DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING –October 13, 2008

John Shay called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. in the City Municipal Building Community Room.

Members present: Gail Lyons, Kathy Maclean, Aleksy Urick, Andy Thomas, Wayne Brown, Chris Pontz, Les Johnson, Nick Tykoski, Jim Lindsey and Julie Payment. Also present were City Manager John Shay, Community Development Director Heather L.V. Loney.

Not Present: Mayor Henderson, Darla Keillor, Terry Murphy

Approval of Agenda & Minutes
Moved by Johnson, seconded by Lyons to approve the agenda and minutes. Motion carried

Approval of Minutes
Moved by Thomas, seconded by Lindsey to approve the September 29, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments
Community Development Director Heather Venzke Loney introduced Carrie Kosla and explained that she would be helping with the window decorating contest promotions.

Financial Report
Report was emailed to members. Payment inquired whether the Downtown Board lent money for the pink lights. City Manager Shay explained that the City had lent the money for the light purchase.

New Business Issue: Discussion of the purchase of Downtownludington.com. A motion was made to refer to the issue to the Business Retention/ Marketing committee to review.

Committee Reports
Business Retention/Marketing/Recruitment/Communication
Maclean reported that there was no meeting this month. The committee plans to meet in October.

Special Events
Lyons reported that a successful Oktoberfest was held. Payment reported that the Oktoberfest Pub Crawl went well.

Building and Grounds
Pontz reported that the committee met and compiled a budget for 2009. This included the part-time position for downtown maintenance.

FNL/Christmas Parade
Payment reported that Bike Night was cancelled due to weather. Next year the committee will request a back-up rain date. The committee is considering moving Bike Night to the last week in August and moving Oktoberfest to the last weekend in September.
Maclean reported that the Christmas parade is in need of more applications.

Communications
Venzke Loney reported that Murphy will no longer be compiling the DowntownLudington.com web site. Maclean suggested that the newsletters or communications sent out include the various committee meetings.

Ex-Officio reports

City Manager Report
City manager Shay reported that the Western Land services Development has been postponed until spring. Also a meeting was held with Ted Ahrends who recently purchased the 5/3rd bank building. He is interested in input from the Downtown Board & the City as to what he should do with the building. The Board referred this matter to the Business Retention/Communications committee for suggestions.

Chamber /CVB Report
Maclean reported that a successful Barns & Byways tour was held . 400 People took part in the activities. Maclean reported that the new CVB Director Amy Sing begins on Monday.

Planning Commission
Shay reported that the commission approved the rezoning of the Varsity Cleaners property, however the City Council decision to approve that is on hold with the project.
Also a County wide joint planning meeting is coming up.

Mason County Growth Alliance
VanDyke brought handouts for the committee. She reported that the manufacturers are doing a newsletter and breaking down into smaller groups to work together. A new collaboration has begun to unite the area in efforts for community collaboration. This group will be holding monthly meetings.
Healy of the SBTDC handed out a list of convention centers in Michigan for the committee to review.

New Business:
A motion was made by Thomas and seconded by Pontz to support a recommendation to the City Council for the permanent closure of N James Street.

Motion carried.

Motion by Lyons second by Pontz to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by City Manager Shay at 11:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Heather L. Venzke Loney