

**FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESORT DISTRICT AUTHORITY**  
**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

- I.** Chairperson Molly Luempert-Coy 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:** Molly Luempert-Coy, Chairperson; Chris Collins (joined meeting late), Board Member; Donald Rushlow-Secretary; Gary Klemz-Vice Chairperson; Brian Dotson- Treasurer. Also present were Larry Smith, Director; Janae Jones, Administrative Assistant; Kerry Bondy-Legal Advisor; Brad Shelle, Engineer, Mannik & Smith Group; Troy Goodnough, Sheriff; Kyle Bryant, Township Clerk; Courtney VanGilder-DTE Principal Account Manager; Cody Jones-Mannik & Smith Group.  
There were 4 community residents present.
- III.** **Approval of Agenda:**  
Motion was made to approve agenda by Mr. Dotson and supported by Mr. Rushlow.  
Motion carried: 4-0 (voice vote)
- IV.** **Minutes:**  
Approval of March 13, 2024 Minutes  
  
Motion made to accept the above March minutes as distributed by Mr. Rushlow and supported by Mr. Dotson.  
Motion carried: 4-0 (voice vote)
- V.** **Public Participation:** None
- VI.** **Correspondence:** None
- VII.** **Reports:**  
**Director's Report:**  
Lake Erie Level  
The lake is behaving seasonally, and is continuing its slow decline back to the long term average.  
  
Sheriff Vehicle Sale  
The retired police vehicle has been sold by the sheriff's department, and we have received the check from the county. A thank you was extended to Sherriff Goodnough and staff for taking care of this process. It was an efficient way of handling the sale and probably provided the maximum value, as well as interesting to watch the bidding online.  
  
Department of Public Works  
The Frenchtown DPW has started maintenance of the clay berms. We have not had any feedback from them, and we are assuming that no word is good.  
  
CDARS Account  
Money invested in CDARS on 11/24/2023 at 4.88% annual matures on May 23, 2024. The checking account has a balance which is sufficient to pay budgeted expenses through the year. We have accrued approximately \$70,000 in interest from the CDARS investments. The Director and Treasurer will meet and determine the best way to reinvest the current fund balance to maximize interest earned.  
  
Dewey's Clay Berm Accident  
Mr. Dotson asked about the recent auto accident that damaged the clay berm within Dewey's Association. He wondered who would be paying for the repairs? Ms. Bondy advised we should request a copy of the accident report and the insurance information. She advised there is a process to request restitution. Director Smith and Ms. Bondy will meet and decide how to proceed. Sherriff Goodnough said that the RDA can send a FOIA request to obtain the report for the recent accident involving the RDA berm on Lake Superior Dr. He advised that the RDA secure an estimated cost for the dike repair that can be added into the restitution amount.

**Engineering Report** (verbal)

**Seawall Updates:**

Cody Jones, Engineer at Mannik & Smith Group reported the permit applications for Stony Pointe were submitted last year, and EGLE sent comments back. On April 30<sup>th</sup> MSG and the RDA representatives met with EGLE to address their needs to approve the permits. The EGLE agents have had some changes in policies in the last 3-4 years that are causing some concerns that we did not have to deal with on the previous completed seawall projects.

The Army Core of engineers sent out a public notice that indicates they are happy with the permit applications, but are waiting for the public notice period to end. Most likely they will issue the permit within one to two months.

**Monroe County Sheriff Contract Activity Report for 3/1/2024-3/31/2024 and 4/1/24-4/30/24**

Director Smith said he has been working with Central Dispatch regarding updating the boundaries of the RDA, as they had some confusion on who to dispatch to a recent call. He is working with Mannik and Smith to get Central Dispatch a map with the boundaries.

Pat Syzmanski, president of Brest Bay Grove, asked what can they do about a recent rise of dirt bikes that are crossing the dike road, driving through the fields, and through the subdivision going between Brest Bay Grove and Stony Point. Sheriff Goodnough will let the RDA deputy know to watch for it and to patrol the area. Sheriff advised to still call it in to Central Dispatch when he notices the dirt bikes in the area.

**VIII. Old Business:** None

**IX. New Business:**

**DTE Street Lighting LED Conversion Memo #8-24**

Courtney VanGilder, Principal Account Manager for DTE Community Lighting is present at today's meeting to explain and answer any questions that arose at the May 10, 2024 board meeting pertaining to the DTE Street Lighting LED Conversion proposal that was presented at that time. The proposal is to upgrade the remaining high pressure sodium street lights to LED. The LED lights are more reliable technology, last longer, and there is a significant energy and cost savings with them. If the RDA wants to move forward, DTE will have a contractor do a complete audit of the system and get an accurate cost estimate of the project. The high pressure sodium technology is being phased out, so DTE is trying to get ahead of the change and is giving the rebates now and covering the labor credits to perform the work. Mr. Dotson asked for more information on the different light lumens available, as he has concerns for the lumens on the stock LED lights during mayfly season. Ms. VanGilder stated there are lower lumens available, but they are special order and there will be additional costs incurred for the special order, the rebates will not be as high, and a different ballast/fixture would be needed. Additionally, the RDA would be required to keep on hand a 10% stock of bulbs in case replacements are needed, since they are not the stock bulbs DTE has available. She reviewed some other options, including a cost for DTE to deenergize certain lights during mayfly season, although this could lead to safety concerns or calls from residents to report lights being out.

This proposal, rebates and labor credits are valid for 90 days. The next step would be a verbal communication that the RDA would like to move forward with the audit, and based on the results, the proposal numbers will be updated and a master agreement will be prepared based on final costs. Director Smith recommends giving a verbal yes to move forward with the audit, as the financial savings will be significant.

Motion was made to move forward with the proposal and include a recommendation to the Frenchtown Township Board by Mr. Klemz and supported by Mr. Dotson. Motion carried: 4-0 (Mr. Collins-yes; Mr. Klemz-yes; Mr. Dotson-yes; Mr. Rushlow- yes). Ms. Luempert-Coy abstained from the discussion and roll call vote due to being employed by DTE.

**RDA Trash Collection Proposal Memo#6-24**

Four years ago the Township and RDA changed trash collection contractors to Steven's Disposal, and that contract expires at the end of 2024. Steven's Disposal has presented a contract renewal for the next five years. Director Smith proposes that the RDA extend their contract for the next five years, following the decision of Frenchtown Township to also extend at the terms in the proposal dated March 12, 2024.

Motion was made for the RDA to renew the trash collection contract with Steven's Disposal for the next five years by Mr. Collins and supported by Mr. Rushlow. Motion carried 5-0 (Ms. Luempert-Coy-yes; Mr. Rushlow-yes; Mr. Dotson-yes; Mr. Klemz-yes; Mr. Collins-yes).

**2023/2024 Snow Removal Reimbursement Memo#7-24**

The 2023/2024 RDA snow removal cost was significantly lower than previous years. Frenchtown Harbor presented a reimbursement invoice for the first time, and are being considered for reimbursement this year. Their invoice followed the recommendation of the board and was split into separate costs for the street snow removal and driveway/sidewalks snow removal, as the RDA will only consider reimbursement for the street removal.

Motion was made for approval of the 2023/2024 Snow Removal Reimbursement per the proposed spreadsheet by Mr. Dotson and supported by Mr. Collins. Motion carried 5-0 (Mr. Dotson, yes; Mr. Klemz, yes; Ms. Luempert-Coy-yes; Mr. Collins-yes; Mr. Rushlow-yes).

**2024 Overband Crackfill Project Memo#9-24**

Last year we did an inspection of the roadways within the district, and approximately 50% of the RDA roads were cracksealed with the understanding that the remaining 50% would be completed in 2024. Mr. Shelle of MSG, stated their estimate is a fairly conservative estimated cost for the project. Last year the bids were around 50% less than the engineering estimate, and they are hoping to be similar this year. MSG will preliminarily look at roads and they may recommend doing less than they are originally estimating based on needs. Director Smith is hoping to get this project started early, as far as getting bids and starting the project earlier in the season to have it completed before schools start back up in the fall.

Motion was made to pursue the recommendation by MSG for a bid package encompassing the associations and miscellaneous roads listed in their proposal, not to exceed \$15,000 for professional services. Motion made by Mr. Klemz and supported by Mr. Dotson. Motion carried 5-0 (Mr. Rushlow, yes; Ms. Luempert-Coy-yes; Mr. Klemz-yes; Mr. Collins-yes; Mr. Dotson-yes).

**Approval of the March and April Financial Report, Balance Sheet, Income & Expense Report, and Investment Reports**

Motion made to accept the March and April Financial Report, Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report and place on file by Mr. Klemz and supported by Mr. Dotson. Motion carried: 5-0 (Mr. Klemz- yes; Mr. Dotson-yes; Ms. Luempert-Coy, yes; Mr. Collins- yes; Mr. Rushlow-yes).

X. **Other Items from Board Members:** None

XI. **Public Participation:** None

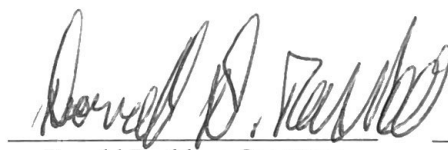
XII. **Adjournment:**

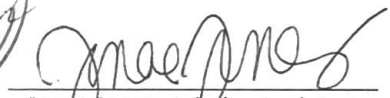
Motion made to adjourn meeting by Mr. Collins supported by Mr. Klemz.

Motion carried: 5-0 (voice vote)

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

  
Molly Luempert-Coy, Chairperson

  
Donald Rushlow, Secretary

  
Janae Jones, Admin. Assistant