



**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Haga. The roll was called. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Moran, Clerk Smith, and Trustees Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, and Proos. Members Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Hurwitz, supported by Proos, to approve the October 12, 2020 Agenda as amended to include the addition of Resolution R-10-1220-1, Resolution to Adopt a New Temporary Moratorium on Issuance of Permits for Demolition on Existing Buildings in the Ada Village Area. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes; Accept Reports/Communications

Moved by Proos, supported by McAleenan, to approve the September 14, 2020 board minutes, and accept and receive the reports/communications under consent agenda. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Township General Warrants

Treasurer Moran presented the following: Hand Checks: \$13,649.97, Warrants: \$745,815.66. Total of all Checks and Warrants: \$759,465.63. There was some brief discussion on a few of the charges. **Moved by McAleenan, supported by Jacobs, to approve the Warrant Report for October 12, 2020, in the total amount of \$759,465.63. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMENT

Proos publicly thanked Clerk Smith for such a detailed follow-up regarding the election.

Smith stated it is nice to be back in the live meetings. She also thanked everyone involved in the Haga Day. Regarding the public safety questions, she noted she spent hours on this and found out there had not been any ballot questions since her 5 years as clerk. Even though there were some extenuating circumstances, she takes full responsibility for missing the November ballot. MTA does not designate who shall submit these things and Ada Township apparently does not have a policy about this. She added that going forward, the Township will narrow down a lot of responsibilities. Smith next spoke a little about the upcoming election. She said that the ballots received by 8:00 on Tuesday are the ballots to be counted. Ada Township has 11,764 registered votes as of today. Lastly, she wanted to thank the staff for the incredibly hard work they have been doing relative to the election.

Haga commented that having Julius with the Township has been a breath of fresh air. Second, a number of board members and others were instrumental in the George Haga Day and he stated he was pleased with this – it was enjoyable and he thanked everyone for their involvement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

PURCHASE LAPTOPS WITH CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDS

Suchy stated the State of Michigan eliminated the August revenue sharing payment for all communities in Michigan and replaced it with a grant under the Coronavirus Relief Location Government Grant Program. He noted this is separate from the CARES Act funding. Suchy next spoke about the need for this due to continued remote work. Suchy recommends the purchase of 10 additional Township laptops for staff. There was some discussion regarding revenue sharing and the needs for the Township.

Moved by McAleenan, supported by Jacobs, to authorize the Township Manager to purchase laptops with funds available from the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Grant Fund. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.

REPAIRS TO THE NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEM

Parks Director Mark Fitzpatrick stated we have issues in a number of places on the bike path this year, which he summarized as:

1. Private property groundwater seepage at 8330 Bailey Drive causing the trail to continuously be wet and slippery;
2. Boardwalk collapsed at 1780 Grand River Drive leaving a large sinkhole in the blacktop;
3. At 1920 Grand River Drive and 6749 Ada Drive, there is erosion alongside the trail with cracking.

The quotes were presented and Fitzpatrick summarized same, noting the lowest quote is from Katerberg Verhage. McAleenan questioned why such a difference in quotes. Fitzpatrick stated this is because they have a different style of work/solutions. He added this is pretty standard work and Katerberg is good at this. There is a safety issue out there that needs to be addressed.

Moved by Proos, supported by Jacobs, to approve the recommendation for repairs to the non-motorized trail system as set out in the September 29, 2020 Memorandum in the amount of \$16,460 by Katerberg Verhage, which is a not to exceed item. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.

MUSEUM BUILDING GUTTER COVERS

Haga said the request is to install additional gutters because of debris falling into the gutters and having to clean them out on a regular basis. Three proposals have been received. Proos stated that an item such as this in such a small amount is a waste of time for the Board meetings – this could have just been a line item on the Pay App. Haga stated he does not disagree. Moran commented that the policy, right, wrong or indifferent, is in place that says anything above \$3,000 is to be addressed. We need to go through these policies at some point.

Moved by Proos, supported by Moran, to approve the Museum Building Gutter Covers with All Gutter Systems for Item #3, the Gutter Hood, in the amount of \$3,658.20. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.

CELL MODEM REPLACEMENT FOR SCADA SYSTEM

Haga stated this is a recommendation to purchase 10 Verizon modems (one as a spare) from Alpha-Tran Engineering, Township consultant for the SCADA system, at a cost of \$11,227. Haga noted these would be installed by Ray's under their existing services contract.

Moved by Jacobs, supported by McAleenan, to approve the purchase of 10 Verizon SCADA Modems from Alpha-Tran Engineering at a total cost of \$11,227. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.

KENT COUNTY CARES ACT AGREEMENT

Suchy gave a background stating Kent County received \$114.6 million dollars in CARES ACT funding from the Federal Government. The County established a CARES ACT subcommittee to review options for how to split the \$114.6 million up to best address the impact of COVID-19. Of the initial allocation, \$15 million was intended for local governments through a reimbursement program. The County has now switched gears and moved towards an allocation based on total population and the number of COVID cases in each local government jurisdiction. At the time the allocation decision was made the Township had 165 cases which was 2.09% of the 7,896 cases in Kent County. The Township has been allocated \$321,851.01 based on this calculation.

Moved by McAleenan, supported by Hurwitz, to approve the Agreement with Kent County CARES Act in the amount of \$321,851.01, subject to Township attorney final review.. Roll Call: Yes – Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION R-10-1220-1, RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A NEW TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR DEMOLITION ON EXISTING BUILDINGS IN THE ADA VILLAGE AREA

Ferro presented this request and summarized his memo. He said this started in February of 2019 when the Planning Commission heard some public input expressing concern over loss of historic structures in the Village area and the Planning Commission referred that matter to the Township Board. Have since engaged a consultant and other resources. What is before the Board is a resolution that would extend the moratorium through December 31st. There was some discussion regarding the opposition to this. Moran stated this has been going on since 2006 and there just doesn't seem like an initiative to get this done. Hurwitz stated he would like to see the Township get more money for the Ada Historical Society to let them come up with something. There was discussion about the importance of the history of Ada.

The following public comments were made:

1. Mark Ansara, property owner at 577 Ada Drive, stated he is against this and feels they should allow this moratorium to expire.
2. Bernie Veldkamp, president of Ada Historical Society, spoke about the practical reasons and doesn't believe there has been a proper amount of education on this. Need to make a decision on the type of village that we want. If we decide to do nothing, the reality is we have a bunch of old houses and buildings. If you take it on a one by one building, the tendency is going to be to tear these buildings down. Need to preserve the historical character that you're not going to find in the recreations. He said he does not think we have done a good enough job on educating the people that live here to see there is another way to do this. We need to provide a viable alternative. Once we start tearing the buildings down, they are gone.

Smith stated this moratorium has been in place for a year, and because we have not done a good enough job according to Bernie isn't a reason to continue to keep our property owners in limbo.

Moved by Jacobs, supported by Hurwitz, to adopt Resolution R-10-1220-1, resolution to adopt a new temporary moratorium on issuance of permits for demolition of existing buildings in the Ada Village Area. Roll Call: No - Haga, Hurwitz, Jacobs, McAleenan, Moran, Proos, Smith. Motion defeated.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Jacqueline Smith
Ada Township Clerk

Date