopp, Ms. Clark, Mr. Gibbs (6). NEAS: none. ABSENT: Mr. Perschbacher, Mr. Brune, Mr. Post (3). The motion passed.

Public Comment – none

Other Business/Discussion/Updates –

- A. 2024 Meeting Schedule-Ms. Huttenga gave an update on the 2024 schedule and where the meetings will be held.
- B. Kirk Perschbacher – The final report for the EPA 2020 grant was finalized and submitted into the USEPA. Ms. Huttenga will be doing some public outreach on February 22, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. regarding the Housing TIF rules and MSHDA Housing Readiness Incentive grant. The Terra Station is looking for phase I funding. A property in Spring Lake township is looking for assistance on an assessment and this has been referred to the State.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Brugger at 4:30 p.m.