

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2011 SPECIAL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Monday, February 21, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

PRESENT: Betty Jo Crosby, Randy Damstra, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Elise Roe, Rick Steketee, Mischelle Sytsma

ABSENT: Jeff Vandenberg, Randy VanDragt

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Ferro, Planning Director

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6195 E. FULTON ST.

Haga reported on his recent conversation with Gary Vos. Gary stated he has declined his neighbor's offer to purchase the property on land contract, and is willing to accept an offer of \$150,000 from us for the property, with no tying of the purchase price to an appraisal.

Haga stated that if the Advisory Board recommends proceeding with the purchase, he would schedule the matter for the Township Board meeting on February 28.

The Advisory Board discussed alternative courses of action, including holding off on a purchase recommendation until a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is completed, reducing the offering price in return for dropping the appraisal requirement and use of a conservation easement on the property instead of outright purchase.

Following discussion, it was moved by Sytsma, seconded by Ladd, to recommend to the Township Board that the Vos property be acquired for a purchase price of \$150,000, subject to the Township completing its due diligence, including Phase 1 ESA.

In discussion of the motion, the Advisory Board discussed the benefits of the acquisition in achieving adopted open space protection goals in relation to the proposed purchase price, and whether the proposed acquisition was an effective use of open space protection funds. The consensus of the Board was that the acquisition of the Vos property together with the adjacent Bottrall property was directly aligned with the goals of the open space preservation program.

Following discussion of the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Township Clerk

RS: jf