

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2023**

EDC President Bob Forster called the meeting to order Thursday September 14, 2023 at 6 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present at the meeting were President--Robert Forster, secretary Suzette Arndt, Dolores Mueller, and Linda Blonn. Phil Anderson and Tammy Dubbels were absent.

EDC meeting minutes from August 10, 2023 were reviewed and Bob Forster entertained a motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Dolores Mueller so moved; Linda Blonn seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Suzette Arndt brought information about the sidewalks in the downtown district of Kouts. The sidewalks are shifting and becoming uneven creating a tripping hazard for the residents. Concrete companies were reached out to for a bid to repair/replace the sidewalks. American Concrete Raising was the only one who responded. An estimate was given in the amount of \$34,450 which includes Mudjack to raise concrete, fill voids to bring areas back to proper grade and pitch, drill holes and clean up, from St. Rd 49 to Route 8 to Alley south of Mentor. Linda Blonn motioned to accept the bid amount of \$34,450 from American Concrete and Dolores Mueller seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Suzette Arndt stated that the Kouts Fire Department turned in their receipts for their fire hoses in the amount of \$6000 and they were reimbursed that amount. This will leave approximately 10 to 12 thousand dollars in our General Fund. And we might want to consider keeping that for an emergency basis if something comes up.

Carol Vandyke (Pleasant Township Trustee) asked if the EDC would help with materials for the Mural that is being painted on the side of John Andy's restaurant to protect it from vandalism. The product to protect the murals that was presented was Mural Shield, and World's Best Graffiti Coating. The cost of this would be \$980.50. She also asked about rock to put in front of the area in the amount of \$350 to 450.

Sherwin Williams has a clear coat in the cost of \$75 a gallon that is another option. Dolores Mueller asked how durable is the Mural Shield and what is the guarantee of the coverage and also asked for references.

Suzette Arndt asked if she has looked for other products and asked if she asked for donations for the products. Bob Forester suggested that Carol Vandyke contact Valparaiso and see what was used on their murals.

Carol Vandyke is going to look into other products and cost and see if she can find anything comparable. She will bring it into Town Hall and drop off so it can be given to the EDC for their next meeting.

Discussed the Capital Outlay Plan for 2024, 2025, 2026. We will put a plan together at the October EDC mtg.

Mtg Adjourned 7:06 pm

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President Robert Forster

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Dolores Mueller

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Secretary Suzette Arndt

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Linda Blonn