

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
February 9, 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, and Westra; absent - Sytsma. Also present, Recording Secretary Alt, and 35 community members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Under New Business there was a substitute Resolution-R-020909-1 for the Non-Removal of the Natural Beauty Designation on Bailey Drive.

Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the agenda with the substituted Resolution-R-020909-1 for the Non-Removal of the Natural Beauty Designation on Bailey Drive. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

January 26, 2009 Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Comcast Channel Update; 2. 500 Pettis Petition - 1/12/09; 3. Investment Report - 11/08, 12/08; 4. Notice of Intent to File Petition - Ordinance O-011209-5 - Heliport Ordinance.

Moved by Westra, supported by Smith, to approve the minutes and accept reports and communication under the Consent Agenda. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS

Treasurer Rhoades presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: **Hand Checks: #101 \$366.66; #205 \$1,015.38; #208 \$130.02; #590 \$149.63; #591 \$149.63; #592 \$285.87. Total Hand Checks \$2,097.19. Warrants: #101 \$30,911.77; #205 \$14,054.32; #208 \$1,316.77; #590 \$60,802.84; #591 \$90,334.60; #592 \$549.42. Total Warrants \$197,969.72. Total checks and warrants \$200,066.91. Moved by Proos, supported by Smith, to approve the Warrant Report of February 9, 2008, in the amount of \$200,066.91. Roll Call: Yes - Rhoades, Proos, Burton, Westra, Smith, Haga. No - 0. Absent - 1. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Westra asked if there had been any progress regarding the graffiti on the train trestles. Supervisor Haga stated he had not heard from the railroad at this point. Trustee Westra updated the board on the progress with the Township website and email process.

Trustee Smith commented on the MTA Conference stating she was happy she attended. Trustee Smith stated she attended the Hospice of Michigan open house at their new location, and was impressed with the new facility. She stated regarding the Forest Hills Central Middle and High School construction project this summer, they have an open house this Thursday if anyone is interested in attending; stated it looks like a very good project.

Clerk Burton stated she is working on the next issue of the Adaview which will come out the last week of March; it will cover the months of April, May and June. She stated they are always looking for material. Trustee Westra commented there will be information regarding the new township website in that issue as well.

Trustee Proos expressed his thanks for the follow up on the Edie Pettis property issue. Proos asked if property taxes were due on the 14th. Treasurer Rhoades clarified and updated that process. Proos asked who the Website provider is with Westra stating World Wide Dial Up is the provider.

Treasurer Rhoades stated the public did not receive the investment report. He went over some of the items on that report; commenting that Treasurer Pratt had done an excellent job previously with investments, and he will continue the same.

Supervisor Haga commented on the MTA conference and handed out brochures outlining classes and opportunities available. The first day of conference, the kick off there was a survey that was referenced by Larry Merrell, who is director of Michigan Township Association - a copy of the survey was referenced. He commented on the article in the Grand Rapids press with regard to the Vergennes Township Project; sports complex on Three Mile Road, and the Planning Director and Planning Commission will have discussions and meeting. He commented on the Edie Pettis issues with reports. Supervisor Haga added the Kent County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association is having a meeting on Feb 26, all board members are invited; Supervisor Haga handed out literature in that regard.

Supervisor Haga stated he has a copy of a DVD of the keynote speaker from the MTA Conference if anyone would like to view it.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution R-020909-1, Request that the Kent County Road Commission Revoke the "Natural Beauty Road Designation" of Bailey Drive.

Jim Ferro, Planning Director, summarized the plans for the three year non-motorized trail project. He stated there is one issue complicating the project; Bailey Drive is a natural beauty road. He outlined what the Natural Beauty Act is, and the statutes that apply. He went over the petition process, and the statutes to hold public hearings. Mr. Ferro stated the best option would be to complete the trails and to keep Bailey Drive as a natural beauty road in the process.

Public comment regarding the resolution.

Don Mitchell of 8771 Conservation Rd. stated he does not live on Bailey, but is aware most people who live on Bailey are against the project.

Julie Barnett of 8162 Bailey Dr. stated she is not in favor of trail and it is a poor use of tax dollars.

John Rasch of 9710 Bailey Dr. stated he is in favor of the project. He stated he has 7 children, and feels it is a good safety issue for bike riding, walking etc. He believes it is in the best interest of the community.

Tracy Baij of 8815 Conservation Rd. stated she would like some clarification as to the statutes 37504(3) and (4). She stated the commission needs to take a look at efforts being made to work around the wetlands.

Julie Rasch of 9710 Bailey Dr. (wife of John Rasch) stated the trail is a great idea and she concurred with her husband on the safety issues.

Stephen Ibanez of 296 Green Tree Lane stated his concerns about the environmental impact the trail may have, is concerned with people's rights of their land and doesn't understand the urgency. He is in favor of the bike trail.

Steve Hall of 8115 Bailey Dr. stated the board has an obligation to follow through with what the residents support.

Dave Gorman of 8275 Bailey Dr. concurred with Steve Hall. He is in favor of the trail, and voted for it when the option came. He stated he would like to see it on the north side of the road.

Jamie Ladd of 8800 Conservation Rd. stated he is concerned with the unintended consequences that may arise if this resolution is adopted. He stated he would like the project to slow down.

Karen Holt of 5701 Three Mile Rd. stated she concurs with Jamie Ladd's statements. She added she is concerned with the shrubs, trees, animals etc.

Supervisor Haga clarified how the resolution is conducted.

Trustee Westra stated for the record, many hours had been committed to the project, and during the entire process there have been numerous opportunities for public input on the routing of the trail. He urged the board members to adopt this resolution.

Trustee Smith concurred with Westra's comments, adding this is not a new situation; it has been a long term plan.

Trustee Proos concurred with Westra and Smith's comments. He suggested Steve Groenenboom give a synopsis of the project.

Steve Groenenboom from Moore and Bruggink outlined the trail project. He stated the biggest obstacle is deciding which side of street to place trail.

Treasurer Rhoades concurred with Mr. Groenenboom's comments on the trail projects.

Clerk Burton stated she is in favor of trails, adding there are still feedback opportunities with the trail committee. She stated the Township would like to avoid getting rid of the natural beauty road designation.

Supervisor Haga stated he did not like the removal of the designation of the natural beauty road and is in favor of public hearings on the project; stated the new resolution is the appropriate resolution at this time.

Moved by Westra, Supported by Smith to adopt substitute Resolution 020909-1; which is a Resolution to seek permission from Kent County Road Commission to construct the non-motorized pathway on Bailey Drive, in Ada Township, between Vergennes Street and McCabe Avenue without changing the "Natural Beauty Road" designation. Roll call; Yes - Rhoades, Smith, Burton, Proos, Westra, Haga; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion Carried

REQUEST FOR FORMAL RATE STUDY FOR ADA'S WATERSEWER SYSTEM

Moved by Proos, Supported by Westra to approve the rate study with Moore & Bruggink in the amount of \$5,500 for water, and \$5,500 for sewer. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

CONFIRMATION OF SETTLEMENT WITH ADA COGENERATION

Patrick Hackett and Mr. Christians of Miller Johnson were present. Supervisor Haga outlined settlement; the board complimented Miller Johnson on a job well done.

Moved by Proos, Supported by Westra to confirm the settlement with Ada cogeneration regarding the tax tribunal assessment appeal. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

ETHICS BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Mary Vanderveen Oele for a 1st two year appointment to expire on 10/1/10

Brian Schiffelbein for a 1st two year appointment to expire 10/1/10

Keith Wolverton for a 1st three year appointment to expire 10/1/11

Carol Secord for a 1st three year appointment to expire 10/1/11

Moved by Westra, Supported by Smith to approve the recommended appointments to the Ethics Board as reflected in the February 2, 2009 memorandum from the Supervisor. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

DDA DEVELOPMENT AREA CITIZENS COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Moved by Proos, Supported by Burton to approve the appointment of 4 citizens to the DDA Advisory Council as presented by the Supervisor. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR SIGNAGE EXPENDITURE

Mark Fitzpatrick, Director, Ada Parks & Recreation Department summarized expenditure request for signs in Ada Township parks, adding the estimate came under budget.

Moved by Proos, Supported by Westra to approve the recommendation from the Park & Rec. Committee expenditure request in the amount and not to exceed \$5,000. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Todd of 8025 E. Fulton Street stated he hasn't heard from Supervisor Haga in reference to his petition. Supervisor Haga gave a copy of the report regarding the matter to Mr. Todd. Supervisor Haga stated they are going to meet with the property owner to see what they can do to get the brush pile disposed of.

Jamie Ladd of 8800 Conservation Road, stated he would like to know when and where the Kent County Road Commission public hearings are held, regarding Natural Beauty Road designations. Supervisor Haga stated the Kent County Road Commission is instrumental in sending out letters on projects for the public hearings.

Deb Emery of 7534 Fase Street commented on posting the public meetings and committees on the Township website. Supervisor Haga commented he is behind schedule in getting the committees and members on the site. Westra commented that the website community calendar will publish all committees and public meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **9:21** p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk

RS/ba