

Medical SSMID Commission Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2016
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Tallgrass Business Resources

Present: John Albert, Tim Charles, Gordon Epping, Michelle Jensen, Mike Sundall, Julianne Thomas, Ted Townsend, Julie Sterling, Karen Smith, Richard Cooley, Mary Meisterling

Absent: Kathy McCauley

Others: Phil Wasta, Doug Neumann

Welcome & Call to Order

Charles called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

Consent Agenda

Meisterling moved approval of the consent agenda. Seconded by Townsend and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Ratification of Budget Submission

To comply with the disbursement agreement with the City of CR, the Medical SSMID was required to submit an expense budget for FY '17 by January 1, showing how any public tax revenue would be spent. Wasta, Neumann and Deb Gulick worked together to come up with eight broad spending categories totaling \$663,000 for the budget year beginning July 1, 2016. A draft was previously distributed by email and agreed to by the Commission. Today's action ratifies that agreement for the record. While that budget satisfies the City requirement, a more detailed budget will be taken up by the Commission in coming months. That budget will include the revenue side and a more detailed breakdown of the expense budget. It also can include additional expenses that could come from voluntary contributions that aren't required to be reported on the budget submitted to the City.

Townsend moved to ratify the budget submitted to the City. Meisterling seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Tax Rate

The Commission recommends a SSMID tax rate of up to \$3.75 per \$1,000 of taxable commercial value each year. Thus far, it has recommended (and the City Council has set) the rate at \$3.75 each year. Charles wants commission input now, with a recommendation to come at February's meeting. Thomas said the extra tax is a real burden on her property, and she suspects on others. Sterling confirmed the cost is significant for her business. Other commissioners noted that the master plan includes big projects and big plans that will require funding. Property owners expect us to be investing these funds, not banking them. If we're investing the funds, then the rate is fine; if we're not spending it, then we should be charging less.

The commission encouraged Wasta to listen to other property owners on the topic. A vote will be taken at the Feb. 10 meeting.

Wasta noted that initial work on a private, non-profit entity has been done and is proceeding so we have flexibility on projects that can use voluntary contributions rather than tax monies.

Committee Updates

Written committee chair reports were included in the packet, and chairs briefly detailed the reports. Albert suggested that landscaping projects on private property could potentially be included as a component of the Façade Improvement Program. He described the program draft in the packet as very preliminary, and more work will be done before a recommendation is made to the Commission.

Executive Director's Report

Wasta shared a written report with highlights of his activities over the past month. He also solicited commission input about the best ways to continue district feedback gathering. In addition to the one-on-one meetings Wasta is doing, he wants to hold some type of public event. Merits of morning, noon and after-work meetings were debated, with the consensus being that a 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. meeting would be best. Wasta and commission members should try to do some personal invitations/outreach to get people to attend, as that tends to be much more effective than public announcements.

Wasta will determine format and content for the meeting.

Other Business

Mayor Corbett's State of the City lunch is scheduled for Feb. 24. Wasta has been asked by the City to help identify a number of 2015 highlights that the mayor may consider including in the speech.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.