

Ottawa County Transportation Improvement District

Regular Meeting

October 19, 2020

This regular meeting of the Ottawa County Transportation Improvement District (OCTID) was called to order by Ron Lajti at 8:33am on October 19, 2020. Present were OCTID members: Ron Lajti, Steve Levorchick, Mark Stahl, Mark Messa, and Jennifer Widmer; Non-voting member, Senator Theresa Gavarone; Commissioners: Mark Coppeler and Don Douglas; Administrative Assistant, Tina Molnar.

Submission of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Minutes were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Mark Stahl and seconded by Mark Messa for the minutes to be approved as written. There was no discussion

Roll Call Vote: Lajti – yes, Widmer – yes, Levorchick – yes, Messa – yes, Stahl – yes

Officer Reports:

Chairman:

Local Projects

There is an exceptional amount of work being done in the county.

- Oak Harbor has a large sewer/water/road improvement project that is ongoing.
- Elmore bridge is completed
- Port Clinton is in the midst of a large water/sewer/paving project
- ODOT is working on most major St Rts at the current time.

County Projects

Ottawa County has completed several large projects.

- A turn lane was added at State Road and Gypsum roads to aid in trucks turning to and from USG.
- A turn lane and crosswalk was also added on Portage Rive South Road near Materian.

OPWC

OPWC is a major funding source for local projects. This funding has been increasingly difficult to obtain. This year there were 4 projects that were funded. In the past, approximately 6 have been awarded. Ron noted that the scoring was the highest it's ever been. Entities are getting creative in their application process which is increasing the scores and the competition.

State Road/53/Route2

The State is experiencing funding cut backs as the gas tax revenue has been decreased due to COVID-19. This is causing ODOT to look more toward grant funds to fund projects.

The Feasibility Study for this project is due to be completed in November of this year. Tetra Tech was also contracted to do the design and that will follow the study.

Since funding is restricted, Ron anticipates that ODOT will rely heavily on Safety Funds for this project. Roundabouts score very highly on safety ratings and he believes that the solution for this intersection will include both the roundabout at the intersection and the half of roundabout at the exit of Route 2 as these design items score well for safety funds.

The third lane going down St. Rt. 53 is part of the feasibility study but most likely will not be included in the construction due to funding issues.

Vice-Chairperson: No report

Secretary-Treasurer: Will report farther in agenda.

Correspondence:

We received a letter from Associated Builders and Contractors with an invitation to join a lawsuit to reverse the new law requiring all TIDs to pay prevailing wage on their projects. Mark Messa asked why this would be an issue since most TIDS are using State funds and if any State or Federal funds are used, prevailing wage must be paid. Ron replied that many TIDs use private funds to do projects benefitting those private businesses. In these instances prevailing wage was not previously required. It was decided to take no position in the lawsuit.

Old Business:

EDA

- At the last meeting we talked about a proposal by Jamie Beier-Grant to apply for EDA Grant funds to aid with the State Road/St. Rt. 53 project. Through discussion with Poggemeyer and much research it was discovered that ODOT cannot take EDA funds, the county cannot apply for funding to benefit state infrastructure, and the county will not take ownership of any portion of a state route in order to qualify. Therefore, the TID is not able to apply for EDA funding for this project.

TID Grant

- A letter was received indicating that the OCTID was awarded \$250,000 TID Grant for the feasibility study of the SR 2 / SR 53 ODOT project. ODOT intends to distribute the TID Grant funds directly via their internal processes. However, an agreement permitting this has yet to be presented and/or accepted by this TID Board. TID representatives are working with ODOT personnel to get this handled.

2019 Audit

- Jennifer indicated the the 2019 Hinkle report has been filed. All that was needed was notice that a TID had been created but that no funds had been received or spent during the 2019 fiscal year. The County's 2019 audit has not yet been completed.

New Business:

Establishment of Fund and Line Items

- An OCTID fund, fund 416, as well as subsequent line items has been formed in the Auditor's office in preparation for the TID grant. These dollars must be accounted for with a budget even if they go directly to the vendor for the feasibility study. We are again waiting on the grant agreement with ODOT to verify the timing of these funds. If they are this year we will need to meet again to approve a budget for fiscal year 2020.
- A 2020 Audit will need to be filed next year.
- A 2021 budget may need to be presented and approved by this board at another meeting later this year or at the initial meeting in 2021.

2021 Meeting Dates:

According to the bylaws the OCTID must have 4 meetings per year. Our initial meeting is to be the 3rd Monday of January. Subsequent meetings will be the 3rd Mondays of April, July, and October. Steve Levorchick moved to approve these meetings and Mark Stahl seconded the motion. Jennifer Widmer noted the 3rd Monday of January is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The motion was amended to move the first meeting to the 3rd Tuesday of January.

Roll Call Vote: Lajti – yes, Widmer – yes, Levorchick – yes, Mess – yes, Stahl – yes

Adjournment:

Jennifer Widmer moved that we adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Levorchick. There was no discussion.

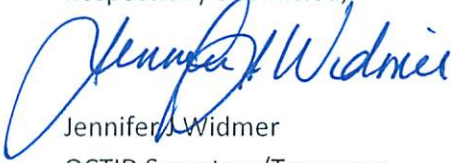
Roll Call Vote: Lajti – yes, Widmer – yes, Levorchick – yes, Mess – yes, Stahl – yes

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58am.

The next meeting will take place **Tuesday, January 19** at 8:30am at the Ottawa County Engineers Office unless a special or emergency meeting is needed.

Be It Further Resolved, that it is found and determined that all formal actions of the Board concerning and relating to the adoption of the above resolutions were so adopted in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Widmer
OCTID Secretary/Treasurer