

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
January 12, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Rhoades, and Clerk Burton, Trustees: Proos, Smith, Westra, Sytsma. Also present, Recording Secretary Alt, and 75 community members.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Westra, Supported by Rhoades to approve the Agenda. Yes - 6; No - 1; Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Haga adjusted the agenda as most of the public were present for either the heliport or maintenance ordinances and to move up those items accordingly.

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. ORDINANCE NO. O-011209-2. INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.**

Jim Ferro, Planning Director gave a summary of the Ordinance Codes. Mr. Ferro stated the same ordinance codes have been adopted by other townships; Cannon, East Grand Rapids, City of Walker and Cascade Township. Mr. Ferro went over the amendments made in reference to the lawn heights and maintaining neighborhood standards, and made comments as to the deleted items from the maintenance code.

Jim Todd, 8205 E. Fulton St., Ada – Commented on brush piles that have been on the property at 500 Pettis with the existing ordinances in place. He had submitted a petition to the board to help solve this ongoing problem. He stated any property maintenance ordinance should be enforced.

John Gunner of Ada Township stated he has an older home which requires a lot of upkeep and he is very busy and not always able to keep up with the code. He is very involved with his family and doesn't always have the time to meet all of ordinances. He does not agree with the new ordinances.

Gary Jebson, 648 Spaulding Ave. stated he had purchased his home years ago because it was not in a home owners association. He feels the ordinances are imposing on his own personal property rights.

Nina Harrington of Alta Dale St. is not in agreement with all new ordinances; she feels it makes it like living in a police state.

Clifford Leazier, 475 Ada Point Dr. stated he was not in agreement with all new ordinances and feels the board should not adopt the codes.

John Sarb of Ada Township stated he noticed other homes are in bad repair and feels we need some of the ordinances in place. He stated the language in the ordinances could be more specific and to the point, and shortened to a one page document.

Linda Cook, 5700 Michigan St stated she is concerned with the board making the township sound like a ghetto. She is very upset; feels it is like living in Russia, and would like to see it come to a public vote.

Kristin Favers, 7546 Fase St. loves living in the Village of Ada. She has an old farm house and the upkeep can be very expensive. She is concerned with the financial responsibility it could have on many community members in our tough economic times.

Deb Emery, 7534 Fase St stated the township should revise the language to include just the basic needs.

Marge Wellman, 9575 Conservation Ave. stated if she wanted these kinds of rules she would live in East Grand Rapids. Her family had chose Ada because Ada allows people to have horses etc. She opposed the ordinance changes.

Tim Pratt, 1911 Buttrick SE stated he spoke with Mr. Ferro earlier in the day and asked if Mr. Ferro had received complaints in regard to the ordinances codes; approximately 15-20 complaints were made. Mr. Pratt checked with the assessor's office in regard to how many residences live in Ada Township and how many complaints there have been, and noticed some of the complaints have been repetitive.

Trustee Smith commented the ordinances have too many restrictions; but is in agreement with the fire safety requirements.

Clerk Burton stated the International Property Maintenance codes are overwhelming and overbearing, but some parts are good and shouldn't be thrown out. Burton stated we need something amenable to everyone and was in agreement with a work session being held.

Trustee Proos suggested logging complaints and check existing ordinances and to start keeping track of what is already in place may be helpful; he stated a work session would be beneficial.

Trustee Sytsma commented she is in favor of a work session.

Trustee Westra stated the final version of the ordinance will probably be different than what is proposed and is in favor of a work session.

Supervisor Haga received four emails in regard to the ordinances from John Adrian who stated he supported the International Maintenance Code. Jeff Roy, James & Patricia Byle and Arthur & Judy Steinwyk stated they opposed the Maintenance Codes.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Smith to deny the adoption of Ordinance No. O-011209-2. Roll call: Smith, Sytsma, Proos, Rhoades, Burton, Westra-Yes. Westra-No Absent-0. Motion Carried to deny Ordinance No. O-011209-2.**

**B. ORDINANCE NO. O-011209-3, AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 30 OF THE ADA TOWNSHIP CODE OF ORDINANCES. "PARKING AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES" AND "STORAGE AND SCREENING OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE CONTAINERS." Moved by Sytsma, supported by Westra to approve.**

Mr. Ferro stated some changes are being proposed in the zoning with reference to the parking and storage of recreation vehicles. There was discussion among the board members

**Moved by Westra, Supported by Smith to postpone Ordinance No. O- 011209-3 & Ordinance No. O-011209-4 until such time a work session can be held. Roll call: Yes - 3; Smith, Westra, Burton. No - 4; Sytsma, Proos, Rhoades, Haga. Absent - 0. Motion Denied.**

**Moved by Sytsma, supported by Westra to approve Ordinance No. 011209-3. Roll Call: Yes: 3: Westra, Burton, Sytsma No: 4: Haga, Proos, Smith, Rhoades. Motion denied.**

**C. ORDINANCE NO.O-011209-4, AMENDMENT TOWNSHIP ZONING REGULATION CHATPER 78-DELETION OF EXISTING PROVISIONS CONCERNING PARKING AND STORAGE OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS AND REVISE EXISTING PROVISIONS CONCERNING USE OF REQUIRED PARKING FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USES.**

Mr. Ferro outlined the ordinance.

**Moved by Sytsma, Supported by Westra to adopt Ordinance O-011209-4. Roll call; Yes - 3; Sytsma, Westra, Burton. No - 4; Proos, Smith, Rhoades, Haga. Absent - 0. Ordinance is not adopted.**

**D. ORDINANCE NO. O-011209-1, ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC USE AND PRIVATE USE HELIPORTS.**

Jim Ferro outlined the ordinance stating how to Establish Regulations Governing Public Use and Private Use Heliports.

Moved by Westra, Supported by Proos to reject the adoption of Ordinance O-011209-1 as recommended by the Planning Commission, and instead adopt the alternate Ordinance O-011209-5 presented to the Board by Planner Ferro.

Trustee Sytsma motioned an amendment to the main motion, supported by Proos, to include 3 items referred to in her letter to the Board of January 9, 2009:

1. That the Planning Commission be allowed the latitude to consider the percent of tree removal allowed per specific site/application
2. That the Planning Commission require any helipad comply with township's riparian protection rules
3. Consideration of commercial heliports needs to be restricted to industrial district only.

The Amendment was denied.

Annika Kavesta of Ada Township commented she is not in favor of the heliport.

Kathleen Richter, 6301 Hall St. Ada stated she had not seen the proposal for the heliport and was thankful the public is allowed to meetings. She feels it is inappropriate for a heliport in a residential area. She has safety issues in regard. She acknowledged trees have already been cut down, and the heliport pad is already in place.

Bob Stead, 6530 Ada Dr. - He supplied copies of his position on this to all board members. He stated he is on the flight path and doesn't think it is reasonable to have a heliport pad in a residential area, and has noise concerns.

Roger Nicely 6270 Hall St, - He supported what Mr. Stead commented on and did some research in regards to helicopter accidents; he stated concerns with the safety issues.

Linda Cook, 5700 Michigan St. – She asked Mr. Ferro the reasons why Mr. DeVos feels he needs a helicopter and heliport as he only lives five minutes from Amway.

John Sarb of Ada Township – stated he was not too concerned with aircraft crashing on his house as he has 757 flying over his house frequently.

Lloyd Paul, 1268 Pettis – stated he supported the change in the ordinance and felt the first version would be unfair.

Richard Zaagman - Stated he supported the heliport ordinance and is not worried about the safety issues.

Tracy Flanders of Ada Croft – stated support of the heliport.

Kathleen Richter, 6301 Hall St- commented she felt the heliport is very intrusive in her life.

Dane Heydon of Ada Township- stated the heliport project should not be in a residential area, and is concerned with the safety issues.

Trustee Westra commented on the heliport issue with regards to safety issues and the board should be consistent with the personal liberties in all matters that come before the board. He commented the noise issues are not concerning; lawn equipment and commercial vehicles are louder.

Trustee Sytsma commented this is an issue of a request to adopt an ordinance. Not one citizen has asked the Board for permission to do this. This issue is simply a request to address heliports and helipads.

Trustee Rhoades stated he is against Ordinance O-011209-5. He thinks it should only be allowed in agricultural, industrial and light industrial zoning districts.

Trustee Proos commented on the heliport issue saying if persons can afford and have the property to support such a project, they should be able to do so and felt the rules are fair. We live in America.

**Moved by Westra; Supported by Sytsma to continue the Board meeting after 10:00 pm including the current ordinance No. O-011209-5 and the Warrants & Receipts. Motion carried**

Trustee Smith commented she had no doubt an ordinance was needed, but said she struggled with the residential portion of it. Trustee Smith asked Planner Ferro about buildings on the heliport. Ferro responded any buildings proposed would have to be part of the Special Use Permit, and the Planning Commission would scrutinize building size, lighting and screening accordingly.

**Roll call: Yes - 4; Proos, Westra, Burton, Haga. No – 3; Smith, Rhoades, Sytsma. Absent - 0. Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS:**

Treasurer Rhoades presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 **\$14,975.28**; #205 **\$3,133.46**; #208 **\$2,173.14**; #213 **\$987.50**; #590 **\$3,251.31**; #591 **\$1,741.664**; #592 **\$426.43**. Total Hand Checks **\$26,688.76**. Warrants: #101 **\$40,793.94**; #205 **\$65,840.54**; #208 **\$3,676.43**; #213 **\$9,000.00**; #590 **\$76,443.35**; #591 **\$151,947.65**; #592 **\$7,017.65**. Total Warrants **\$390,207.13**. Total Checks and Warrants **\$416,895.89**. **Moved by Proos, Supported by Smith to approve the Warrant Report of January 12, 2008, in the amount of \$416,895.89. Roll Call: Sytsma, Proos, Westra, Smith, Treasurer Rhoades, Supervisor Haga, Clerk Burton. Yes - 7. No - 0. Absent – 0. Motion carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Marsh of Spaulding Ave- commented that he asked the board three years ago for some help with cleaning up his neighborhood. Is disappointed some of ordinances didn't pass, as he felt it would be helpful to have help to clean up neighborhoods. He would like to see some action.

Deb Emery of 7534 Fase St. - wanted to know if they were going to change the notice that was in the paper about the historic prevention.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ada Township Special Meeting will be held on Monday, January 19, 2009 @ 7:30 to finish items on the agenda as set by Supervisor Haga.**

The meeting was adjourned at **10:28 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Burton  
Ada Township Clerk