

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 8, 2016**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Clerk Smith, Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Jacobs, Trustee LeBlanc. Trustee Proos arrived at 7:36 p.m. Also present: Planning Director Jim Ferro, and approximately 16 community members.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Supervisor Haga added two items under New Business: D. Envision Ada, The Ada Drive Construction project, Authorization to Proceed to Bid; and E. Bronson Street Parking Expansion, Authorization to Proceed to Bid. **Moved by LeBlanc, supported by Jacobs, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION - KDL ANNUAL REPORT**

Lance Werner, Director of Kent District Library, joined by Craig Wilson, Diane Cutler, and Penny Zurgable. Mr. Werner stated 2015 was a great year, with 2.8 million visitors, 260,000 people at their programs, 6.2 million circulations, and over 1 million e-circulations. He stated they are thrilled to have Ada Township as a partner and glad to provide service.

Craig Wilson stated they received a \$5,000 grant from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and that was used to invest in the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and invested in different equipment and materials that could be mailed. KDL is quite often represented at the markets, where there are stories for children, and questions about the library can be answered. He stated they hosted the first ever book inspired amateur brewing contest, with amateur brewers coming up with their on concoction based on a favorite book, it was judged, and the winning recipe was professionally brewed at Gravel Bottom Brewery.

Diane Cutler, Branch Manager, Cascade Township Branch, stated it's great to see many of Ada's residents visit them in Cascade. She stated they attended the Forest Hills expo; they have done computer classes specifically for businesses, and they are now teaching one-on-one tutorials. Ms. Cutler stated they are doing free concerts at the library on Sunday afternoon during the winter to offset the free music that's available during the summer, with the hope of 50 attendees but they have had 80-100 attendees; a new premiere is having different trucks at the library.

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

7/11/16, 2016, Regular Board Meeting, and 7/11/16, 2016, Special Board Meeting  
Receive and File Various Reports/Communications: 1. Planning Committee Minutes - 6/16/16; 2. DDA Minutes - 6/13/16; 3. Building Permit Trend Report - 7/12/16; 4. Ada Historical Society Minutes - 6/9/16; 5. Park Director's Report - 7/14/16; 6. Utility Advisory Board Minutes - 5/19/16; 7. Regis Board Minutes - 4/27/16; 8. First Quarter FU 16/17 Revenue and Expenditure Report; 9. Kent County Public Safety Dispatch Funding Press Release. **Moved by Jacobs, supported by Hurwitz, to approve the Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

**ADA TOWNSHIP GENERAL WARRANTS**

Treasurer Rhoades reported the general township warrants, with receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$37,799.04; #205 \$1,532.00; #208 \$70,385.99; #590 \$4987.14; #591 \$2,774.39; #592 \$1,355.22. Total all Hand Checks: \$118,833.78; Warrants: #101 \$199,717.66; #205 \$53,776.01; #208 \$19,597.99; #211 \$1,470.00; #248 \$7,536.74; #249 \$99,460.12; #401 \$150,054.59; #590 \$4,118.71. Total Warrants: \$536,356.82. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$655,190.60. **Moved by LeBlanc, supported by Jacobs, to approve the Warrant Report for August 8, 2016, in the total amount of \$655,190.60. Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Rhoades, Hurwitz, Jacobs, LeBlanc, and Haga; No - 0; Absent - Proos. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lance Werner, resident of Rockford, MI, stated a millage will be on the ballot in November for the Zoo and Museum. He stated information is available at [www.yeszoomuseum.com](http://www.yeszoomuseum.com). The millage will be .44 mills for 10 years, split equally between the zoo and the museum that is necessary for operations. If approved the museum will have free access for all Kent County children, and the zoo will offer free access for school groups.

**BOARD COMMENT**

Clerk Smith stated the election results were: Treasurer - Kevin Moran with 1,044 votes to Larry Roslund's 544 votes; and both millage questions passed by a substantial margin. Ada saw a 25% plus turnout, while Kent County had a county-wide turnout of 15%.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### TOWNSHIP LEGAL SERVICES

Supervisor Haga stated the Administrative Committee reviewed the request for extension of services, and the services from Miller Johnson, and the recommendation from the Committee is to approve the request for 1% increase to run through March 31, 2020. Attorney Jeff Ammon thanked the Township for the opportunity to serve. "We serve at your pleasure; you can use our services a lot or a little." **Moved by Rhoades, supported by Jacobs, to approve the Township Legal Services of Miller Johnson as recommended by the Administrative Committee, at a 1% increase as presented. Motion carried.**

### CONSUMERS POWER EASEMENT FOR ELECTRIC FACILITIES

Supervisor Haga stated when the easement was approved for electric services with Consumers Energy Company across Township property to service 584 Ada Drive (Nonna's), there became a need to correct voltage issues at 590 Ada Drive (Jam-N-Bean). A revised easement for Electric Facilities with Consumers Energy Company is required by the Township Board for approval. **Moved by Rhoades, supported by LeBlanc, to approve the Updated Easement for electrical services with Consumers Energy Company, which incorporates the 584 and 590 Ada Drive addresses. Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Rhoades, Hurwitz, Jacobs, LeBlanc, and Haga; No - 0; Absent - Proos. Motion carried.**

### KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FASE STREET PROPERTY

Supervisor Haga stated for several years the Township has expressed an interest in the KCRC property at 7699 Fase Street. The Administrative Committee recommends purchase of the property for \$400,000, and it is also recommended a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment be done prior to finalizing the purchase.

Steve Warren, Managing Director, Kent County Road Commission, stated Ada Township and the KCRC have had a long history of working together. We're very interested, and would be pleased to see Ada Township acquire this property, and that's how the negotiations have been approached. He stated KCRC would be happy to entertain a formal purchase proposal from the Township.

**Moved by Rhoades, supported by Smith, to approve Purchase of the Kent County Road Commission garage at 7699 Fase Street, as presented on June 16, 2016 from the KCRC, and recommended by the Administrative Committee in a letter dated July 25, 2016, in the amount of \$400,000, as proposed. Also, to have a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment by April 1, 2017. Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Rhoades, Hurwitz, Jacobs, LeBlanc, and Haga; No - 0; Absent: Proos. Motion carried.**

Trustee LeBlanc stated it sounds like a great opportunity for the Township, but does have some concerns.

Trustee Proos arrived at this time (7:36 p.m.).

Supervisor Haga stated the Administrative Committee struggled with potential uses.

Steve Warren stated at this point the Road Commission was looking for a proposal from the Township, and if that doesn't happen KCRC would pursue a purchase on the open market.

**Moved by Rhoades, supported by LeBlanc, to postpone action on the purchase of the Kent County Road Commission garage at 7699 Fase Street, and take action no later than September 26, 2016. Motion carried.**

### ENVISION ADA, THE ADA DRIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED TO BID

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink stated a preliminary review was done several weeks ago; spoke with Mr. Terry Rozwell and he stated they liked combining two driveways into one, we're willing to share an access drive in the back with Fifth/Third Bank. They have requested a one-way exit onto Fulton Street just during construction; they asked for money for a sidewalk easement, and closing one of their driveways, so we offered them \$1,000 for each. They said they'd get back to us, but we continue to shoot for a September 1 date for all the agreements to be in place. Steve stated we had originally estimated \$2.2 million from the bond sale; that is up to \$2.5 million now. Assuming we can get Chase Bank to approve everything before we award the contract, the plans completed and advertised for bids August 18; take bids at Township Hall September 14; award construction September 26; start construction October 3; start to bring the road up to grade around April 1; final project completion July 31. **Moved by Trustee Proos, supported by Trustee LeBlanc, to proceed with the bidding process of the Envision Ada, Ada Drive Construction Project, as proposed by the Township Engineer. Motion carried.**

### BRONSON STREET PARKING - DDA

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink, stated the DDA had asked us to take a look at parking on Bronson Street, and the possibilities. Some of the trees would be removed and some would remain; the trees by the power pole by the fire hydrant would remain because that would put into an island; at an estimated cost of \$270,000. This has been discussed with KCRC, and Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad because part of this infringes on their property. The goal is getting it done this year with plans

complete August 18, Road Commission approval August 25, put plans out for bids, take bids September 22, award a contract September 26, begin construction around October 3, and be done by November 15.

Jim Ferro stated the DDA's recommendation to proceed with these 35 parking spaces is the result of a several month long process of identifying and evaluating alternatives for adding to the parking supply in the core block of the village between Bronson and Thornapple River Drive. They looked at several options, and the DDA Citizen's Council, which is nine residents who live in the village, came up with their own priorities on expanding parking supply; expand the parking in back behind the Bike Shop to the hardware store; parking structures at the shopping center; or additional parking on Bronson Street.

Pat Kain, 7357 Bronson, stated she thinks it is wrong, dangerous, keep it in the village, off Bronson.

Noelle DeVozo, 7155 Fase Street, stated the trees should not be taken down; no one is going to walk from Fase Street to Ada Drive for anything.

Jim Ippel, owner 597 Ada Drive, DDA member, stated he has seen increased stresses on parking.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Jacobs, to approve the recommendation from the DDA, and the schedule and for getting the additional 35 parking spaces on Bronson Street as reflected in the draft plan. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Jacobs, to amend to reduce the amount of parking spaces from 35 to 22 parking spaces. Roll Call: Yes - LeBlanc, Hurwitz, Jacobs, Proos, Smith, Haga; No - Rhoades. Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Kain, 7357 Bronson Street, asked about the environmental assessment of the building on Fase Street, and stated she had heard years ago that because of the amount of the trucks in there that there was no way that could be used unless the ground was dug out because of all the gas and oil and asked if it was ever checked with an Environmental Assessment.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Jacqueline Smith  
Ada Township Clerk

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Date

JS/dr