

Corridor Improvement Authority

01/05/2026

Keeler Township Hall

Chairman Rod Pletz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Members present: Rod Pletz, Don Blackmond, Pat Hickey, Mike Spain, Harold Schaus and Vicky Pletz.

Members absent: Tom Neary.

Quorum has been achieved.

Motion made to approve the minutes of the 12/01/2025 by Don Blackmond. Seconded by Pat Hickey. Motion passed.

Chairman Pletz stated that he has received a financial report. The general fund stands at \$230.69. The Michigan class account sits at \$88,337.24. An outstanding bill from October for mowing the Lions Club lease property of \$100.

A motion was made by Don Blackmond to pay the \$100 bill to Ernie New. Seconded by Pat Hickey. Motion passed.

Discussion about the park update and how to acknowledge Dennis Moore's donation of time and effort. Vicky Pletz received a price from Creative Vinyl of \$129.00 for a 4x6 cast aluminum plaque. Question of using different material and the need to establish a standard design that could be used for future donations.

Chairman Pletz stated that he has been looking into different grants that may be available. A Department of Natural Resource passport grant has a value of between \$75,000 and \$150,000 with a 25% seed money coming from the corridor improvement association authority. This grant as an application deadline of April 1st of this year.

A motion was made by Mike Spain to give chairman Pletz authority to pursue grants. Seconded by Pat Hickey. A roll call vote; Don Blackmond, support. Pat Hickey, support. Harold Schaus, support. Mike Spain, support. Vicky Pletz, support. Chairman Pletz, support. Motion passed.

A requirement for the DNR passport grant is having a capital improvement plan. This requirement should be met with the previous efforts documented in the minutes and the physical improvements at the leased property. Another requirement may be having the Township become a signatory to the grant funds distribution.

The 25% matching cost would have to be determined with the current pricing of the structures and current cost of the pad.

Discussion about the Greater Sister Lakes Business Association sign that is located on the La Perla property. Don Blackmond talked to Darlene Vorreyer after the December 2nd Township meeting.

Darlene stated that there was no written agreement between the Business Association and Brad Myer the owner of the property at the time. Since no written agreement or lease can be found the Sister Lakes Lions Club he has no ownership of the sign.

Pat Hickey stated that on December 3rd he spoke with Ryan Laylin, the zoning administrator and Scott Saunders, the building inspector. The zoning administrator said that as long as the sign is not changing in dimension that a digital insert should be acceptable. It would not bring the sign the non-conforming sign into compliance but because it is existing, it would not increase the non-conforming issue. The building inspector said that the structure should be able to manage a 600lb additional load without a problem.

Mike Spain stated that after many phone calls he was able to set up a meeting with the La Perla management. The property that the sign sits on is owned by O&C properties and is managed by a woman named Lusara Blanco, who goes by Liz, was able to meet with Mike and Don Blackman. Liz seems to be very receptive to the project. Legal counsel will have to be retained to draw up a lease agreement which would then hopefully be acceptable to the La Perla management.

Mike Spain brought up the idea of possibly tearing down the sign and replacing it with a monument style sign that would be conforming to the local zoning laws.

The sunset clause of the Corridor Improvement Authority's existence was brought up in light of the time frame of a lease agreement.

More options need to be investigated to be able to determine a style of sign that will be acceptable.

Chairman Pletz opened the meeting for public comment at 6:52pm. Hearing none. Time for public comment was closed.

Chairman Pletz mentioned that he is a scheduling conflict with the next meeting of February 2nd. Don Blackmond made a motion to change the scheduled meeting to February 4<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Pat Hickey. Motion passed.

Don Blackmond made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Pat Hickey. Motion passed unanimously

Secretary R. Patrick Hickey

*R. Patrick Hickey*