

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
February 23, 2009**

DRAFT

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, Sytsma (7:45 p.m.). Also present, Recording Secretary Alt, and 25 community members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Westra, supported by Burton, to Approve the Agenda as presented. Yes - 6; No - 0; Absent - 1. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

February 9, 2009 Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Planning Commission Minutes 12/18/08; 2. Building Permit Report 1/09; 3. DDA Minutes 1/23/09; 4. Sheriff Department Quarterly Report 12/31/08; 5. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes 1/6/09; 6. Region 8 Notes 2/09; 7. AT&T Update Email - Theft of Non-Ferrous Metals 2/6/09; 8. Kent County Road Commission Act 50 Report 2/11/09; 9. Zuidema - Phase III Trail Project 2/10/09; 10. MTA Legislative Weekly Report 2/6/09, 2/13/09; 11. Stewardship Network - Land and Water Workshops 2/09; 12. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes 1/8/09.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, 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 \$8,227.05; #205 \$37,515.96; #208 \$881.28; #590 \$220.00; #591 \$220.00; #592 \$8.98. Total Hand Checks \$47,073.27. Warrants: #101 \$13,482.01; #205 \$5,110.30; #208 \$10,492.89; #211 \$31,214.35 #590 \$59,863.19; #591 \$28,988.24; #592 \$3,448.21. Total Warrants \$152,599.19. Total checks and warrants \$199,672.46. Treasurer Rhoades summarized warrant report. Supervisor Haga reported some invoicing was showing up regarding the January 27 and February 11, 2009 sanitary sewer force main breakage, which was on the corner of Ada Dr. and Fox Hollow, resulting in a sanitary sewer overflow at an approximate cost to the Township of 40,000 for each break. **Moved by Westra, Supported by Proos, to approve the Warrant Report of February 23, 2009, in the amount of \$199,672.46. Roll Call: Yes - Rhoades, Smith, Westra, Proos, Burton, Haga; Absent - 1. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Jansen, State Senator, stated he came to see how the Township government is doing. He commented on the bailout/stimulus package, stating the legislature is trying to find ways to reduce the deficit and balance budgets. He added the government is working diligently to help with the economic crisis. The Senator stated Michigan may be receiving 7 - 8 billion dollars from the Federal bailout/stimulus package to help with Michigan's economy. The State has a 1.4 billion dollar budget deficit. Treasurer Rhoades asked about the time frame for spending the bailout/stimulus money. Senator Jansen stated some of the money will be for the first year, and some will be coming the second year. All the details have not been worked out yet and they are still going through the appropriations process. Trustee Westra expressed his appreciation to the Senator for his representation; commenting he would like to see lower taxes for the businesses that actually create revenue for the state. Trustee Proos asked the Senator about the MBT, which he considers the most detrimental tax Michigan has ever had. The Senator stated the MBT is included in the budget process as well.

Michele Zuidema, 9081 Conservation Street, stated she filed a letter to the board on February 12, 2009 stating all her concerns regarding the trail project. She showed maps and graphics to the board with alternate routes for the trail, which would have less wetland and inland lake impact than the planned current route down Conservation, McCabe and Bailey Roads. She stated her concerns with the property tax and millage issues with regards to the trail project. She felt in these tough economic times the Township should decide between spending money on wants or needs.

Stephan Ibanez, GreenTree Drive, stated he had attended the trail committee meetings, and still had some unanswered questions regarding the trail project. Supervisor Haga responded he does not have those answers at this time. Mr. Ibanez stated he feels the trail project is moving too fast and would like the unknowns to the trail be investigated.

Scott Liversedge, Bailey Drive, stated he originally opposed the trail project; but now doesn't see an issue with the trail project, adding it is a good way to see and appreciate the beauty of the Natural Beauty Road.

Steve Hall, 8115 Bailey Drive, stated he received an email, Friday (Feb. 20, 2009), from a previous speaker, in regards to money being spent, and commented on the economics of the previous trails and how they have been paid for.

Sue Fick, GreenTree & Conservation Road, has emailed and presented letters to the board, stating she is not in favor of the trail project; is concerned with the environment, wetlands, and the natural beauty of the road.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Westra asked if there had been any progress regarding the graffiti on the train trusses. Supervisor Haga responded he had not heard from the railroad at this point. Trustee Westra had questions in regard to the condition of all sewers. Westra requested updates in the future of any and all issues regarding the sanitation sewer system. Supervisor Haga stated a more detailed report would be available in the future. Trustee Westra commented he read the online news regarding Ada, and the Planning Commission Chair, Tom Korth, spoke out about the Vergennes athletic project being at odds with the Master Plan of Ada Township and asked for updates in regards to that project. Westra updated the board on the progress with the new Township website and email. Steve Groenboom from Moore & Bruggink commented on the sewer issue.

Trustee Smith stated she attended an open house at Forest Hills Central High School on February 12 regarding their construction, adding a lot of the residents were upset with the project, especially those from Paradise Lake. There is another question and answer meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Trustee Smith asked for the status on the Agrawal property; Jim Ferro responded he had received communication regarding the conservation easement appraisal being complete, but no decision has been made yet concerning the owner's follow through with the easement donation.

Clerk Burton commented on a new prescription card available through Kent County; adding it is free, most people qualify and there are many benefits with the card. The cards are accepted at a number of stores and pharmacies in the area. Cards and brochures are available in the lobby of the township office, and information is available on-line at the Access Kent website.

Trustee Sytsma updated the board on the School construction project regarding the environmental issues; the Planning Commission postponed further discussion until a work session was scheduled. Trustee Sytsma commented on the Vergennes athletic facility project, adding the Planning Commission could not come to a decision and decided to postpone till more information is received. Trustee Westra commented on the Vergennes project regarding concerns with traffic volume on Ada Township roads.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-022309-1, 2009/2010 TOWNSHIP BOARD, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE. Clerk Burton stated they will be launching the new website on July 4, 2009; adding there will be information regarding the calendar and community items available on the website and in the next *AdaView*.

Moved by Proos, Supported by Smith, to adopt Resolution 022309-1. Roll call; Yes - Sytsma, Smith, Westra, Rhoades, Proos, Burton, Haga. Yes - 7; No - 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE FOR INSTALLATION OF LED LIGHTS IN EMERGENCY/ EXIT LIGHTS IN TOWNSHIP BUILDINGS

Jim Duvall, fire Chief, summarized/clarified some the technologies and savings with regard to the LED lights. Trustee Westra added there is about a 50% savings on LED lighting, and with both labor and raw cost. He encouraged the chair to put it on the agenda for community review, and phase it into street lighting as well. Supervisor Haga responded in the long run it is economical and they are more environmentally friendly; Sytsma concurred with Supervisor Haga. **Moved by Proos, Supported by Sytsma, to approve the expenditure for the Exit LED lighting in the amount of \$2,610. Yes - 7; No - 0. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE TO INTERVENE IN CONSUMERS RATE INCREASE REQUEST.

Supervisor Haga summarized MTA's Legal Defense Fund regarding Consumers Energy's request for a rate increase at the Michigan Public Service Commission. Trustee Westra stated the MTA had used funds appropriately and had been effective in protecting Townships in the past. **Moved by Proos, Supported by Westra to allow the expenditure of \$510 to contest the rate increase before the Michigan Public Service Commission through the MTA's legal defense fund. Yes - 7; No - 0. Motion carried.**

CONFIRMATION OF 2008 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. Fire Chief Jim Duvall summarized the Grant Award Request made in April of 2007 to Homeland Security for radio equipment. In December 2008 they were awarded a grant of \$16,575.80. The grant would pay 95% of the cost and the Township would be responsible for the remaining 5% (\$872.31).

Moved by Proos, Supported by Sytsma to confirm the grant in the amount of \$ 16,575.80 of which the township is responsible for \$872.31. Yes - 7; No -0. Motion carried.

DDA DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AREA CITIZENS COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS. The appointments were recommended for: Bev Swanson, Tom Bogerd, Danielle Hulst, Jon Sarb and Robert Hill.

Moved by Proos, Supported by Burton to approve the recommendation of the five additional appointments to the DDA Development Authority Citizens Council, as presented, which is for the remaining five citizens required to make a membership of nine as required by the DDA statute. Yes - 7; No - 0. Motion Carried.

REQUEST TO WAIVE PENALTY FOR LATE TAX PAYMENT

Treasurer Rhoades summarized a request by property owners Raj and Sunita Agrawal to waive the penalty for late tax payment on 3201 Egypt Valley LLC.

Moved by Westra, Supported by Burton to deny the waiver of tax penalty on property that is under 3201 Egypt Valley LLC; which is located at 3201 Egypt Valley. Yes - 6; No -1. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephan Ibanez, GreenTree Drive, wanted to know if there is a general schedule for paving of roads in the community, adding it is getting difficult to dodge deer and pot holes on Honey Creek. Supervisor Haga stated there are not any plans at this point.

Carolyn Soderberg, 8975 Bailey Drive, requested more information be published regarding the trail project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk