

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2008**

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, Sytsma and Westra. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Recording Secretary Smith and 12 community members.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deleted from the agenda under Reports/Communications: Item 3. Supervisor Report.

**Moved by Sytsma, supported by Proos, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes**

February 11, 2008, Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports/Communications**

1. Planning Commission Minutes - 12/20/07, 1/7/08 & 1/22/08; 2. Building Permit Report - 01/08; 3. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes - 1/8/08; 4. Ada Historical Society Minutes - 1/12/08; 5. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes - 1/10/08; 6. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 2/1/08 & 2/8/08.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, 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 \$2,770.40; #205 \$107.49; #208 \$399.03; #590 \$35.35; #591 \$35.36; #592 \$1.44. Total Hand Checks \$3,349.07. Warrants: #101 \$18,421.03; #205 \$37,090.37; #208 \$838.00; #590 \$102,161.85; #591 \$134,919.80; #592 \$54.14. Total Warrants \$293,485.19. Total Checks and Warrants \$296,834.26.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve the Warrant Report of February 25, 2008, in the amount of \$296,834.26.** Clarifications were made regarding the Bio-Care, Inc. expense for Fire Department physical exams and for Siegal Products expense for the park computer, assessor computer and back-up tape issues. **Roll Call: Yes - Sytsma, Westra, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Proos, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jon Sarb, 590 River Street, requested the board notify the public as to the status of the charrette process and include past and potential cost.

**BOARD COMMENT**

Trustee Proos stated he had hit a pothole and damaged a tire. He inquired about possible reimbursements of vehicle damage from potholes and from mailbox damage from snowplows.

Trustee Westra suggested allowing the Convention Bureau to have a video feed from Roselle Park.

Supervisor Haga distributed information from the township assessor regarding the differences between taxable value and assessed value; adding the report explains even though assessed values decrease, the taxable values could increase, causing an increase in property taxes. The Supervisor reported the Road Commission will be going through the entire county to evaluate the condition of all the primary roads and the report should be available in April, adding interim pothole patching will continue. Also, adding the DEQ will be issuing permits regarding the Saddleback Sewer, and the permit for the apartment project has been processed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

NO OLD BUSINESS

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION R-022508-2 - ROAD CLOSURE ARTS IN ADA DAY**

Jim Ferro, Arts Council board member, announced Arts in Ada was scheduled for May 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Arts Council was requesting the township board to initiate a road closure request. **Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to adopt Resolution R-022508-2, which is a resolution for the road closure for Arts in Ada Day, to be held on Saturday, May 17, from 9 am to 4 pm, with the road closure to be Bronson Street from Ada Drive to the covered bridge.** Clerk Ensing Millhuff noted the insurance certificate was needed. **Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Proos, Ensing Millhuff, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - 0. Resolution adopted.**

**ADA TOWNSHIP LAWN CARE**

Supervisor Haga explained two bids had been received and the low bid had come from Zach's, the current contractor. Zach's had been performing very well, and there had been no complaints. The proposed bid was only an increase of 7% from the amount three years ago. It was also noted the \$101,520 bid was still about \$4,000 less than the lowest bid from three years ago. **Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to postpone action on the township grounds maintenance services, until the March 10 board meeting.** There was discussion among board members regarding the methods of advertising and obtaining bids and the time frame required to seek additional bids. **Motion carried.**

## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AMENDMENT

Supervisor Haga explained the request by the Ethics Committee to change the requirement for having an attorney present for Ethics Board public meetings from mandatory to an as-needed basis. **Moved by Damstra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the recommended amendment to the Township of Ada Standards of Conduct regarding Section 4, Item 1C, to read that the Ethics Board shall request the township attorney be present in a public meeting as needed. Motion carried.**

## RESOLUTION R-022508-1 - VIDEO SERVICE LOCAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR AT&T

Jessica Wood, Law Weathers and Richardson, explained the resolution regarding the Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act. The current proposal is for the delegation resolution, which authorizes the supervisor, clerk and treasurer to fill in the blanks of the permit. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to adopt Resolution R-022508-1, which is the Video Services Local Franchise Agreement for AT&T authorizing resolution.** There were questions/comments from board members regarding the disrepair of the AT&T building facility on the corner of Thornapple River Drive and Ada Drive, involvement of the Technology and Communications committee, the difference between this technology and cable, the new boxes to be installed alongside the old ones, possible screening of equipment, the Township's percentage of revenue, and PEG fees. Ms. Wood also explained they would be recommending consideration of a right-of-way ordinance within the next few months. **Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Proos, Ensing Millhuff, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - 0. Resolution adopted.**

## ADA TOWNSHIP TRAILS - PHASE II, KNAPP AND HONEY CREEK SECTION

Planning Director Ferro presented information regarding the neighborhood informational meeting held on January 31, 2008; adding each resident along the route on Knapp St had been notified and there were about 47 residents present. Mr. Ferro stated based on the input received at the meeting Moore & Bruggink had performed additional trail and safety analysis of the alignment on Knapp. The trail committee met on February 13, and based on the analysis and safety concerns the committee recommended proceeding with an alignment of the trail on the south side of Knapp Street, as recommended by the engineer.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Doug White, 6626 Knapp Street, was concerned residents were surprised by the recommendation to place the trail on the south-side of Knapp. Mr. White added residents in the area may have voted differently if they had known about the placement change; adding he was requesting the board to postpone any action and additional research be done.

Joe Wilson, 6750 Knapp Street, also suggested postponing any decision on the trail. He stated residents attending the trail committee meeting were disappointed they were not able to speak until after the vote had taken place. Surveying had not taken place on the north side of the road, and not enough study was done regarding the placement change; adding he had voted for the trail based on being told the placement would be on the north-side of Knapp St.

Trustee Proos asked if board members would be voting tonight, and Supervisor Haga replied this was presented for informational purposes only.

Dolores White, 6626 Knapp, stated she had voted for the trail because she was told it would be placed on the north-side of the street. Stating she went to the informational meeting with an open mind, but there was no comparison done by the engineers as to why the south-side was better than the north; adding she thought the next meeting was an open meeting, but the committee voted before taking any public input.

Gayle Platte, 7095 Knapp, stated her property was on the north-side of the street and she wanted to be considered also, not just lumped in with the country club; adding someone shouldn't vote for something just because it wasn't in their yard.

Planning Director Ferro stated the engineer's analysis was on feasibility and cost, short and doing a more in-depth survey and analysis would be cost-prohibitive increasing design costs. A 2-foot contour topographic map from the REGIS system was used to enable the engineers to do an accurate assessment of areas which would require extensive fill, retaining walls, and boardwalks. The engineer's project different in cost was minor, and the recommendation was based on safety, not on cost.

Trustee Westra, member of the Trail Committee, reiterated what he stated at both the trail meeting and public information meeting stating the board and community have an overwhelming responsibility to place the safety of residents at the top of the list of considerations when undertaking any project of this type and therefore in good conscience, could not support placement of the trail on the north-side of Knapp St..

Trustee Damstra stated he had heard very positive feedback and the trail was a significant benefit to the community. Asking fellow board members to carefully review all the facts and requesting everyone do so prior to releasing information. Mr. Damstra stated he didn't recall any information confirming which side of the street the trail would be placed on before the millage vote.

Supervisor Haga stated he didn't believe there was any intent to deceive anyone regarding the ballot proposal and the map was done to depict possible trail locations.

Trustee Westra suggested future strategies might be to place the trail down the middle of the street and put in language this was the corridor but it was unknown at this time which side of the street.

Doug White stated if the matter was postponed, he would like the opportunity to prove to the board why Trustee Westra's comments were incorrect.

Joe Wilson stated the Ada Township website still shows the trail route on the north side of the street.

Trustee Proos stated he had watched the whole process take place and he felt that no matter how the end product turned out, the trail was

absolutely needed adding, safety is of utmost importance and the trail system will be a legacy by the current board for current and future resident's to enjoy.

NO BOARD ACTION TAKEN

**MOTION TO PROCEED INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY LEGAL OPINION**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to proceed into closed session to discuss township attorney legal opinion. Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Proos, Pratt, Haga, Ensing Millhuff, Westra, Sytsma. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to return to regular session. Motion carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dennis Hart, 200 Taos, expressed concern regarding possible development of a 13-acre plot between Rolling Brook and Taos. Stating he had presented a petition to the Planning Commission during the work on the master plan; he had been assured the Planning Commission had heard them "loud and clear," and then the approval of the plan was given approximately 90 days ago. He said residents in the area were surprised to receive notification of a meeting by the developer regarding a proposed condo plan development and a new petition was circulated since the master plan has not been amended. Mr. Hart stated there is additional concern undeveloped land could be prime targets and other areas in the township where this type of development would better fit. He strongly urged board members to reject any and all master plan amendments allowing higher density.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC  
Ada Township Clerk**

RS: JS