

**ADA TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, April 28, 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, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos.

**Board Members Absent: 0**

**Staff Present:** Township Manager Suchy, Chief Murray, Cassie Rodriguez, Dennis Brinks, Stephanie Boerman, John Said, Wesley Dearson

**Public Present: None**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Supervisor Korth: The agenda in front of us has a couple of proposed changes. Adding under NEW BUSINESS XI I. Pettis Ave trail, a change in work order because the value has change. J. A continued discussion from the last meeting regarding the Economic Survey we are collaborating with the Baton Collective. I would ask whoever moves to approve the agenda would include those two items. **Moved by Trustee Proos, supported by Treasurer Moran.**

**Roll Call Yea: 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) Nay-0; Absent-0. Motion Carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

Motion to Approve minutes and accept, and file reports/communications under the consent agenda

**A. APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2025
2. Closed Session Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2025

**B. RECEIVE AND FILE VARIOUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Downtown Development Authority Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2025
2. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2025
3. Election Commission Meeting Minutes- April 14, 2025
4. Ada Historical Society Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2025

**Moved by Trustee Hurwitz, supported by Trustee Carter to approve minutes and accept and file reports/communications under consent agenda.**

**Roll Call Yea: 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) Nay-0; Absent-0. Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

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

Hand Checks:	\$504,688
Warrants:	\$1,224,270.20
Total All Checks and Warrants:	\$1,728,958.20

**Moved by Trustee Hurwitz, supported by Trustee Carter to approve the Warrant Report in the total amount of \$1,728,958.20. Roll Call Yea: 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) Nay-0; Absent 0. Motion Carried.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no public hearing

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution R-042828-1: A Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses for the Ada Vista PTO.**

Jessica Kochin from Ada Vista Elementary School, Treasurer of the PTO. Wanting to do 50/50 raffles at the Golf outing to raise additional funds.

Township Manager Suchy explained that this is a request we receive a couple of times a year from different school organizations. We provide the avenue for them to apply to the State. The State still verifies the particulars in terms of the permit license give.

Trustee Proos: I question if this is for specific event or is it more open ended. Township Manager Suchy explained, it's within the realm of what the state requirements are. They may be wanting it for a specific date but the resolution we make is effective for one year. Organizations will come back each year to request this but the state is the one that implements it and the organizations must follow the states rules.

**Moved by Trustee Proos, supported by Trustee Carter. Roll Call Yea: 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) Nay-0; Absent 0. Motion Carried.**

**Resolution R-042825-2: A Resolution to Approve a Preliminary PUD Plan for "The Caves" Planned Unit Development Amendment located at 4900 & 4920 Fulton St.**

Supervisor Korth made board aware that his company is a tenant and has a long-term lease at the 4900 location and offered to recuse himself. No one felt this necessary. Treasurer Moran specifically said he did not have an issue and feels his insight could be valuable.

John Said Director of Planning for Ada Township and Mr. Reed the applicant for "The Cave" is here also. There have been some alterations since the initial development of this project. That includes the allowed uses. There have been conversations with a list that is satisfactory to all parties. Limiting fabrication, also the outdoor trailer storage areas, are well screened by existing building and proposed building so they will not be seen from the roads. Trustee Proos asked if the trailer storage area would be paved. Director Said, stated it did specify that it would be paved. Trustee Proos asked if there had been an issue regarding the sewer. Mr. Reed state that he was asked to connect to the water and sewer but it is a significant distance away, Spaulding and the rail road tracks. The agreement made, was that if that site was developed they would bring the services to our site and then we would have to connect. Mr. Reed commented that they were considering allowing the grass to grow through instead of paving the area using grass matting to allow the grass to grow through. Director Said, stated that ordinance does

require hard surface area for parking and would be a difficult thing to adjust at this stage. Treasurer Moran questioned why there was occupancy limitation on one location but not the other, also not understanding what these buildings are going to be used for. Supervisor Korth explained, it is currently being used as the corporate office for his aviation tooling company. Has fulfillment staff and storage of inventory maintenance tools, with 2-7 employees there on any given day.

**Moved by Trustee Carter, supported by Trustee Hurwitz. Roll Call Yea: 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) Nay-0; Absent 0. Motion Carried.**

**Resolution R-042825-3: A Resolution Authorizing the Beers at the Bridge Special Event Liquor License Application.**

Township Manager Suchy: this is our annual request to the township board to submit an application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission authorizing the special event Beers at the Bridge special event liquor license. This year the event is moving from three dates to two dates, June 20<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>, the idea is beginning of summer and end of summer. Trying to move away from July based on a request from entities involved. The DDA (Downtown Development Authority) reviewed deciding to move forward with only those two dates. One concern was O'Briens; they chose to serve on site but they cannot sell Social District Beverage during the event. This means they can maintain their location inside of the fenced barrier. Which makes it a lot easier for the township in terms of fencing, ticketing, wrist bands and ID checks. Location including barrier locations is staying the same as last year. Supervisor Korth asked for some clarification. Township Manager Suchy explained that O'Briens can still serve alcohol but it must stay there and they cannot sell it in a Social District cup. Also, a Social District cup cannot be taken into O'Briens.

**Moved by Treasurer Moran, supported by Trustee Damstra. Roll Call Yea: 7(Supervisor Korth, Clerk DeMarco, Treasurer Moran, Trustee Carter, Trustee Damstra, Trustee Hurwitz, Trustee Proos) Nay-0; Absent 0. Motion Carried.**

**Review Bid Documents for Covered Bridge Park Phase 1 Project – Mike Oezer, Progressive Companies.**

Wesley Deason, Director of Parks and Recreation: presented – Not much has changed since our February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. No major changes in design just continued refinement. With good dialog around our Veterans memorial, including conversations with Township Manager Suchy and Kristen Wildes from Ada Historical Society. Budget is also trending in a positive direction, being less than we anticipated. Mike Oezer is also here to answer any question regarding design elements or features.

Mike Oezer presented, stating that Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> they would be getting bids out, with due date of May 29<sup>th</sup>. Will represent to Board on Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a General Contractor on this, bidding out a part of it, but there are two other parts to this. A Playground and a Splash Pad system that will be procured by the Township. This will allow the township to acquire through buying groups and will provide significant savings. Start date would depend on the contractor. With start and end date boundaries.

Trustee Proos complimented on the locations of picnic tables.

Treasurer Moran had concerns of the cross walk on Thornapple. Where are we at with the Road Commission on this issue?

Township Manager Suchy answered – We have talked about this crossing and potentially one on River Street to go into the park on each side. He emailed Tim Hoggma, asking for an update. After having submitted a Pedestrian Safety Plan to the county.

The plan is based on a decision tree based on vehicle numbers and pedestrian crossing counts. The Road Commission knows that once Ada puts this in every other township is going to be asking for this as well. We have been trying to work with them, allowing them to have a say but ultimately it is the Townships Pedestrian Safety Plan.

Treasurer Moran asked about the placement of the crossing. Also, what phase of the park is this? Mike: This is one contract, but three portions. The North portion should be done by November/December of this year. This part is to be done by Memorial Day of 2026. Additional areas need to be planned out more.

Clerk DeMarco questioned what the surfaces under the playground equipment is made of, response was it's a poured in placed rubberized surface.

Trustee Hurwitz questioned if there is about a 10–12-year life on that surface, response was more like 15-20 years. Also want to make sure down the road that replacing the surface is an easy enough process. Trustee Damstra asked how is ADA accessibility for phase one being incorporated? It is fully compliant? Response was where there are steps you can still go around on either side. There are three parking spaces on that side and on the other side there are four. With two located near the Veterans memorial also.

Township Manager Suchy mentioned that if there is a special event they are able to put up temporary handicapped space signs.

**Moved by Trustee Proos, seconded by Trustee Carter. Motion Carried.**

**Consider License Agreement with Alticor Inc. for use of Property for the 2025 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Show.**

Township Manager Suchy: This is an annual item that we bring to the township board. In 2021 we moved the fireworks to downtown Ada, made possible by a license agreement with Alticor, for use of the property to launch the fireworks and for public parking. Amway wants to make sure we are not going to cause any property issues. We work with BFG and staff to clean up the site. Very reputable contractor that shoots off the fireworks and has done so for several years now.

**Moved by Trustee Damstra, supported by Trustee Hurwitz. Motion Carried.**

**Consider Award of Fire Hall Station #1 & #2 Garage Door Replacement Project to West Michigan Door for an Amount Not to Exceed \$93,349.00.**

David Murray, Fire Chief: We have been working on this for over a year. It had somewhat been budgeted for last year but it came in for a lot more than we thought so we put it off, did some shopping around. I am looking at an all-glass door to allow light to come in. Talking with Grand Rapids Township lieutenant on shift he was originally worried that they would feel like they were in a fishbowl being watched all the time. That has not been the case. In addition, with them being there 24 hours we don't have that dark feeling anymore. Cannon Township has not noticed any increase in heating cost due to the glass. There have been many improvements to station 2, but the doors are the original from the 70's, station 1 is 35 years old. The doors are faded and really can't be cleaned etc.

Trustee Proos questioned if panels are able to be replaced as opposed to the entire door. Chief Murray replied yes.

It was also suggested if they should check with our insurance company to see if it is an issue that would cause an increase in premiums.

Trustee Damstra asked if there is a warranty with the door/panes. Chief Murray will find that out.

Supervisor Korth asked if the Chief had a preference for the bottom pane to be glass or solid. He said he did not.

**Moved by Trustee Proos, seconded by Trustee Carter. Motion Carried.**

**Consider Work Order from Kent County Road Commission for Full Depth Mill & Fill of Grand Valley ct., Grand Valley DR., Knollpoint Dr., Pettis Lane, Well point Ct., & Well point Drive for an Amount not to Exceed \$400,000 wit Ada Township Contributing \$200,000 (50%) of the Total Project Cost.**

Township Manager Suchy explains, this is our annual work order request, from the Kent County Road Commission. We meet with and review projects trying to stay within \$250,000 window. This totals \$260,000 for both projects. This project has been on our list for a while and we knew it would be an expensive project due to the length of the road. This is not a preservation treatment; this is a reconstruction treatment.

Supervisor Korth asked, this would be the first rebuild of these roads? Trustee Proos said at least 25 years. Trustee Proos, do we know when work will take place and will residents be notified. Township Manager Suchy, yes there will be information sent to homeowners with a schedule that we will share with the public.

**Moved by Treasurer Moran, supported by Trustee Carter. Motion Carried.**

**Consider Work Order from Kent County Road Commission for Seal Coat of Sargent Avenue from Fulton (M-21) to Bennett Street for an Amount not to Exceed \$120,000 with Ada Township Contributing \$60,000 (50%) of the Total Project Cost.**

Township Manager Suchy: This is not in need of reconstruction but will extend the life and continue to preserve that base. Ada Township has 75% of the roads are considered good or fair condition. A lot of the communities around the state do not have road commission that match 50%. We are very fortunate to have this.

**Moved by Trustee Hurwitz, supported by Trustee Damstra. Motion Carried.**

**Pettis Change Order, which was added to our Agenda at the start of our meeting.**

Township Manager Suchy explained, Steve Groenenboom Engineer was unable to be here tonight but we have discussed. The request from C&D Hughes for an amount for \$10,506.50. When they started digging to do the retaining wall, they identified an old septic tank in the public right-of-way. Near Honey Creak and Pettis. It requires a specific type of abandonment, not just removing it. There also needs to be repair of the drain field that was in the path. During construction they hit that so they need to fix it. Also need regrading the base of the concrete wall due to this work. If we don't move forward there are other items that will be help up.

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

**Continuation of the Economic Survey discussion from the last Board Meeting.**

Township Manager Suchy explained, the survey is in good shape. He was shocked when receiving an email from Baton Collective that they were ready to go live on social media next week. There was discussion as to what roll the township would have in this survey. Since this is not something we were pursuing, should we put any time and money towards this? Sending out postcards could be \$10,000. If we sent actual hard copies even more. Manager Suchy asked Baton Collective how they were considering meeting this hard copy request and if they could be brought back to the board at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Supervisor Korth stated that he was surprised by the pace of this and the fact that this is not even on our internal agenda. If we are going to have to create and collect data, we need to give it the time that it needs. A specific question was “do you live or work in the township?”

Trustee Damstra stated after seeing the complete survey that they were really focused on the C Block and they were ready to go and maybe we could do a broader survey in the future. They are able to do a QR code for Ada, so we could put this in the AdaView Newsletter. Treasurer Moran agreed that their company was adamant about only doing social media and that we shouldn't hold up a private company trying to get specific data. We should try to get a larger over view in the future. Further debate about letting it proceed as is and allowing them to use Ada's social media was their concern about multiple surveys in a short period of time. Is there data on survey participation done on social media versus mailings. We want to make sure it's clear that Ada Township is assisting with this survey, but it's not ours. Not wanting to put up obstacles after everything they have helped with that is now Ada. The block that is being discussed they largely can build what they want within the limitations of the planning process.

No motion needed.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Township Manager Report – April 23, 2025**

We have a date for our meeting with the Kent County Drain Commission with the Board of Determination, Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. We will be making the public aware of this. This is related to the Knapps Corner Drain that will divert the water from the Knapps Corner Development to the Cook Drain and then to the Grand River. We started working with Seyferth Public Relations to spread this information. We were waiting until the settlement agreement with the Kent County Drain Commission was signed. Supervisor Korth signed that today. Now we can start the public information campaign, sharing that with the residents. We are still looking for an Environmental Engineer

I am working on finalizing our ARPA submission for April 30<sup>th</sup>, which allocated the township about 1.5 million dollars. We had to allocate all that money by December 31, 2024 and we have to spend it by December 31, 2026. Including some road work that was completed, which came in under bid, which is good news, but we allocated the money. We are looking to see if we can move the funds to other items that we also allocated funds to.

Kevin Austin DDA Director contacted me, we had this on our radar as a possibility. The Township has an AmeriCorps employee Raquel Valverde, she is the Farmers Market Manager. With changes at the Federal level funding. AmeriCorps employees have been informed that their funding has been cut and not to report to work as of April 29, 2025. She has been a wonderful addition to the DDA and Farmers Market. We are looking to make her a Temporary Part Time Employee so she can finish the work she started around the design and organization of the Farmers Market.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Clerk DeMarco stated that she is glad there is a work session scheduled for the cemetery project. If any board members have specific questions, they would like addressed please reach out.

Treasurer Moran Complimented the Transcriber saying well done.

Chief Murray noted the spike in calls to the fire department are just hit or miss.

Chief Murray introduced new Deputy Fire Chief Nick Dewy. Chief also noted that the new fire truck was outside.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Treasurer Moran, supported by Trustee Carter.**

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Date

Jo DeMarco, Clerk