EVART DDA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2026
Community Room at The Depot
200 S. Main St. Evart, MI 49631

1. Meeting called to order by Bengry at 8:01 a.m.
2. Attendance:

   Present: Alan Bengry, Gary Hartsock, Lynn Salinas, Brian Youngs, Mark Sochocki, Cory Juliano, Pepper Lockhart, Dan Boyer, Teijin Wing,

3. Introduction of guests: None

4. Citizen comments-None

5. Approval of Agenda-approved as presented

6. Approval of Minutes of the March 10, 2026, regular meeting – Moved by Sochocki, Supported by Youngs

   Ayes: 8
   Nays: 0
   Results: Carried

7. Approval of Vendor's List in the amount of $3,752.52 for the DDA and $0 for the farmer's market – Moved by Salinas, Supported by Youngs

   Ayes: 8
   Nays: 0
   Results: Carried

8. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Salinas stated that a $1,386.61 TIF payment that was deposited into the Farmers Market account has now been transferred to the DDA account.

9. President's Remarks: President Bengry reminded the group that Director Bruggema is attending the national Main Street conference. Angela Hunter is away at the GFWC legislative meeting today in Lansing.

10. Committee Updates

    Economic Vitality and Design

    a. Farmer's Market –No report

    b. Pop-Up Building – Current renter has extended through the end of May.

    c. 101 S. Main St.-Mark shared that an emergency masonry contractor is currently working on the building, MEDC/MSHDA are working cooperatively on the project, hoping construction will start in earnest this summer.

    Promotion and Organization

    a. DDA Board Recruiting – No update

b. Volunteers – No update.

11. Old Business:

a. 2026-2027 budget discussion. Moved by Youngs, Supported by Boyer to approve the 2026-2027 DDA Budget and Farmers Market Budget and recommend them to the City Council

Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

b. Strategic plan meeting with Leigh and Laura from MMS will be part of the regular June meeting.

12. New Business:

a. Façade grant discussion regarding eligibility for driveway or roofing projects.-It was the consensus of the board that these types of projects should not be eligible under the façade grant program. Other programs exist through different agencies that can assist with this type of project.

b. MACC grant-the DDA was awarded an $800 grant for the summer music program. We will have to provide a $200 match to receive the grant. These dollars can be combined with the money from the Jake Slater fund raiser concert to provide musical event(s) this summer. Lockhart has been asked about having Jake Slater back for a summer event. He is already coming for a performance at a local venue this year and the board would be in favor of having him for the fund raiser event later in the year, but would like to pursue different options for the summer program.

c. May 15th meeting with MMS for Communication plan-This is the service we have selected from MMS for the 2026 year. Bruggema sent a link to participate virtually, or board members may attend in person at the Depot. Meeting is scheduled to begin at 1 pm.

d. Director Evaluation-Bengry will send the evaluation form to board members later this week, with a return date of May 6th, 2026 by end of day.

e. Restaurant link and QR code have been established and posted online for the construction season.

13. Director's Comments: None.

14. City Manager Comments-there was a water main break on US 10 that is currently being addressed, update given on Brownfield bylaws and funding questions, City Council has approved the Brownfield plan as recommended by the DDA, Bruce Johnston shared that the 101 S. Main St. project is being talked about all over Michigan with many communities interested in the progress of the project.

15. Citizen comments: Teijin shared that this will be his last meeting. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to be involved and stated that he learned a lot while serving. The Board thanked him for his service and wished him well in the future.

16. Adjournment.-Moved by Hartsock, supported by Boyer to adjourn.:

Ayes:8 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

Meeting adjourned at8:38am.

Submitted by Alan Bengry