



MEMORANDUM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 20th, 2024

TO: The City of the Village of Douglas City Council

FROM: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager

SUBJECT: Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP Services Budget Amendment

In June of 2022, the City of the Village of Douglas retained the services of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, LLP to investigate the environmental contamination at 200 Blue Star Highway, and determine which former owners of the property may be responsible for said contamination. Several potentially responsible parties were identified, and therefore the city asked the legal firm to initiate dialogue with any of the viable responsible parties to explore the possibility of their contributing to the remediation of the property whether voluntarily or by court order/litigation.

The prior retainer to start the investigation was \$10,000.00 which was exceeded, with an additional amount of \$22,247.00 being spent to date. Taft suggests that the city continue to move forward and continue the dialogue with the identified responsible parties, and continue to develop facts and details regarding their potential liability.

To proceed, I am requesting council's consideration to approve an additional \$20,000.00 dollars in the current budget for the legal firm to continue their work on the matters outlined above. If the \$20,000.00 is reached, the legal firm will advise of such and another budget amendment will need to be approved. It has been noted that while it is difficult to accurately estimate costs for executing next steps, given the uncertainty of how the dialogue would continue to develop, the budget recommendation is a conservative estimate and represents approximately 40 hours of additional work. The funds will be allocated from the current FY2023/2024 Brownfield fund (#243-000).

Recommended Motion: Approve an amendment to the FY2023/2024 budget under the Brownfield fund, for \$20,000.00 for Taft, Stettinius, & Hollister, LLP, to continue to provide legal services related to 200 Blue Star Highway.