



Evart Downtown Development Authority

Chair, Alan Bengry
Treasurer, Lynn Salinas
Mark Sochocki
Dan Boyer

Vice-Chair, Gary Hartsock
Secretary, Brian Youngs
Cory Juliano
Pepper Lockhart
DDA Director, Todd Bruggema

www.evartmainstreet.com

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EVART DDA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2026

Community Room at The Depot

200 S. Main St. Evart, MI 49631

1. Meeting called to order by Bengry at 8:00 a.m.
2. Attendance:
Present: Alan Bengry, Lynn Salinas, Brian Youngs, Cory Juliano, Dan Boyer,
Also present: Todd Bruggema, Addison Cataldo, Angela Hunter
Absent: Pepper Lockhart, Mark Sochocki, Gary Hartsock
3. Introduction of guests: None
4. Citizen comments-None
5. Approval of Agenda-approved as presented
6. Approval of Minutes of the April 14, 2026, regular meeting – Moved by Salinas, Supported by Youngs
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Results: Carried
7. Approval of Vendor's List in the amount of \$1,606.46 for the DDA and \$0 for the farmer's market – Moved by Salinas, Supported by Juliano
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Results: Carried
8. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Salinas reported that the \$800 grant has been received for summer music program and we have also received some donations for the Main Street banners. There is also a budget amendment that needs to be approved.
Moved by Youngs, supported by Juliano to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$10,477.50 as referenced on Journal Entry #0000012162.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Results: Carried
9. President's Remarks: None
10. Committee Updates
Economic Vitality and Design
 - a. Farmer's Market –Opening day is June 13th. This is Angela's 10th year with the market. The Lobster company will be coming in June. SEEDS will be coming in June and July
 - b. Pop-Up Building – Bruggema reported that the renter is still reporting selling out of product on some days.
 - c. 101 S. Main St.-concern about a new fire suppression requirement was mentioned

Promotion and Organization

- a. DDA Board Recruiting – Still one seat open-need a business owner or DDA resident to fill the vacancy
- b. Volunteers – Bruggema reported that during his attendance at the national conference, that this was revealed to be a nationwide issue.

11. Old Business:

- a. Virtual meeting with MMS personnel regarding our communication plan is scheduled for May 15th at 1 pm. This will be a TEAMS meeting. Bruggema will ask that the meeting be recorded so members who cannot be present can view at a later time.

12. New Business:

- a. Bruggema has been asked to write a DDA letter of support for the 226 N. Main St project. This letter will support a grant for Brownfield assistance with the project. There were no objections from the board.
- b. Bruggema reported that a downtown concert is planned for June 27th from 6 to 9 pm at the corner of 6th and Main streets. He is coordinating with the restaurant owners, as well as Chad Gudding, to arrange for two bands to perform and with setup for the event.
- c. Bruggema reported that a nationwide reading of the Declaration of Independence is being coordinated at 6 pm on July 8th to coincide with the first public reading of the document. He has been in contact with the Evert Public Schools to assist with this and Josh Johnson is willing to take on this project. It is hoped that the VFW will also participate. The venue may be Guyton Park or the Depot. There are several details to be worked out.
- d. Director evaluation-closed session.

Moved by Youngs, supported by Juliano to enter closed session under Section 8 (1) a of the open meetings act

Boyer: Yes, Bengry: Yes, Salinas: Yes, Youngs: Yes, Juliano: Yes

Motion Carried.

Bruggema requested that Cataldo be allowed to attend the closed session to view the process.

Closed session declared over at 8:44 am by Bengry.

13. Director's Comments: There is a Rural grant for revitalizing historic buildings available that requires a SHIPPO application, but is not available to individuals. Bruggema asked if there were any objections to applying for the grant with the intent of helping further the 226 N. Main St project. There were no objections. We have received our certificate as an Affiliate Program with Michigan Main Street. The national conference was a good experience this year. There is a fireside chat type of program for meeting with business owners that Bruggema would like to pursue. Next year's national conference is scheduled to be in Detroit, so we may want to consider sending some board members as well as the director.
14. City Manager Comments-Bruggema shared that there were some complications with the new restroom installation at Riverside park that need to be worked out. He also stated that the US 10 project is currently a few weeks ahead of schedule.

15. Adjournment.-Moved by Salinas, supported by Boyer to adjourn.:

Ayes:5

Nays: 0

Results: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:45am.

Submitted by Alan Bengry