

Managers Report, April 2015

Parks and Recreation

We continue to work on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We are getting very close to a draft being circulated. I hope once it is released, everyone will see that it was well worth the wait. On the project side, the committee will start to work on the BMX park in more detail.

Budget

Internally, Rick and I have begun the budgeting process for the New Fiscal Year. This year, we will be working to integrate a capital improvement plan into our budget process, creating some mechanism to put aside monies for large capital investments. There will be some critical policy decisions to address on how best to do so. Stay tuned.

Peoples Express

The Peoples Express contract is back on the agenda. I believe we have worked out an amicable solution for both parties. Most of the explanation is included in the packet memo. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Non Motorized Path

We are still awaiting title work to come back for the Non-Motorized path. Once that is complete, we will move forward with easement acquisition and final design. I will keep everyone posted on the details.

Upstairs Construction

On the agenda is approval for the construction manager for the board room project. We are at the point that if we move forward, we will incur some costs for architectural and constructional management time. We can still decide not to go forward with the project after it is bid, but there will be some legacy costs associated.

Sidewalk Project along Main Street

OHM has been awarded the design / engineering of the project. We will be meeting with OHM and the County Shortly to discuss next steps and how to move the project forward quickly. We are close to having cost estimates, and will provide that to you as soon as possible.

Economic Development

We had another request for a liquor license. Unfortunately, we do not have any additional licenses allocated to Northfield Township. While entrepreneurs' can buy them on the open market, that is often costs prohibitive. Brad Maynes and I have been investigating a process to receive additional liquor licenses through the Downtown Development Authority statute. If there are no objections, we will be moving forward with this process. I believe liquor license availability (at a lesser cost then the private market) is a significant driver to growth and development in small downtowns like ours. They allow restaurants and entertainment venues to locate, which provide a destination

for residents and visitors. As part of this process, I would like to begin engaging in a more detailed conversation on how to address the Downtown – and what strategies to put in place for revitalization. Certainly the availability of liquor licenses for restaurants / bars are a good first start.

Whitmore Lake SAD

We have received the critical easement for the Whitmore Lake Sewer Special Assessment District. Unfortunately, we also need a discharge of mortgage from this property owner and are currently trying to track that down. I am assisting the property owner in order to speed this up as fast as possible. I anticipate there being significant progress on this very shortly.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard Fink".

Howard Fink, Township Manager