



**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 23, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.**

The meeting was conducted at the Ada Township Hall. The roll was called. Members present: Supervisor Leisman, Clerk Smith, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos, and Trustee Winczewski. Absent: Trustee Jacobs. Also present: Township Manager Julius Suchy, Parks Director Fitzpatrick, Assessor Boerman, Fire Chief Murray, Accountant Rodriguez, and approximately eight members of the community.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Winczewski, to approve the August 23, 2021, Agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**Approval of Minutes; Accept Reports/Communications**

**Moved by Winczewski, supported by Hurwitz, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

- 1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2021.**

**Receive and File Various Reports and Communications:**

- 1. Ada Historical Society Board Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2021**
- 2. DDA Board Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2021**
- 3. PRLP Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2021**
- 4. Kent County Fire Commission Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2021**
- 5. Utility Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2021**
- 6. Comcast Letter Regarding Channel Update – August 6, 2021**

**Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

**Township General Warrants**

Treasurer Moran presented the following: Hand Checks: \$656,316.53, Warrants: \$116,358.07. Total of all Checks and Warrants: \$772,674.60. **Moved by Smith, supported by Proos, to approve the Warrant Report for August 23, 2021, in the total amount of \$772,674.60. Roll Call: Yes – Hurwitz, Leisman, Moran, Proos, Smith and Winczewski; No – 0; Absent - Jacobs. Motion carried.**

**Leonard Field Park Lighting Project Final Pay App #2 from Airport Lighting LLC for \$28,045.30**

Parks Director Fitzpatrick presented the pay application request. He stated they have been working all year on the lighting project at Leonard Field. RJM Design helped facilitate the project. This is for the final retainage they have held. Jim Morgan from RJM Design spoke about the change orders, stating that one was needed to re-aim the lights and then two deducts which came later regarding irrigation repair, and also one for some of the new concrete at the entrance which had been damaged. The total change order was \$939.

**Moved by Winczewski, supported by Hurwitz, to approve Leonard Field Park Lighting Project Final Pay App #2 from Airport Lighting LLC in the amount of \$28,045.30. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deb Emery, 7534 Fase Street, set forth her concerns regarding the width of the proposed trail on Fase Street, questioning why this cannot be the same width of regular sidewalks. She feels this is not necessary to begin with because there has never been an issue with traffic or cars when walking on the street. And, if there has to be a

sidewalk, why can't this just be a normal width. She concluded stating it isn't fair to people to have that much foot traffic so close to their homes.

Del Ratsch, 7653 Fase Street, stated there are quite a few residents who have the same concerns as Deb Emery expressed. He asked what exactly the motivation is for taking a chunk of some very narrow front lawns from Camp Twins to the end of Fase Street and what is the purpose to have such a wide sidewalk.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **A. Resolution R-082321-1: Resolution to Authorize Issuance of Capital Improvement Bonds for Non-Motorized Trail System and Parks Projects**

Township Manager Suchy stated that on June 28<sup>th</sup> they issued a notice of intent to move forward with the bonds. There have been many meetings on this, going through each segment, etc. He said he agrees with Supervisor Leisman that a joint meeting would be beneficial with a presentation from Steve and staff. Trail Committee Chair Jeff VandenBerge submitted a memo which basically details the priorities and summarizes the meetings held with the Fase Street neighbors. Treasurer Moran asked for some clarification noting that he thought this was something that the residents of Fase Street wanted and now he is hearing that they do not want the trail. Treasurer Moran added that another point of frustration is that there is no representation on this committee from the southwest side; he is disappointed with this and stated at this time he has more questions on the trail projects than answers.

Township Attorney Mark Nettleton spoke about where the Township is in the bond process noting that this is the next step in the process. The notice of intent was published in early July setting forth the Township's intent to issue bonds not to exceed \$16 million for various trail and park improvement projects. No petitions have been received within the 45-day period and thus, authorizing bonds in the amount of \$15,750,000 is the next step. If the Board adopts this Resolution, they next proceed with working with PFM to get the bonds ready for sale. Supervisor Leisman clarified that there would be \$15 million for trails and \$750,000 for parks, with three years to spend that.

Trustee Proos stated at this meeting they are asking to go ahead and proceed with this Resolution because without taking the proper steps, they cannot proceed to the next step to make the final decision. Every item just spoke of has been discussed at length, as well as looking at costs and what is truly feasible. The goal here is to get as much bang for the dollar as possible and make it as great for the Township as they can. Supervisor Leisman added that at today's meeting the goal is to get the process going and get the \$15 million at a good rate. Trustee Winczewski stated there are a lot of problems with this plan and the Board's oversight responsibility is the money -- if the Board votes yes and authorizes issuance of the bonds, does the Board feel they have sufficient oversight to say yes or no to the overall plan? Trustee Winczewski added that they have not delegated the authorization to the subcommittee to make those choices on the Board's behalf. Supervisor Leisman stated it is an advisory committee and the Board makes the decisions. The committee is doing exactly what they should -- they are investigating, discussing and getting input. Supervisor Leisman stated this is no reason to delay the bond process that they have started. There was some discussion regarding the project list, and Township Manager Suchy added that at this point the Board does not have a list stating these are the projects to be done. He reiterated that there is a priority list but nothing going out at this point as a final list -- no projects are approved at this time by the committee. Treasurer Moran stated the next step needs to be presenting to this Board and showing what they have; he wants to know what exact projects are no longer of the list.

Supervisor Leisman stated they are not making any decisions on particular projects at today's meeting. They had a meeting in the spring and voted in June for the \$16 million -- now it's the \$15 million for the trails and the \$750,000 for

the parks. Township Attorney Mark Nettleton confirmed that the Township would have three years from October 12, 2021 to spend 80 percent of this \$15,750,000. Supervisor Leisman added that the next priority is to set up a meeting in September with the Trail Committee. Treasurer Moran reiterated that the point here is that things changed and he does not feel it is fair to the Board and he needs more transparency. Trustee Winczewski stated that while he believes the committee is working very hard on this, it is a leap of faith. His reservation is that if they say yes on this today, he does not know technically when this comes back to the Board. He is hoping the committee listens to what is being said tonight and comes back to the Board with what they are looking for as far as clarification. Treasurer Moran asked why they still are lacking representation of the southwest area of the township. They need to add one more person so there is fair and equitable representation for all the paths throughout Ada. Supervisor Leisman responded that he has been researching this and working on it and that it's just taking a little while.

**Moved by Smith, supported by Hurwitz, to adopt Resolution R-082321-1: Resolution to Authorize Issuance of Capital Improvement Bonds for Non-Motorized Trail System and Parks Projects. Roll Call: Yes – Hurwitz, Leisman, Proos and Smith; No - Moran and Winczewski; Absent - Jacobs. Resolution adopted.**

**B. Consider Approval of Fase Street Trail Construction Design, Construction Engineering & Contingency Budget for an Amount not to Exceed \$68,709.00**

**C. Award Fase Street Trail Construction Bid to C.L Trucking & Excavating for an Amount not to Exceed \$275,091.00**

New Business Agenda Items B and C were addressed together.

Township Manager Suchy began by stating that going forward the Board will consider the budget letter prior to awarding of any bids so the process is not backwards with the Board approving the budget after awarding the project, which is a departure from how the Township has approved projects in the past.

As far as this project, the Township received multiple bids on this. Moore & Bruggink has provided a Fase Street trail budget letter for the project to be awarded to the low bidder at \$271,291.00. The work they are proposing to complete or have already completed is required for the job and is typical with any construction project the Township has undertaken.

Township Engineer Steve Groenenboom stated that if they add in Thornapple River Drive and the piece down Camp Twins, they had estimated about \$650,000 to make the connection to get to Legacy Park. He said that overall it seems like the numbers are good and he summarized same. He next addressed the trail width noting that typically in the Township the pathways are 8½ feet wide – if you have two people walking, the 8½ is a bit narrow, so 10 feet is better. On this job, 8½ feet gets the job done and meets Township standards. The houses are set back quite a bit further from the right-of-way in that section. He addressed in detail the width and right-of-way issues for the trail. He said they went with concrete rather than asphalt as this seems to fit the character of the neighborhood and will last longer. Supervisor Leisman asked what the anticipated timing on this is. Township Engineer Groenenboom responded that if the contract is awarded today, they would have a preconstruction meeting likely next week, and then they would start sometime after Labor Day and hopefully by the end of October it would be completed. He said he would have to check with the contractor for a timeline if the project isn't approved until the September 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, but he believes it would work because it is concrete rather than asphalt.

Trustee Proos asked what the pros and cons were at the public hearings on this. Township Engineer Steve Groenenboom said they had a couple open house meetings with residents and they said they really do not want it on both sides of the street. They next got the Trail Committee comments and then it was authorized to go out for bids. Pathway systems generate lots of public comments and concern. He stated as he reads the situation, he believes many people are in favor of it and some are opposed to it. Township Engineer Groenenboom next summarized the input received from the Road Commission on this and he noted they were open to making the changes due to it being a dead end and low traffic volumes.

Township Supervisor Leisman next opened this up for public comment, with the following comments being made:

1. Judy Hungerford, 7647 Fase St., asked if any of the Board members have walked or driven down Fase Street to observe the homes' location and what the homes look like. If there is an 8-foot sidewalk, some of the homes will step out their front door onto the bike path. There are some homes that will have no front yard at all.

2. Mark Fluge, 7588 Fast St., stated a lot of the people use the street as a method of getting into the Village. He said he is surprised that they think concrete sidewalks are in character with the area. He does not agree with that. He questions why there needs to be any surface between Camp Twins down to the Road Commission building as there is no traffic. He stated he basically challenges the premise of whether or not the surface is needed. Supervisor Leisman closed the public comments.

Township Supervisor Leisman stated this issue of connectivity has been part of an ongoing process for some time and wants to make sure the Board is comfortable moving forward. Clerk Smith stated it would be helpful to see a map which shows the width, placement, etc. Supervisor Leisman stated that was in the previous packet, but they would be happy to submit this again.

Regarding the trails construction bid, Township Manager Suchy stated the Township received three proposals and the proposal that is being recommended is from contractor C.L. Trucking & Excavating who the Township has a significant amount of experience with.

**Moved by Moran, supported by Hurwitz, to approve the Fase Street budget as outlined in the Moore & Bruggink budget letter dated August 18, 2021 for an amount not to exceed \$68,709. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Moran, supported by Proos, to award the Fase Street trail construction bid to C.L. Trucking & Excavating for an amount not to exceed \$275,091.00. Roll Call: Yes – Hurwitz, Leisman, Moran, Proos, Smith and Winczewski; Absent - Jacobs. Motion carried.**

**D. Consider Proposal from Aquatic Consulting Services for Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey, Data Analysis and Spray Coordination Services for an Amount not to Exceed \$10,650.00**

Township Manager Suchy stated the Township has received a number of calls and questions from residents regarding Gypsy Moth activity and whether the Township has plans to spray for Gypsy Moths in the future. He said this has become a significant problem in many areas in Michigan. This request is to hire Aquatic Consulting to come in over the fall where they will do a survey and provide an example of what their report looks like to help create a guided spray coordination plan. This is just a one-time survey to get an understanding of what the total impact is, thus this is just the first step.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Winczewski, to approve hiring Aquatic Consulting Services for a Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey, Data Analysis, and Spray Coordination Services for an amount not to exceed \$10,650.00. Motion carried.**

**E. Consider Proposal from Environmental Consulting & Technology Inc. to Conduct a Phase 1 Archeological Survey at Leonard Field Park for an Amount not to Exceed \$14,000.00**

Township Parks Director Fitzpatrick presented this proposal stating it is a continuance of the Leonard Field Park Project. They applied last spring for a DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant and a requirement for that process is to do an initial archeological survey of the area. If anything is found in the survey, a Phase 2 may be required. He said they are moving through the grant process and getting all the paperwork in at this time. Township Manager Suchy added that they will also be able to use this survey in the future if it is conducted.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Moran, to approve the proposal submitted by Environmental Consulting & Technology Inc. to conduct a Phase 1 Archeological Survey at Leonard Field Park, not to exceed the rate of \$14,000.00. Motion carried.**

**F. PRLP Advisory Board – Park Security**

Township Parks Director Fitzpatrick briefly gave some history on the park gates and the security associated therewith. Leonard Field Park and Legacy Park have no gates, Ada Park has gates in three parking lots, and Roselle Park has gates in two parking lots. For a number of years they had a staff member open and close the gates each day. Currently, fire department staff does this.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### A. Township Manager Report – August 18, 2021

Township Manager Suchy stated that Beers at the Bridge was very successful, they had a great turnout of approximately 2,200 people, and beer sales were over \$12,000.

## BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Winczewski stated he is personally glad the Board will be going back to 7:00 p.m. meetings. He also thanked the Fase Street residents for coming out to the meeting, and while all might not be in favor of the vote, he believes the Board really listened and he is pleased at how they conducted the public comment sessions. He reiterated that his “no” vote was not for the trails and it is his hope that the message gets back to the committee and that they want to see something different from that committee.

Trustee Proos stated that when the Board voted and decided to change the summer meetings to noon that he promised providing lunch, and since they really couldn't do lunch, he today passed out Blimpie gift cards to the Board members.

Treasurer Moran said Trustee Winczewski summarized how he feels as well in regards to the events of the day and he applauds Supervisor Leisman for allowing the public to speak in situations where they otherwise wouldn't have been able to.

Supervisor Leisman stated he echoes the comments made and added that Beers at the Bridge was nicely done and handled by Township staff and volunteers.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Deb Emory, 7534 Fase Street, asked why a bond or loans are needed for trails when there is a millage. She also talked about the meetings with residents, stating the residents were just told what was going to be.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

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Jacqueline Smith  
Ada Township Clerk

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Date

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