

# DIA reports 'best year ever'

LOCAL NEWS 1, TOP STORIES

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Cardinal Glass expansion is continuing as the Durant Industrial Authority reported Tuesday at the regular August meeting. Tommy Kramer, executive director of the DIA and board member Mayor Stewart Hoffman were both pleased with the growth of Durant.

Photo courtesy of DIA

The Durant Industrial Authority met Tuesday morning at 7 a.m. for the regular August meeting. Executive Director of the DIA Tommy Kramer gave a report on Commercial Metals Company's massive construction project.

He said, "The iron construction is going very well with the Delta Construction Company. They are drilling piers and pouring concrete daily." The finished goods building will be finished the end of this month, according to Kramer. He said, "They are moving very fast on the construction side. They plan on having the finished goods building finished out with tin on the roof and the sides. They'll be using that for storage."

He said the equipment from Dineli from Italy is arriving. They are getting prepared to accept equipment in September.

“They’ve spent \$100 million to date,” Kramer said. “That’s about a third to about half of the project expenditures. OG&E easements are approved on the 95 acres.” It was originally a \$6,000 piece of property. Kramer was proud as he said, “They wrote us a \$9,000 check for that almost two acres of the right of way.” He was happy they paid the value originally paid for the land.

He continued, “The movement forward with the CMC team. They are working on the city water/sewer issue. There is a rural water line on Old East Main. It has to be moved for Oklahoma Department of Transportation to do their build out of the road.”

The ODOT ramps from the bypass are ready to bid. Kramer said, “The design is complete, the land is purchased. They are ready to bid the contracts.”

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has almost completed the design at CMC’s request in front of the plant on Old East Main from the bypass going west in front of the plant. In front of the entrances will be four lanes. CMC has donated all the re bar for these four lanes, according to Kramer.

He said the design is almost complete and they bid it together so it will be completely ready for bid in October. It will be together in order to do all the construction at the same time.

He said, “The road issue is critical to the project. CMC will start acquiring and bringing in the equipment and building scrap to start the plant a year from this September. We have to get water, sewer and roads ready.”

CMC has given an extension until December 1st so the design and everything needs to be finished. Plyler Construction was awarded the bid to build the office, scale house and employee welfare area. They are working on the dirt and pad designs currently.

Kramer said, “Kudos to Jay Perry, county commissioner. We met with ODOT two weeks ago. We met on Sawmill Road and within 24 hours, he had the intersection expanded. Kramer said Perry told him, “Whatever you want.” Kramer said he was very happy with Perry’s performance and help on that intersection issue.

Kramer reported that he met with the law firm and all the TIF documents are almost complete.

Brucepac is complete, according to Kramer. He said the forgivable loan is tweaked out but complete with correct verbiage on the seven-year loan. He said, "We sent the \$700,000 check to the company on July 23, 2016, for 70 jobs to meet a 70-job creation criteria." Brucepac has already met that criteria, according to Kramer.

Kramer said Cardinal Glass will shut down their furnace in order to do the rebuild.

"That furnace has lived out its life," according to a Cardinal official. Kramer said, "They'll shut down the furnace but keep all their employees on the payroll to do the build."

He spoke about a unique aspect of the build. He said, "They'll pump molten glass out onto the concrete and it will solidify and harden." He said that will be a very unusual thing to see. He said that project will be completed in a little more than 81 days. Cardinal Glass' new 112,000 square-foot distribution center and warehouse will be complete by the end of August 2016.

Kramer said "Ann Chin does a great job on financials for the DIA."

Durant's economy is very strong according to Kramer. He said, "This has been the best year ever."

He is very proud of his Team Durant and the work they've accomplished. Durant has many construction projects, from the Choctaw Medical Clinic, Choctaw Headquarters, CMC, Brucepac and the more than \$60 million dollar expansion of Cardinal Glass make Durant a fast economically growing community, according to Kramer.

A report on sales tax was given and Mayor Stewart Hoffman, DIA member, was extremely happy at the growth the city has made.

A 4.5 percent growth in sales tax revenue was reported. Durant has seen a steady climb in that revenue for the past 8 years and Hoffman is extremely happy with the way Durant is growing and prospering.

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