

**AGENDA # N.3**  
**Scio Township Board of Trustees**  
**Ordinance to Repeal Township Code of Ordinances Chapter 14, Article 14-II Downtown  
Development Authority**

**FOR MEETING DATE OF:** August 12, 2025  
**PREPARED ON:** July 2, 2025; updated July 18,  
2025; updated August 6, 2025  
**PREPARED BY:** Jessica Flintoft  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Clerk

**ITEM TYPE:** Possible Action

**BACKGROUND:** 37 years ago, the Township Board adopted an ordinance to establish a Downtown Development Authority because at that time the Board found that it was necessary and in the best interests of the public to eliminate the causes of property value deterioration. Back in 1988, those causes were found to be a lack of water supply and Jackson Road which was too narrow. The DDA was tremendously successful: extending the water and sewer system, and creating the Jackson Road Boulevard. The purpose of the DDA has been fulfilled.

Today, having this DDA is not necessary and is no longer in the best interests of the public. Arguably, based on the cash position of the DDA, the Township Board should have dissolved the DDA earlier. Currently, the Township via its DDA is idly sitting on public monies captured from millages that voters enacted for the provision of public services, e.g., mental health and public safety, parks, open space, public transit, community college, library, and other public services. The DDA cash position far exceeds its outstanding liabilities or capital plans. The purpose of the DDA has been fulfilled, and it is no longer responsible for the Township to capture a portion of these millages.

Today, this Township Board can serve the best interests of the public by adopting Ordinance 2025-06. By doing so, the Township Board can allow the operating and specially voted millages to go to the respective public services for which the voters passed them. The Board may consider other Tax Increment Financing or similar tools for economic development. But, the Board must use this extraordinary power to capture and divert voter approved monies sparingly, to meet the conditions of current times, not 1988.

Recent federal policies are expected to increase poverty and hardships for working families, exacerbating the need for affordable housing, nutrition assistance, and basic healthcare. Now more than before, the Township must be responsible, ethical, and efficient in managing public funds. Adoption of Ordinance 2025-06 allows the county, school district, library, and township public servants to be responsible for the administration of these limited taxpayer monies. The purpose of the DDA has been fulfilled, and it is time for the Board of Trustees to end this capture of voter approved millages.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Plante Moran has prepared Financial Projections showing the positive impact of Repealing the DDA on the Township, AA and Dexter Libraries, WCC, and the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Township Attorney drafted and approved the Ordinance to Dissolve the Downtown Development Authority.

The Interim Finance Director projects that the DDA Estimated Tax Capture for FYE26 alone for Ann Arbor District Library is \$229,388; Dexter District Library is \$23,187; WCC is \$494,341; County Operating is \$471,280; County Supplemental (special millages for parks, natural areas, roads, EECS, veterans, older persons, mental health and public safety, conservation district) is \$625,526; Township Operating is \$134,150; Township Open Space is \$71,880; Township Public Transit is \$51,102; Township Parks is \$94,277; and Township Fire is \$428,517.

The Interim Finance Director prepared projection of how the current liabilities of the DDA would be covered with existing cash, and how the remaining cash in the DDA fund would be used to pay outstanding liabilities and then returned to the voted millage funds from which they were captured, if the Board adopted ordinance to dissolve the DDA.

Clerk recommends approval of proposed Ordinance 2025-06 to Repeal Township Code of Ordinances Chapter 14, Article 14-II Downtown Development Authority.

**MODEL MOTION:** To adopt Ordinance 2025-06 to Repeal Township Code of Ordinances Chapter 14, Article 14-II Downtown Development Authority, as proposed.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[proposed Ordinance 2025 06 to repeal Article 14 II DDA.pdf](#)

[2025 07 18 Memo from Fink and Fink re Dissolving the DDA.pdf](#)

[2025 08 01 Financial Projection of Return of Voted Millage Funds if DDA Dissolution.pdf](#)