

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESORT DISTRICT AUTHORITY

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

I. Vice-Chairperson Gary Klemz called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll call.

**Present were:** Chris Collins, Board Member; Donald Rushlow-Secretary; Gary Klemz-Vice Chairperson; Brian Dotson- Treasurer. Also present were Larry Smith, Director; Janae Jones, Administrative Assistant; Troy Goodnough, Sheriff; Kyle Bryant, Township Clerk; Sarah Rafko-Calkins, Hehl & Rafko; Rich Weirch, Frenchtown Charter Township Public Works Dept.  
Excused Absence-Molly Luempert-Coy- Chairperson; Kerry Bondy-Legal Advisor; Brad Shelle, Engineer, Mannik & Smith Group.

There were 2 community residents present.

III. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion was made to approve agenda by Mr. Collins and supported by Mr. Rushlow.  
Motion carried: 4-0 (voice vote)

IV. **Minutes:**

Approval of January 10, 2024 Minutes

Motion made to accept the above January minutes as distributed by Mr. Dotson and supported by Mr. Rushlow.  
Motion carried: 4-0 (voice vote)

V. **Public Participation:** None

VI. **Correspondence:** DTE Street Lighting LED Conversion Budget Estimate- DTE has completed their study to update the outdated lighting to LED lights. The RDA was included in the study, and shows that there are 267 high pressure sodium lighting fixtures, 10 high pressure sodium suspension lights, 110 high pressures sodium colonial fixtures, which are all inefficient. The RDA has 606 lighting fixtures, about 1/3 of those were changed around 5 years ago during an incentive program through DTE. Now we have the opportunity to finish the updating. There are a few discrepancies, that we will work through if the board chooses to go forward. The projected cost is \$108,147.17 to do the updates, our current invoice is \$118,000, and our future invoice if we decided to make the change would be \$94,645; which would give us an annual savings of \$23,746.97. Per their calculation that gives us a payback in 4.3 years. The only concern to Director Smith is we are moving into the seawall project, but we would get most of this money back before we start the project. If this is something the board is interested in and thinks it will benefit the residents and the board to pursue, Director Smith is happy to start looking more into it. There were some concerns by the board, including the brightness of the lights, the color of the lights, and the amount of insects/fish flies that will be drawn to these lights. Treasurer Brian Dotson noted discrepancies with the electricity cost numbers DTE submitted, as they don't equal what we have on our books for 2023. Director Smith will look into this. The board thinks it is a good idea to move forward, they agree with Director Smith moving forward with getting more information.

Davey Tree Planting Project- Davey Tree Service is our tree contractor for the RDA, and they sent us info on a new tree planting program. Director Smith proposes that he forward the proposal to the presidents of the various RDA associations, and let them know it is up to them if they want to participate in this program. The board agrees to forward the information to the beach associations letting them know this was received by the RDA, and if they are interested in participating, they can contact Davey Tree Service directly.

VII. **Reports:**

**Director's Report:**

### Lake Erie Level

The lake has begun its seasonal climb but the Army Corp of Engineers projects the level to slowly continue its retreat to the long term average.

### North Dixie Hwy Municipal Building Update

Director Smith has met with representatives from the Township to discuss potential issues regarding the RDA move into the new facilities to ensure we are on the same wavelength. The meeting went well, and we will work together to ensure a seamless transition when the time comes. Completion of the new building has moved from July to October 2024.

### 2017 Ford Explorer

The retired RDA police cruiser (2017 Ford Explorer) was listed by the Monroe County Sheriff on GovDeals.com from January 12 to January 19, 2024 (7 days). During this period, 58 bids were made, starting at \$500 and ending at \$5700. The site reported 64 watchers and 414 visitations. It is my opinion this was a very cost efficient vehicle disposal method, and obtained maximum value. We are awaiting the check from the county. Sheriff Goodnough said he would follow up and advise of status.

### Engineering Report (verbal)

#### Seawall Updates:

- Chris Zangara- Design lead, sent a request to EGLE approximately a week ago to set up a meeting with them to discuss and or address some of their comments. We have not heard anything back from them yet.
- Cody Jones has addressed some of the EGLE comments, but will need clarification on others once the meeting mentioned previously is scheduled.
- Our understanding is that the ACOE is nearing completion and our expectation is that this permit will be issued in the coming weeks.

#### Other Items:

- MSG intends with authorization from the Board, to put together a bid package for the completion of the Overband Crackfilling for the remaining roads in the RDA subdivisions. MSG will have a proposal and Engineers Opinion of cost ready to present at the next meeting in April if the Board would like to proceed. The Board request MSG to move forward.
- Kerry Bondy has been in communication with Frenchtown Harbor in reference to the Earthen Berm inspections that were previously approved by the Board and put on hold due to further communication with the owners. MSG is currently waiting on direction prior to performing these inspections and reporting. Sheriff Goodnough recommends that they schedule a meeting with Frenchtown Harbor and other parties involved in the dispute of the Earthen Berm. He is hoping to coordinate it to have it at the Township office once he gets an agreeable date between the parties.

### Monroe County Sheriff Contract Activity Report for 1/1/2024-1/31/2024 and 2/1/24-2/29/24

We are continuing to see an increase in animal control calls into the RDA, and county wide. They are no longer operating a shelter, but now they are dispatching the animal control division to residences for enforcement of neglect and cruelty. They have 2 officers that work 7 days a week in the animal control division. As the weather warms up, we are starting to see an increase in calls, and he suspects that it will continue to go up.

Motion was made to accept and place on file the Monroe County Sheriff Contract Activity Report for 1/1/2024-1/31/2024 and 2/1/2024-2/29/2024 by Mr. Rushlow and supported by Mr. Collins. Motion carried: 4-0 (voice vote).

### VIII. Old Business: None

### IX. New Business:

**2023 Audit Report Memo #5-24**

Sarah Rafko, CPA reported on the 2023 Audit of the RDA. Overall the audit was very nice and organized.. In her opinion, the financial statements presented fairly in all material respects, which is the best audit opinion that is given. Ms. Rafko will be submitting the audit to the state

Motion was made to place this report on file by Mr. Dotson and supported by Mr. Collins. Motion carried: 4-0 (Mr. Rushlow-yes; Mr. Dotson-yes; Mr. Dotson- yes; Mr. Collins- yes).

**Clay Berm Mowing/Frechtown Department of Public Works Memo#4-24**

Director Smith is proposing we change the way the clay berms are being maintained. Now that the Township has created a Department of Public Works, we have obtained a proposal from them. Rich Weirich, the Director of Public works for the township stated that the township is looking to beautify the township, and feel they can do a better job at maintaining the clay berms within the RDA. They will be able to go above and beyond what the current contractor does, as they have the equipment necessary. He feels that they can save us money, as they will be working on an time/material basis. The first cut may be a little more expensive, due to the need to clean up the dikes primarily on the backside., but feels the cost for the next several cuts will be cheaper. Director Smith recommends the RDA moves forward with the proposal for the 2024 season.

Motion was made for Director Smith and the Department of Public Works to move forward with the proposal and not to exceed \$9600 by Mr. Rushlow and supported by Mr. Collins. Motion carried 4-0 (Mr. Dotson-yes; Mr. Klemz-yes; Mr. Collins-yes; Mr. Rushlow-yes).

**Approval of the January and February Financial Report, Balance Sheet, Income & Expense Report, and Investment Reports**

Motion made to accept the January and February Financial Report, Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report and place on file by Mr. Collins and supported by Mr. Dotson. Motion carried: 4-0 (Mr. Rushlow- yes; Mr. Collins-yes; Mr. Klemz- yes; Mr. Dotson-yes).

- X. **Other Items from Board Members:** Mr. Dotson would like to know more details on the DTE Street Lighting Conversion Estimates, and how they generated their estimates. Mr. Dotson and Director Smith will work together to communicate with DTE and the township clerks office to gather more information.

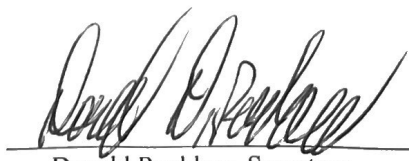
Mr. Collins stated the newsletter is at the printer getting ready for publication into the Township. He is looking for ideas of what can be put into the newsletters.

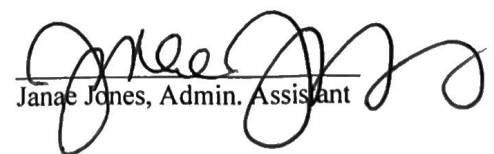
- XI. **Public Participation:** Pat Szymanski, president of Brest Bay Grove stated that a resident in his community had their light converted, and it is very bright and attracts fish flies. He feels it is too bright for a residential area. Director Smith will work with DTE to see if there are different types or colors of lights that can be put into the residential areas versus on the main streets.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Mr. Rushlow supported by Mr. Collins.  
Motion carried: 4-0 (voice vote)  
The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

  
Gary Klemz, Co-Chairman

  
Donald Rushlow, Secretary

  
Janae Jones, Admin. Assistant