



TOWNSHIP

ADA TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING Monday, April 14, 2025 , AT 7:00 P.M. MINUTES

Supervisor Korth called the regular meeting of the Township Board to order at 7:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Township Manager Suchy, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos.

Board Members Absent:0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Hurwitz, supported by Trustee Carter. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Yes; 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) No-0; Absent 0. Motion Carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Motion to approve minutes for April 14, 2025 and file reports/communications under the consent agenda.

Clerk DeMarco initially made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Pross raised a point of order, noting that since Clerk DeMarco is responsible for preparing the minutes, she should not be the one to move for their approval. Acknowledging the concern, Clerk DeMarco withdrew her motion.

Moved by Trustee Carter, supported by Trustee Hurwitz. Roll Call Yes; 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) No-0; Absent 0. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Treasurer Moran presented the Township General Warrants in the following amount:

Hand Checks:	\$0
Warrants:	\$390,748.52
Total All Checks and Warrants:	\$390,748.52

Moved by Trustee Hurwitz, supported by Carter to approve the April 14, 2025 Warrant Report in the total amount of \$390,748.52. Roll Call Yes; 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) No-0, Absent 0; Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

NEW BUSINESS

2024-2025 Planning Commission Annual Report – John Said, Planning Director.

Planning Director Said: State required report of Planning Commission Annual Report April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025. Summarizes activities of planning committee during that time period. We are required to submit it to the legislative body, and The Board of Trustees. Regarding its operations and the status planning activities. Attached report.

Supervisor Korth asked how he felt the Commission is performing and the new members are settling in since election with adding new board members. John Said, stated that he feels very confident with the functioning of the committee with the new board members. They are attentive, ask good questions and good level of participation. Trustee Carter being the liaison agreed. Manager Suchy asked questions regarding motion about attendance of Vice Chair Angela Butterfield, since then her attendance has improved.

Moved by Trustee Carter, supported by Trustee Damstra. Motion Carried.

Consider Award of Hall Street Force Main & Lifts station Project to Kamminga & Roodvoets for an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,904,765.00.

Steve Groenenboom Township Engineer spoke on the bid process and the fact that they only got one bid. He explained some reasons why they may not have gotten other bids. One simply forgot, one felt they were too far away compared to K&R being so close. Could also be because K&R has an advantage because they can do the lift station work themselves. 1,300,000 for road work, 600,000 for lift station. Recommended to award the bid. Trustee Carter asked what was the reason for the difference between estimate of \$1,750,000.00 and the actual bid of \$1,904,765.00. Supervisor Korth asked Tim Bergstrom of K&R to come up and talk about this. Tim Bergstrom got up and discussed reasons for the difference between the amounts. Their construction work has always been leading the economy with respect to increases with inflation, before the rest of economy. Reasons there is more work than construction work company. Best suggestion for board is to identifying things early and replace underground infrastructure when road is being redone. Prices are likely to continue to go up. Supervisor Korth also asked if the bid window was enough time. Tim Bergstrom said there is time to motion this project.

Moved by Trustee Proos, supported by Trustee Carter. Motion Carried.

Consider Approval of Moore + Bruggink Hall Street Force Main & Lift Station Project Budget for Design and Construction Engineering/Inspection, Soil Borings, and Project Contingencies for and Amount Not to Exceed \$295,235.

Steve Groenenboom, presented the reason for the cost. Monitoring the job, making sure people are safe and to make sure things are built as designed.

Moved by Treasurer Moran , supported by Trustee Hurwitz. Motion Carried.

Consider Proposal from Siegfried Crandal PC for Annual Audit Services for FY 2024-2025 for an Amount Not to Exceed \$22,200.00.

Manager Suchy discussed the Township has worked with them for many years. Their fee increased by \$600 this year. Their relationship with the township has been great, working with the staff on ways to improve the audit. There is always the question of should we go out for a bid, how often should that be done? Generally, not often because it is a significant undertaking to switch auditors and there is a lot of institutional knowledge that is beneficial when staying with the auditor. Amount of time to get up to speed can be cost prohibitive in the long run.

Moved by Trustee Damstra, seconded by Trustee Carter. Motion Carried.

Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge Layout Options for Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge – Steve Groenenboom, Moore + Bruggink.

Steve Groenenboom, presented on the two different plans presented for the Pedestrian Bridge. First bridge being closer to the existing traffic bridge, at a cost of 1.9 million. The second version, is further away and also angles away and the river is wider at that point, so the bridge needs to be 60 feet longer, at a cost of 2.3 million. Discussion amongst board members centered on the benefit vs cost of having a simple utilitarian bridge or a more aesthetically pleasing bridge, but costing significantly more. Points made; the bridge is simply there to get people from one side of the river to the other. The bridge is not for sightseeing, though it is still far enough away from motor bridge to still have good photo opportunities. Is the first bridge so close the motor bridge to be uncomfortable with noise or other concerns. There are trails needing upgraded and other bridges that the township would like to build.

Trustee Proos made a motion to table the decision, seconded by Trustee Hurwitz.

Trustee Carter made a friendly amendment, to at least have an update at next meeting. Motion to table with an update next meeting.

Moved by Trustee Proos, Seconded by Trustee Hurwitz. Motion Carried.

Review of Strategic Parking Plan Request for Proposal

John Said, Director of Planning presented. Not just a study of parking spaces but how we can make best use of the parking. The last parking study was done in 2017. Treasurer Moran asked what are we expecting different from the last study. Concerned that we will not be able to follow through on recommendations. Manager Suchy added information on identifying current use trends, how does parking for events play a roll, or employee parking. Is there ordinance language that needs to be updated? How does it affect businesses. Track uses at different times of day.

Kevin Austin DDA Director for the Township spoke on the issue. Some of the issues are convenient use of your car to get places, others are quality of life, walkability, vibrancy and human activity. Some of those things are working against each other. There are ways to compromise. Optimize the parking that we do have.

No need for a motion just wanted to know that we have a consensus that yes, we are comfortable with the Request for Proposal. All members agreed. Manager Suchy explained the DDA will work on this then bring it back when there is a proposal.

Consider Economic Data Study Request to be Administered by the Chesapeake Group from Baton Collective.

Supervisor Korth asked for this to be put on the agenda, particularly for the new members of the board that are unfamiliar with this relationship and in addition so we can have a conversation about this in context of what they are working on currently.

Loren Crandle CEO of Baton Collective:

There have been conversations internally about the future. Specifically, about donorship and what is next. The family has been involved in the development of Ada (A block and B block) over the last 10 years. Its amazing to see what has been accomplished, the last building is nearly complete and the hotel is open. Community is continuing to thrive. The board is having conversations about the future. Our ownership is having conversation about the future as well and is eager to understand where their investments will go next. They are passionate about the Ada community, but have had conversations about how much is too much? How much commercial activity can this community take on. I can't make a recommendation to continue to invest millions without data to back it up, that the investment is worthwhile. We are looking at collecting data and metrics to back up additional development down the road. We want to go forth and put together this additional survey. The cost will come at the expense of Baton Collective, but in partnership with Ada Township, and the ABA. All data would be shared transparently across all three parties for future use. It's necessary to assess what we have today and what the residents of this community wants for future.

Supervisor Korth wanted this presented because we are being asked to use our name on this. This is why he thought it was important we all talk about it; to get a sense of where everyone is on it.

Trustee Pross: It is imperative that we look at this not only futuristically but historically. Where would we be without our partners. They have been important. They did not drive the bus. But they were watching. This board is not a planning commission, we are a decision-making commission. This has drawn people into Ada in ways we never imagined. I am in favor of this but we can't be the front meeting in this.

Trustee Hurwitz: Is that information going to be proprietary? Who is it going to be shared with? Wants to make sure that we are not liable if that information gets distributed elsewhere.

Lauren stated that it would also be shared with the ABA.

Clerk DeMarco: I think it is a great survey, you said it was going out on several digital platforms. Certain people will be missed because there are people that do not engage on social media.

Supervisor Korth: There is a difference in getting results and getting the correct information. We are not a young township like some communities. If Ada wanted to participate financially in that part of it, would you be open to that?

Loren: Yes. We can either accept it as is, or ask to talk with the other departments to get some more input.

Trustee Damstra: I have background in survey and data reporting. I like the survey, I do think it is a little long, but also wondering if there are additional things we may want to ask? Also suggested doing QR Code. Results should be segmented by, employees, business owners and residents.

Trustee Damstra will work with Loren. No Motion necessary.

Schedule Work Session to Discuss New Township Hall Project.

Scheduling a dedicated work session for the board members to discuss the needs for the new Township Hall Project. Clerk DeMarco, added that the department heads should be informed and invited to give their input also. Motion is to authorize the Township Manager to schedule the work session.

Moved by Trustee Carter, supported by Trustee Hurwitz. Motion Carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Township Manager Report – April 9, 2025
- B. Assessing Department Report -April 1, 2025
- C. Building, facilities & Grounds Department Report – April 14, 2025
- D. Clerk's Office Report -April 14, 2025
- E. Downtown Development Authority Director Report – April 14, 2025
- F. Fire Department Report - March 2025
- G. Historical Society Executive Director Report – March 30, 2025
- H. Parks & Recreation Department Report – March 30, 2025
- I. Planning Department Report – March 31, 2025
- J. Engineering Monthly Report – April 1, 2025
- K. F&V Operations & Resource Management Utility Report – March 31, 2025

Manager Suchy commented that he is sad to see Deputy Chase depart. Clerk DeMarco added- while only here a short time she was really impactful. If there is some way we could extend our gratitude, a get together or a pot luck or something. Is that is something we should do for her? Manager Suchy said he would follow up with Deputy Chase.

Supervisor Korth: Comment related to the Fire Departments report from March. I was surprised to see the year over year change was dramatic in the number of calls, for the same period of time. I would just like to know why this might have occurred. Medical appears to be the main number. Treasurer Moran, said he would follow up with Chief Murray. Potentially from storms during that time. Will ask for clarification .

Trustee Proos mentioned that at some point we need to talk about the fall leaf program. Consensus that the cost was a bit of a shock. Maybe there is an alternative that can be found.

Manager Suchy suggested maybe we could schedule a regular, possibly quarterly, work session meeting to talk about some of these other issues regarding the Township.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Treasurer Moran: just a big thank you to everyone that helped out the treasure department last week. While the majority of us were out of town. I really appreciate that especially the efforts of the Clerks office and the Temp that we have. Much gratitude from myself.

Clerk DeMarco, said thank you and introduced Angela DeLing our new Transcriber, as well as Bridgette Mack the new temporary Admin Assistant. Marthene Wamser has retired after many years. I will be posting a job description and a position opening at the end of April. I need to do it in a time frame to allow Deputy McIntosh and I to get through the election process. Therefore, when resumes come in we will have time to sit down and review them.

Ada Township Regular Board Meeting

May 28, 2025

Page 6 of 6

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into closed session. Moved by Trustee Proos, supported by Trustee Hurwitz.

ADJOURNMENT

Date

Jo DeMarco, Clerk