



**ADA TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY JANUARY 22, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Leisman at 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Carter, Smith, Moran, Jacobs, Hurwitz, Leisman

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Planning Director Said, Deputy Clerk McIntosh, Township Manager Suchy, Accountant Rodriguez, Downtown Development Authority Director Stichman, Assessor Boerman, Parks and Recreation Director Deason

Public Present: 14 members of the public

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Carter, supported by Proos to approve the January 22, 2024, agenda with no changes or alterations. Motion Carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Moved by Hurwitz, supported by Moran to approve the following minutes and accept and file the following reports and communication under consent agenda. Motion Carried.

A. APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2024
2. Closed Session Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2024

B. RECEIVE AND FILE VARIOUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Downtown Development Authority Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2023
2. Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2023
3. Ada Historical Society Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2023
4. Letter from Mark Hunsaker re: Paving of Portion of 3 Mile Rd.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Treasurer Moran presented the following total amount for Hand Checks and Warrants:

Hand Checks- \$76,741.48

Warrants- \$369,926.22

Total all checks and warrants- \$446,667.70

Moved by Proos, supported by Jacobs to approve the Warrant Report for January 22, 2024, in the total amount of \$446,667.70. Roll Call: Yes- Hurwitz, Proos, Leisman, Moran, Smith, Carter, Jacobs; No- 0; Absent- 0. Motion Carried.

Consider Leonard Field Park Riverfront Improvement Project Change Order #2 from Thomet Construction for an Increase of \$12,950.61 for Replacement of the Observation Deck

Substructure, Additional Square Posts between the Railing and Covered Bridge and to correct the Cost of Universal Picnic Tables from the Original Bid Form.

Township Manger Suchy presented Change Order #2 and provided the board with a memo regarding changes. The total project would still qualify for the grant qualification. He stated that retainer is not being held on the project due to the reimbursement process from the state to ensure costs stay in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Consider Leonard Field Park Riverfront Improvement Project Pay Application #2 to Thomet Construction for \$317,575.29.

Moved by Jacobs, supported by Carter to table the proposed increase and Pay Application #2 until the February 12, 2024, meeting. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Hunsaker, 2945 Mela Via Ct NE, here to present regarding the submitted letter to request a small section of 3 Mile Road remaining unpaved. Resident is advocating for paving of the section. He states that he is in communication with Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) to get area surveyed and hopes there is room in the KCRC 2024-2025 budget to pave the small section.

Mara Norden, Pastor of Community Church in Ada and a member of the ABA to speak in favor of the Social District. She wanted to address the concerns regarding intoxication issues as she spoke with Deputy Kate Chase regarding crime statistics. Deputy Chase did not see a trend regarding alcohol related calls to the area in accordance with the Social District. Norden encourages board members to use the Kent County Crime Database regarding concerns. States that business owners have invested time, money and personal resources into supporting Ada Township and in in favor of the proposed resolution to expand the social district.

Sam, General Manager at the Garage bar. Expansion would make district safer as it encourages the use of sidewalks and crosswalks to promote safe crossing. Feels the different times is confusing to reinforcing it with staff and regular hours would be beneficial. Stated businesses have been in the trial period and it's time to commit to bringing more business to the township through this expansion.

Luke Warren, 5929 2 Mile Road. Here regarding postponing vote for Forest Hills Eastern cell tower. Encourages protective policies in place to protect the area from the cell tower. Offered to provide medical research regarding 5G technology and the long-term effects of the cell tower on the surrounding community. Concerns regarding FCC Guidelines and hopes the Township Board will exercise local control regarding the issue.

Matt Michael, 7810 Aspen Wood Drive, Owner and operator of gravel bottom and board member of ABA. Have not seen increased issues with the current social district and it has enriched the events. Expanded boundaries will assist with communication to community and staff regarding hours of operations and is in support of the district.

Turan, owner of Zaytin in support of the social district. Encourages the implementation of uniformed hours and aligns with area communities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution R-012224-1 Consider Recommendation from Downtown Development Authority to Revise the Hours/Dates of Operation for the Ada Township Social District.

Supervisor Leisman summarized maps and memo provided by Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Director Stichman and he opened up general discussion to the board.

Trustee Proos stated that this is being encouraged by the businesses only. Hopes for Wednesday-Saturday and beginning at 12:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M. or 10:00 P.M. Believes that this proposal doesn't involve the whole community and should be more thorough. Doesn't see a reason for Sunday-Tuesday and before noon.

Trustee Jacobs was reviewing area municipalities and found 20% of area communities have social districts and believes the social district should be expanded. Agrees with Trustee Proos regarding beginning at 12:00 P.M. and wants it 7 days a week.

Treasurer Moran commented regarding the probationary period. It wasn't a probationary period; it was set by the township board. He has no problem with the uniform hours and agrees with later start and continuity between the days. His main concern is the boundaries and is a big proponent of the social district. Would be in favor of option 3 geographical expansion and general continuity of the hours.

Trustee Jacobs asked Director Stichman if is there an option for special event hours.

Director Stichman stated that we can have a special event map/times per Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC).

Clerk Smith stated she is comfortable with Map 3 and would prefer Wednesday through Saturday. Smith does not see a reason to start at 10:00 A.M. and doesn't believe there are businesses open and serving that early.

Carter: thinks 7 days a week makes sense and that 12p-10p makes sense to provide continuity for community. Agrees with the idea of large area with event area and daily use common area.

Hurwitz: wants this to be a more thought out process and hopes to use the structure of a working meeting format and more dialog regarding the issue. Agrees with 7 days a week and continuity of hours.

Supervisor Leisman encouraged the different map making. He is in favor of the 7 days a week and continuity of hours but could be persuaded to go down in days. Asks Board Members on thoughts regarding special event common area and general use common area.

Treasurer Moran is opposed to this as it would fall within the huge district of residents that were not surveyed regarding the district.

Trustee Carter inquired where is the line at huge events when people bring in alcohol from everywhere.

Supervisor Leisman social district is expiring. He asks Director Stichman if the board would go with Map 3, would there be a possible expansion to be able to accommodate an amendment regarding changes.

Director Stichman stated that MLCC needs a resolution but it is easy to make changes to the management plan or district boundaries.

Trustee Jacobs asked what the process is for putting restrictions back onto the district.

Director Stichman answered that the Township Board would just amend the management and map plan and designate staff to send update to MLCC.

Supervisor Leisman asked staff members Deason (Parks and Recreation Director), Suchy (Township Manager) and Brinks (Buildings, Facilities and Grounds Director) regarding staff management and implementation concerns. Staff is not concerned regarding the issue and continues to build a positive working relationship with the DDA and ABA.

Clerk Smith inquired if anyone contacted residents in the area of the district.

Director Stichman stated there was an initial survey done, and those results were positive, but there was not one done regarding this specific proposal.

Moved by Carter, supported by Moran to approve R-012224-1 to revise the Social District to 7 days a week, noon to 10 P.M., with the proposed Map 3. Roll Call: Yes- Carter, Hurwitz, Jacobs, Moran, Leisman; No- Proos, Smith; Absent-0. Motion Carried. 5-2.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution R-012224-2: A Resolution to Re-Appoint Bryan Harrison and Appoint Shelley Cloutier to the Downtown Development Authority for a Term Expiring December 31, 2027

Supervisor Leisman presented the resolution to the board. **Moved by Proos, supported by Carter to approve R-012224-2 to re-appoint Downtown Development Authority Board members. Roll Call: Yes- Hurwitz, Proos, Leisman, Moran, Smith, Carter, Jacobs; No- 0; Absent- 0. Motion Carried.**

Resolution R-012224-3: A Resolution to Approve a Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Mid-America, LLC (Charter Communications)

Township Manager Suchy presented the memo and cover letter provided by Spectrum. Same fee would be charged through other franchise agreements with a 5% fee associated with use of right of way. **Moved by Moran, supported by Hurwitz to approve R-012224-3, a resolution to grant a franchise agreement with Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, with the 5th "whereas" removed from the resolution. Roll Call: Yes- Hurwitz, Proos, Leisman, Moran, Smith, Carter, Jacobs; No- 0; Absent- 0. Motion Carried.**

Resolution R-012224-4: Resolution for Local Government Approval for Redevelopment Liquor License for Michigan Coffee Crew – Ada A6, LLC

Trustee Jacobs noted that Warner Norcross + Judd, her firm, is involved with this agreement but she had no knowledge of the contract and doesn't feel the need to recuse herself.

Director Stichman presented documentation provided by business and stated that the DDA board reviewed the application and passed resolution in support. These licenses run on a cycle and has approved similar ones in the past on 3-year cycles. Board asks questions regarding transferable of licenses. Director Stichman stated that there are no quota licenses in the area.

Moved by Proos, supported by Hurwitz to approve R-012224-4 to grant a redevelopment

liquor license for Michigan Coffee Crew- Ada A6, LLC. Roll Call: Yes- Hurwitz, Proos, Leisman, Moran, Smith, Carter, Jacobs; No- 0; Absent- 0. Motion Carried.

Resolution R-012224-5: Resolution for Local Government Unit Approval for Social District Permit for Michigan Coffee Crew – Ada A6, LLC

Director Stichman stated that the business is also seeking local government unit approval for social district permit. **Moved by Proos, supported by Jacobs to grant a Social District Permit for Michigan Coffee Crew- Ada A6, LLC. Roll Call: Yes- Hurwitz, Proos, Leisman, Moran, Smith, Carter, Jacobs; No- 0; Absent- 0. Motion Carried.**

Consider Proposal from Hamilton Helicopter Spongy Moth Spray Services to Spray 289 Acres for a Cost Not to Exceed \$23,018.85.

Township Manager Suchy presented the proposal that highlights the 289 acres that will be targeted to spray in May 2024. Board Members asked questions regarding the 3-year price lock mentioned in the proposal. Township Manager Suchy stated that it is up to the board regarding entering into a 3-year nonconsecutive services. **Moved by Jacobs, supported by Carter to approve the Proposal from Hamilton Helicopter and authorizes the Township Manager to enter into the proposed 3-year service contract.**

Consider Proposal from Moore+Bruggink for Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge Engineering for an Amount not to Exceed \$200,000.00

Township Manager Suchy requested a proposal regarding the Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge in accordance with the grant the Township received. He noted that while the outlined cost may be high while not exceeding \$200,000, Moore+Bruggink consistently comes in under budget and revises prices in relation to the accepted bid. Gronenboom, Township Engineer, anticipated this project is set to begin in 2025 with seeking permitting this year to secure EGLE permit. **Moved by Hurwitz, supported by Moran to accept the Moore+Bruggink proposal for the Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.**

Consider Approval of 4th of July Fireworks Contract with Great Lakes Fireworks for an Amount Not to Exceed \$21,000.00

Suchy presented annual proposal without an increase from the 2023. Amount is split between Ada and Cascade and is supported by Cascade. **Moved by Proos, supported by Carter to approve the proposed the Great Lakes Fireworks contract for an amount not to exceed \$21,000.00.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Township Manager Report – January 17, 2024

Township Manager Suchy stated that he is meeting with Kent County Road Commission in an annual meeting to pave roadways and maintain the roadways around Ada. There is a greater need for paving current dirt roads due to an increase in traffic on those dirt roads. Board members encourage research into the natural beauty distinction that the road has.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Trustee Proos stated that while he is not against people who drink or the Social District, he disagrees with it being on Sunday. Understands it from the business perspective and encourages board action if there are issues with it in the future.

Treasurer Moran is encouraged to see the reduction in price and success of the spongy moth spray treatment.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jacobs, supported by Carter to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Jacqueline Smith
Ada Township Clerk

Date