

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2006**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Pratt, Clerk Ensing Millhuff, Trustees: Damstra, Proos and Westra. Also present: Planner Ferro, Recording Secretary Smith and eight community members. Members Absent: Trustee Sytsma.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to approve the agenda as presented.**

Trustee Proos asked that the minutes be clarified in the Public Comment section, second line of Doug Landman's comments regarding certain "bids" by the Planning Commission" **Motion carried**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes**

January 9, 2006, Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports**

1. Fire Call Reports - 12/05; 2. Zoning Board of Appeals - 01/06; 3. Ada Township v Cascade Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses Complaint; 4. Building Permit Report Summary - 2005.

**Receive and File Various Communications**

1. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 1/6/06; 2. Kent district Library Minutes - 12/15/05; 3. Comcast - Line-Up Change - 12/29/05; 4. Ada Historical Society Newsletter - 1/06; 5. The Rapid/County Connection - 12/05; 6. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes - 12/20/05; 7. Ada Moorings Advisory Committee on Traffic Issues Minutes - 12/15/05.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to approve items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS**

Treasurer Pratt presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$3,040.07; #205 \$1,313.29; #208 \$536.68; #590 \$177.70; #591 \$424.29; #592 \$21.69. Total Hand Checks \$5,513.62. Warrants: #101 \$27,533.55; #205 \$26,235.86; #208 \$1,024.08; #249 \$1,163.19; #590 \$24,310.43; #591 \$18,076.48; #592 \$4,240.23. Total Warrants \$102,583.82. Total Checks and Warrants \$108,097.44.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve the Warrant Report of January 23, 2006, in the amount of \$108,097.44. Trustee Damstra asked about the Bronson Street Improvement project. Trustee Westra asked about two vendors for shredding. Trustee Proos asked about the rental fee for 877 Forest Hill and for clarification on the Community Media Center franchise fee. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Damstra, Proos, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Haga. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Doug Landman, 1062 Greenwood Forest Court, presented written copies of a timeline regarding enforcement issues related to the Hilltop Building. Mr. Landman specifically referred to two new violations since the December 16 citation stating he has reported both to the Planner and Supervisor and each has been ignored. Adding, he had been interested in serving on the Planning Commission but stated due to his experience with the Planner and Supervisor through this incident he would not make any difference through serving.

Supervisor Haga added that the report had not yet been completed, but he intended to have it available soon.

John Eck, 7817 Thornapple Club Drive in Ada Moorings, explained it was the six-month anniversary of the board's approval of the Final PUD for Ada Moorings North. Reminding the board of the rezoning a referendum petition vote in August and adding he believes is now null and void due to the recent action of the Planning Commission. Mr. Eck stated that some of the requirements placed on Eastbrook Development had not been fulfilled, especially in relation to the wear and tear on the roads by contractors with heavy trucks. The second important issue was regarding safety concerns with over 200 children in the neighborhood and speed limit enforcement.

Frank Hoover, 700 Marbury, expressed concern that one of the trustees had been absent for the past 2 1/2 months.

Edie Pettis stated she was not going to wait until after the closed session was over regarding the Attorney opinion on her property, but she asked Supervisor Haga to give her a written synopsis as soon as possible. Ms. Pettis also explained she has attempted to talk with Mr. Paul about concerns he expressed to the board but at this time had not received any returns from her phone calls. Ms. Pettis expressed concern about a potential conflict of interest with a board member who had a fiduciary responsibility and/or would stand to gain in some way by putting Pettis and Associates out of business.

## BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Damstra asked about the possibility of a purchase of the FOP property and asked about the results of the January 18 meeting. Trustee Damstra also stated there was a Parks Committee meeting last Friday and a discussion about what to do with the parks, specifically Roselle Park, to get moving on development. He also suggested the interest in bike trails could be combined and the two issues merged into one discussion.

Treasurer Pratt expressed her agreement with Mr. Eck's comments regarding enforcement of the conditions placed on Eastbrook Builders prior to building permits being issued, adding she too would like to see follow-up on that issue. Treasurer Pratt stated she was concerned that stops signs and speed limit postings be done and Eastbrook follow through with what had been agreed upon at the board meeting.

Trustee Westra agreed and stated any organization that wants to run efficiently needs to have a grasp on the "to do" items on the organization's list as well as key individuals' task lists. He suggested if there was a system in place to keep track of these issues he would like to know - and if there was not such a system in existence, the Information Technology and Communications Committee should talk about what type of tools can be put into place to achieve that accountability.

Trustee Westra announced the memorial service for Dirk Koning, founder of Community Media Center, to be held on January 31, 2006 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Wealthy Theatre.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff agreed with other board members regarding the follow-up issues, adding she had consistently expressed concerns about the inconsistency on follow-ups. One most recent concern relating to the building permits being issued by another township, leading to lack of proper management by Ada Township. Clerk Millhuff stated she was very empathetic regarding traffic issues expressed by Mr. Eck. She announced that board members are invited to a reception on January 24, from 5 to 6:30, for Don Hilton Gaines Township Supervisor and President of the MTA (Michigan Township Association).

Supervisor Haga reiterated his commitment to responding back to the board on both issues (Hilltop Building and Ada Moorings). He also explained there was a tape made by the engineers of the roads in Ada Moorings prior to construction and a copy had been given to one of the Ada Moorings Association Presidents to be shared with each association. Supervisor Haga also stated there had been meetings on the traffic safety issues, and he believed they were meeting the requirements and coming up with a plan for posting stop signs and other signs within the Private roads. He added the township couldn't force Eastbrook to pay for the signs and it was a voluntary financial commitment between Eastbrook Builders and Ada Moorings. Planning Director Ferro explained the township did have a financial guarantee in the amount of approximately \$20,000 for road repairs. Planning Director Ferro stated the engineer did make a copy of the videotape and that he believed it had been given to the Childers whom live in Ada Moorings.

Trustee Damstra asked why building permits couldn't be withheld or revoked in instances of non-compliance. He also stated he remembered Mick McGraw stating he was going to do all those things (installing signs, etc.)

Clerk Ensing Millhuff added that the township could not allow empty promises and needed to follow through on promises made.

Planning Director Ferro referred to a letter written by Mick McGraw stating he was willing to pay for more stop signs but he wanted to see input from the Sheriff's Department regarding what they thought felt was a good sign plan.

Trustee Proos stated a letter from the township to Eastbrook Builders stating we would reject any more building permits might get their attention and get the signs posted.

## NEW BUSINESS

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2006/2007

Supervisor Haga explained there were about 17,000 in unallocated funds and this was an annual process. There are strict criteria for which the funds may be used. In the past the township has typically used at least \$5,000 toward the Go! Bus program.

#### 1. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public comment.

#### 2. RECOMMEND PROJECTS FOR 2006/2007

Clerk Ensing Millhuff suggested directing some funds toward emergency call units for elderly people living alone. Supervisor Haga added that some townships have designated funds for rehabilitation of homes for fixed income seniors. Trustee Westra inquired whether there was any research regarding establishing a bus corridor. Supervisor Haga responded the deadline for application of these funds was February 13.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Millhuff, to apply for three programs in the following order: 1. Go! Bus; 2. Emergency call boxes for the elderly. 3. home rehabilitation program, each in the amount of \$5,000. Motion carried.**

## PETITION OF ADA TOWNSHIP TREASURER TO STRIKE PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM TAX ROLLS

Treasurer Pratt explained this is a yearly procedure in most townships. This petition is to remove from the roll the personal delinquent property taxes have been uncollected for five years. Waivers have gone out to Grand Rapids Community College, Kent County, Kent District Library, Kent Intermediate School District and Forest Hills Public Schools. **Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to authorize the processing the Waiver and Consent removal regarding the 1999-2000 personal property taxes from the roll. Motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION R-012306-1 - FY 06/07 TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULES AND EMPLOYEE HOLIDAYS**

Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained the reason for the closure of the township offices on December 26 through January 3rd is to allow for painting and carpeting and the employees would be using their own vacation days. **Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to adopt Resolution R-012306-1, which is the township meeting schedules and employee holidays. Roll Call: Yes - Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Proos, Westra, Damstra. No -0. Absent - Sytsma. Resolution adopted.**

**OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION - 383 PETTIS - OPTION AGREEMENT**

Planning Director Ferro explained the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board had been studying whether to pursue grant funding on a single-family home site on Pettis Avenue is on the bank of the Grand River in the 100-year flood plain. The Advisory Board has recommended that the township enter into an option agreement to lock the property for eight months while the grant application process is pursued. The township's share, if the grant is successful, would be 25%, or about \$47,200, and the Advisory Board recommends using the parks and land preservation millage funds. **Moved by Damstra, supported by Proos, to file the grant application regarding the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. Motion carried.**

**MOTION TO PROCEED INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL OPINION REGARDING PETTIS PROPERTY AT 1101 PETTIS AVENUE AND PENDING LITIGATION RE: RIETH-RILEY MATTER**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to proceed into closed session to discuss the written legal opinion regarding 1101 Pettis Ave and pending litigation regarding the Rieth Riley matter. Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Proos, Ensing Millhuff, Pratt, Haga, Westra. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Damstra, to return to the regular session. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to postpone any action on the 1101 Pettis Avenue until the next board meeting in February. Motion carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC  
Ada Township Clerk

RS: JS