



301 W. MAIN • OWOSSO, MICHIGAN 48867-2958 • (989) 725-0599 • FAX (989) 723-8854

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 10, 2022

TO: Mayor Christopher Eveleth, City Council, and Manager Nathan Henne

FROM: Michael Dowler, Assessor

RE: Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District – 123 N Washington Street
Set Public Hearing to Establish District

The city clerk has received an application for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) tax exemption, from Woodworth Investments, LLC, owners of 123 N Washington Street. The project proposes to completely renovate the 3 story 20,965 square foot building with 9 new apartments.

The Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, PA 146 of 2000, MCL 125.2781 *et seq.*, as amended, provides a property tax exemption for commercial and commercial housing properties that are rehabilitated and meet the requirements of the Act. Properties must meet eligibility requirements and must be located in an established Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District.

OPRA exemptions are approved for a term of 1-12 years as determined by the local unit of government. The property taxes for the rehabilitated property are based on the previous year's (prior to rehabilitation) taxable value. The taxable value is frozen for the duration of the exemption. Additionally, the State Treasurer may approve reductions of half of the school operating and state education taxes for a period not to exceed 6 years for 25 applications annually. Applications are filed, reviewed and approved by the local unit of government, but are also subject to review at the State level by the Property Services Division. The State Tax Commission (STC) is responsible for final approval and issuance of OPRA certificates. Exemptions are not effective until approved by the STC.

The creation of an OPRA District is the first step in the process and must be in place before any work can commence on the property. An Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District may consist of one or more parcels or tracts of land or a portion of a parcel or tract of land, provided that the parcel or tract is either of the following:

- a. Obsolete property in an area characterized by obsolete commercial property or commercial housing property.
- b. Obsolete property that is commercial property that was owned by the local governmental unit on June 6, 2000 and was later conveyed to a private owner.

Before adopting a resolution establishing an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District, the local governmental unit must give written notice by certified mail to the owners of all real property within the proposed Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District and shall afford an opportunity for a hearing on the establishment of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District. Any of the owners and any other resident or taxpayer of the qualified local governmental unit may appear at the hearing and be heard. The legislative body shall give public notice of the hearing not less than 10 days or more than 30 days before the date of the hearing.

Following the public hearing, the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit may establish an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District by resolution. The resolution must set forth a finding and determination that the district meets the requirements of the Act.

Attached is a map of the proposed district along with a copy of the application for the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption. Staff suggests setting a public hearing for Monday, June 6, 2022 to receive comments regarding the proposed district.

As always, if there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at (989) 725-0530.

RESOLUTION NO.

**SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING
AN OBSOLETE PROPERTY REHABILITATION DISTRICT
FOR THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS
123 N WASHINGTON STREET**

WHEREAS, a request was received April 26, 2022 for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) tax exemption from Woodworth Investments LLC, owners of the property at 123 N Washington Street; and

WHEREAS, PA 146 of 2000 requires that a property must be located in an established Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District to be eligible for an exemption; and

WHEREAS, PA 146 of 2000 further requires that a public hearing must be held and notice of said hearing provided prior to the establishment of an OPRA District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: a public hearing is called for Monday, June 6, 2022 at or about 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers for the purpose of hearing comments from those within the proposed district, and any other resident or taxpayer, of the City of Owosso.

SECOND: the City Clerk gives the notifications required by law.

THIRD: the City staff is directed to investigate and determine if the qualifications of the act are satisfied and report findings at the hearing.

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W. MAIN ST.

Application for Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate

Issued under authority of Public Act 146 of 2000, as amended.

This application should be filed after the district is established. This project will not receive tax benefits until approved by the State Tax Commission. Applications received after October 31 may not be acted upon in the current year. This application is subject to audit by the State Tax Commission.

INSTRUCTIONS: File the completed application and the required attachments with the clerk of the local government unit. (The State Tax Commission requires two copies of the Application and attachments. The original is retained by the clerk.) See State Tax Commission Bulletin 9 of 2000 for more information about the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption. The following must be provided to the local government unit as attachments to this application: (a) General description of the obsolete facility (year built, original use, most recent use, number of stories, square footage); (b) General description of the proposed use of the rehabilitated facility, (c) Description of the general nature and extent of the rehabilitation to be undertaken, (d) A descriptive list of the fixed building equipment that will be a part of the rehabilitated facility, (e) A time schedule for undertaking and completing the rehabilitation of the facility, (f) A statement of the economic advantages expected from the exemption. A statement from the assessor of the local unit of government, describing the required obsolescence has been met for this building, is required with each application. Rehabilitation may commence after establishment of district.

Applicant (Company) Name (applicant must be the OWNER of the facility) Woodworth Investments, LLC								
Company Mailing Address (Number and Street, P.O. Box, City, State, ZIP Code) 120 W. Exchange Street, Suite 203, Owosso, Michigan 48867								
Location of obsolete facility (Number and Street, City, State, ZIP Code) 123 N. Washington Street, Owosso, Michigan 48867								
City, Township, Village (indicate which) City of Owosso	County Shiawassee							
Date of Commencement of Rehabilitation (mm/dd/yyyy) 12/1/2022	Planned date of Completion of Rehabilitation (mm/dd/yyyy) 12/1/2023	School District where facility is located (include school code) Owosso (2627210)						
Estimated Cost of Rehabilitation \$2,932,970.00	Number of years exemption requested 12							
Attach legal description of obsolete property on separate sheet.								
Expected Project Outcomes (Check all that apply) <table><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase commercial activity</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Retain employment</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Revitalize urban areas</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create employment</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Prevent a loss of employment</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase number of residents in the community in which the facility is situated</td></tr></table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase commercial activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Revitalize urban areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevent a loss of employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase number of residents in the community in which the facility is situated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase commercial activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Revitalize urban areas						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevent a loss of employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase number of residents in the community in which the facility is situated						
Indicate the number of jobs to be retained or created as a result of rehabilitating the facility, including expected construction employment. <u>0</u>								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Each year, the State Treasurer may approve 25 additional reductions of half the school operating and state education taxes for a period not to exceed six years. Check the box at left if you wish to be considered for this exclusion.								

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, authorized officer of the company making this application certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, no information contained herein or in the attachments hereto is false in any way and that all of the information is truly descriptive of the property for which this application is being submitted. Further, the undersigned is aware that, if any statement or information provided is untrue, the exemption provided by Public Act 146 of 2000 may be in jeopardy.


The applicant certifies that this application relates to a rehabilitation program that, when completed, constitutes a rehabilitated facility, as defined by Public Act 146 of 2000, as amended, and that the rehabilitation of the facility would not be undertaken without the applicant's receipt of the exemption certificate.

It is further certified that the undersigned is familiar with the provisions of Public Act 146 of 2000, as amended, of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, (s)he has complied or will be able to comply with all of the requirements thereof which are prerequisite to the approval of the application by the local unit of government and the issuance of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate by the State Tax Commission.

Name of Company Officer (No authorized agents) Randy Woodworth	Telephone Number (989) 277-2815	Fax Number
Mailing Address 120 W. Exchange St., Suite 203, Owosso, Michigan 48867	E-mail Address randywoodworth@gmail.com	
Signature of Company Officer (no authorized agents)	Title Member	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CLERK CERTIFICATION

The Clerk must also complete Parts 1, 2 and 4 on page 2. Part 3 is to be completed by the Assessor.

Signature 	Date Application Received 4-26-2022
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FOR STATE TAX COMMISSION USE

Application Number	Date Received	LUCI Code
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION			
This section is to be completed by the clerk of the local governing unit before submitting the application to the State Tax Commission. Include a copy of the resolution which approves the application and Instruction items (a) through (f) on page 1, and a separate statement of obsolescence from the assessor of record with the State Assessor's Board. All sections must be completed in order to process.			
PART 1: ACTION TAKEN			
Action Date _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Exemption Approved for _____ Years, ending December 30, _____ (not to exceed 12 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Denied			
Date District Established _____		LUCI Code _____	School Code _____
PART 2: RESOLUTIONS (the following statements must be included in resolutions approving)			
A statement that the local unit is a Qualified Local Governmental Unit. A statement that the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District was legally established including the date established and the date of hearing as provided by section 3 of Public Act 146 of 2000. A statement indicating whether the taxable value of the property proposed to be exempt plus the aggregate taxable value of property already exempt under Public Act 146 of 2000 and under Public Act 198 of 1974 (IFT's) exceeds 5% of the total taxable value of the unit. A statement of the factors, criteria and objectives, if any, necessary for extending the exemption, when the certificate is for less than 12 years. A statement that a public hearing was held on the application as provided by section 4(2) of Public Act 146 of 2000 including the date of the hearing. A statement that the applicant is not delinquent in any taxes related to the facility. If it exceeds 5% (see above), a statement that exceeding 5% will not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the Qualified Local Governmental Unit or of impairing the financial soundness of an affected taxing unit. A statement that all of the items described under "Instructions" (a) through (f) of the Application for Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate have been provided to the Qualified Local Governmental Unit by the applicant.		A statement that the application is for obsolete property as defined in section 2(h) of Public Act 146 of 2000. A statement that the commencement of the rehabilitation of the facility did not occur before the establishment of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District. A statement that the application relates to a rehabilitation program that when completed constitutes a rehabilitated facility within the meaning of Public Act 146 of 2000 and that is situated within an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District established in a Qualified Local Governmental Unit eligible under Public Act 146 of 2000 to establish such a district. A statement that completion of the rehabilitated facility is calculated to, and will at the time of issuance of the certificate, have the reasonable likelihood to, increase commercial activity, create employment, retain employment, prevent a loss of employment, revitalize urban areas, or increase the number of residents in the community in which the facility is situated. The statement should indicate which of these the rehabilitation is likely to result in. A statement that the rehabilitation includes improvements aggregating 10% or more of the true cash value of the property at commencement of the rehabilitation as provided by section 2(l) of Public Act 146 of 2000. A statement of the period of time authorized by the Qualified Local Governmental Unit for completion of the rehabilitation.	
PART 3: ASSESSOR RECOMMENDATIONS			
Provide the Taxable Value and State Equalized Value of the Obsolete Property, as provided in Public Act 146 of 2000, as amended, for the tax year immediately preceding the effective date of the certificate (December 31 of the year approved by the STC)			
Building Taxable Value		Building State Equalized Value	
\$ 196,900		\$ 196,900	
Name of Government Unit City of Owosso		Date of Action Application _____	Date of Statement of Obsolescence 12-15-2021
PART 4: CLERK CERTIFICATION			
The undersigned clerk certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, no information contained herein or in the attachments hereto is false in any way. Further, the undersigned is aware that if any information provided is untrue, the exemption provided by Public Act of 2000 may be in jeopardy.			
Name of Clerk _____		Telephone Number _____	
Clerk Mailing Address _____			
Mailing Address _____			
Telephone Number _____	Fax Number _____	E-mail Address _____	
Clerk Signature _____			Date _____

For faster service, email completed application and attachments to PTE@michigan.gov. An additional submission option is to mail the completed application and attachments to Michigan Department of Treasury, State Tax Commission, PO Box 30471, Lansing, MI 48909. If you have any questions, call 517-335-7491.

April 11, 2022

Application for Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate

Public Act 146 of 2000, as amended

Woodworth Investments, LLC

123 N. Washington Street, Owosso, Michigan

PART 2: APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

a. General Description of the facility (year built, original use, most recent use, number of stories, square feet)

Historical records indicate the existing building was constructed in 1895. Throughout the years the building was used for multiple purposes including banks, law firms, medical practices, real estate agencies, and insurance agencies. It has been stated that this building was part of the original Keeler Block. 'Among the numerous architecturally distinguished Victorian buildings in downtown Owosso, the Keeler Block was one of the most outstanding.' The building's exterior underwent construction in 1964, creating the "modern exterior" that is still present today.

The Property consists of a three-story, functionally obsolete building totaling approximately 20,965-square feet, located in downtown Owosso.

b. Description of the qualified facility's proposed use

The applicant intends to completely rehabilitate and reuse the subject building including approximately 9 apartments.

c. Description of the general nature and extent of the rehabilitation to be undertaken

This is a complete rehabilitation project that will include new utilities, windows, doors, flooring, and roofing. Building concrete and masonry will also be repaired with new historically approved construction materials.

d. Descriptive list of the fixed building equipment that will be a part of the qualified facility

The building interior will be demolished down to the structural components of the building while maintaining and/or reusing as many of the original architectural features as possible. New fixed building equipment will include new heating, ventilation, and air condition (HVAC) mechanical systems, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, electrical and electrical fixtures, lighting, fire suppression, interior walls and flooring, new doors and windows, improved interior and exterior appearance.

e. Time schedule for undertaking and completing the facility's rehabilitation

The rehabilitation project is anticipated to take 12 months to complete with a construction schedule currently planned for December 1, 2022, through December 1, 2023. No construction activities will be conducted prior to any approval of the PA 146 abatement.

f. Statement of the economic advantages expected from the exemption

Redevelopment of the property would provide numerous benefits to the City. While the specific facility would undergo considerable renovation, the entire area would benefit from the transformation of a vacant building (extensive vacant space) into a thriving and fully utilized property.

In an effort to maximize the utility value of the vacant, dilapidated building, the applicant is committed to doing a complete rehabilitation of the building. In that context, the applicant will incur considerable renovation costs. The establishment of the PA 146 District, with its multi-year property tax deferment benefit, is vital to making the project economically viable.

g. Legal description of the facility

The legal description of the eligible property is provided below.

- W 44' OF LOT 3 & THE N 44' OF THE E 88' OF LOT 3 BLK 22 ORIGINAL PLAT.