DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING October 12, 2009

Mayor John Henderson called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. in the City Municipal Building Community Room.

(Circle or highlight those present)
Members present: Gail Lyons, Julie Payment, Wayne Brown, Kathy Maclean, Aleksy Urick, Carrie Kosla. Also present were City Manager John Shay, CVB Representative Amy Seng, Chamber Director.

Aleksy Urick wanted to make the board aware that he was unable to make the September because he was in a car accident.

Approval of Agenda
Moved by Kathy Maclean, seconded by Julie Payment to approve the agenda. Motion carried

Minutes
Moved by Kathy Maclean, seconded by Aleksy Urick to approve the July, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments
No Comments

Financial Report
Motion by Wayne Brown second by Aleksy Urick to accept the financial report as presented.

Kathy Maclean requested clarification on what was included in operating supplies that would make the figure so large. City Manager, John Shay stated the benches, tables etc. were put in that category rather than under Equipment.

Committee Reports

A. Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing/Communications

   Mayor John Henderson posed a question about 10 West Movie Productions. Why have they not used Mason Co as a place for the 4 movies they have already created? Can a meeting be arranged to ask this question and if they have no intention of using Mason Co can the County be released to pursue other opportunities? CVB-Amy Seng stated that the CVB follows up on all leads by sending out bios and pictures for the area when opportunities arise. She asked that she not be the contact thru 10 West. She has a conflict of interest as her Uncle is directly involved and the companies office is located on her uncles property. Kathy Maclean will contact the company to set up a meeting.

B. Special Events/Promotions/Activities

   Gail Lyons reported Oktoberfest was success! Good attendance and the weather cooperated all but one hour. Informed the board that McDonalds Bakery donated donuts, Orchard Market donated Apples, Walmart donated apple juice and Bones and Butts donated chili. City Manager John Shay stated the DPW was happy with the cleanliness

of the streets following the event. This made for an easy cleanup.
Gail Lyons reported the next scheduled event will be Halloween in the plaza. Tye Signs is working on store window decals and Heather Venzke has handout postcards.

C. Building and Grounds

Mayor John Henderson reported the Eagles parking lot has been paved.
Julie Payment asked if anything has been posed to Arens Investment about the 5/3rd Bank Building parking lot. Someone was placing notes on vehicles a few weeks back and has since stopped. People still park there and this winter the snow removal will be an issue. Can he be asked to either say yes or no to parking there? If no, to permanently chain the area off.

D. Friday Night Live/Christmas Parade

Julie payment reported committee has already started planning the Christmas parade. First meeting went well. Arts Council will host an After party. Payment asked if ice rink was still going to happen. Mayor Henderson stated they still plan on doing it.
DPW asked if only lighting the street posts was a possibility or only lighting every other tree. Board decided lighting fewer trees was the better route.
Mayor Henderson reported on the New Years Eve Ball Drop. After the recent meeting CVB is putting together packages for people coming to the event. There will be fireworks, a cover band. Kathy Maclean expressed concern over the Liquor License. Is the chamber going to provide the license? Who is going to be responsible for serving in the tent? Another meeting will be scheduled. Committee is looking for sponsors. Estimated funds needed is $7,500.

Ex-Officio Reports

City Manager Report

City Manage John Shay reported Marina Construction set to start 10/12/09 thru Christmas then continue from March thru May. Size of stone being changed to save costs. Breakwater construction will begin this fall and the in the spring construction of the walkway will continue. Lyons asked if there were any precautionary measures being taken to prevent people from walking on it. Shay said there will be postings. James Street construction will be completed by 11/1/09. Downtown snow removal budget was increased last year due to the new methods of snowplowing. DPW is still hashing out the budget for this year. City meeting on 10/26/09-Permanent closure of N James street will be decided. Anyone with an opinion is urged to come.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Kathy Maclean reported Barns & Byways went well and had a great turnout. People from all over the country came. This was kept track of by a board with pins that people could place the pin on the place they came from. This may be the last year for this event. Looking for different barns for next year. The current barn owners are getting tired as the job of getting the barns ready is quite a lot of work. The plow demo was very popular. Business After hours is 10/22/09 at Lincoln Hills.

Planning Commission

No report.

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Amy Seng reported community had 4,500 tourists this season 1,500 more than in the past. CVB had a strong September. CVB is down 4%, Detroit is down 10% and up north is even worse. CVB is hoping to end this year at this pace.

Old Business:

- Carrie Kosla reported on Pink Christmas for 2009. As of Sept 2009 Pink Christmas is no more. Has been officially changed to the "Power of Pink" Task force. This holiday season will no longer be a fundraising campaign. It will continue as a celebration of the 100% community funded Women's Imaging Center. Miss Ludington Pageant will be Nov 7th, Power of Pink Brunch will be Nov 8th, WIC donor open houses are scheduled for Nov 7th and 8th. Plaza will still be decorated and the Ribbons of Hope Tree ceremony will take place the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

New Business:

None

Motion by Wayne Brown second by Aleksy Urick to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by City Manager Shay at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Kosla