

**ADA TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Clerk Burton, Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee Smith, Trustee Westra, Trustee Sytsma, Trustee Proos (arrived at 7:36). Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Fire Chief DuVall, Recording Secretary Johnson and nine community members. Members absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Haga noted one change to the agenda. Under "VIII - New Business", Item F - Ada Township Phone System Approval Request was deleted pending some additional information; it is anticipated to be on the Agenda for the February 22nd meeting. **Moved by Sytsma, supported by Westra, to approve the agenda as amended. Yes - 6, No - 0; Motion carried.**

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

January 25, 2010, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Planning Commission Minutes - 12/17/2009, 01/07/2010; 2. Sheriff Report - 4th Quarter 2009, Annual 2009; 3. Region 8 Notes - 01/2010; 4. Kent District Library Minutes - 12/17/2009; 5. Fire Department 2009 Annual Report; 6. Comcast Lineup Change - 01/25/2010; 7. Utility Director Report - 01/2010; 8. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 01/15/2010, 01/22/2010. **Moved by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Minutes and accept the reports and communications under the Consent Agenda.** Trustee Smith asked for clarification of a few points on the correspondence. Trustee Westra requested the Utility Report be presented to the Board at a later date. **Yes - 6, No - 0; Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT OTHER THAN AGENDA

There was no Public Comment.

Trustee Proos arrived at 7:36 pm.

BOARD COMMENT

Regarding the potential closure of M-21 for bridge replacement, Trustee Westra urged all the stakeholders immediately get together with M-DOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) to determine the best option and put it immediately into action. He suggested a mini-charrette as a possible process to handle this.

Trustee Smith noted the recent call by Grand Rapids Mayor Hartwell to unify regional governments to consolidate services. She was highly opposed to any plan that would bring Ada under the Grand Rapids management umbrella. She also commented on a February 7th article in the *Grand Rapids Press*, which outlined the impact of falling property values on reduced tax revenue for local government, and pointed out the cited list of residential assessment declines show Ada Township has suffered the smallest drop of all on the local governments listed.

Clerk Burton outlined the early preparations that are currently ongoing to ensure the Farmer's Market is planned and executed smoothly for the coming warm weather. She noted there is a meeting for returning vendors on February 23rd at the Community Church; the plan for the 2010 season will be presented before being made public. She remarked on the large number of new vendors calling the Township and expressing interest.

Trustee Sytsma echoed Trustee Westra's call for a workshop with M-DOT to address the bridge replacement in a manner that prevents full bridge closure. She commended the Clerk for the money she has saved the township.

Trustee Proos thanked Planning Director Ferro for his work with Montreux Condominium Association on the possibility of making an alternate route available from the hill on 3 Mile during icy conditions; he asked him to continue to pursue this issue.

Trustee Proos was encouraged by the status of the donations toward the covered bridge project.

In regards to the possible closure of the M-21 bridge, Trustee Proos recommended the Township investigate all options and determine the best option before meeting with M-DOT in order to be able to present a united and determined front. He said it was important to move quickly.

Supervisor Haga noted the Ada Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has a special meeting scheduled Monday, February 22nd, at 8:30 to discuss the M-21 bridge closure. Supervisor Haga has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, February 24th, at 3:30 with the Supervisor of Forest Hills, the East Precinct Commander, Committee Members, other affected local government officials and key stakeholders to have a brainstorming session on this issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF A PAID ON-CALL FIRE FIGHTER

Fire Chief Jim DuVall outlined the recommendation to appoint Christopher Rothwell as a paid on-call fire fighter. Mr. Rothwell recently completed his Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Medical First Responder Training. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to concur with the recommended appointment of Christopher Rothwell as a paid on-call fire fighter.** Trustee Westra asked if it would be possible if recommended appointees be present when the Board votes so the Board has an opportunity to meet them and put names with faces. **Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion carried.**

REQUEST TO APPROVE PARTIAL PRE-PAYMENT FOR FIREWORKS CELEBRATION FOR 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY

Supervisor Haga introduced the request for payment to Zambelli Fireworks for 50% of the total cost for the 2010 Fourth of July fireworks display. Supervisor Haga noted the actual festivities and fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 3rd. He outlined that the contract is for \$12,000 for the total cost of the display, but that Cascade Township has again agreed to bear half of the costs. Pre-payment of half of the total cost of the show secures the desired date, which is very much in demand. **Moved by Proos, supported by Smith, to approve the contract with Zambelli for the Fourth of July fireworks scheduled for July 3rd.**

The Board discussed what is offered in response to the 50% deposit payment as well as obtaining a detailed description of exactly what is included in the show for the price, and potentially putting the contract out to bid for the 2011 show to be in alignment with purchasing policy. The Board emphasized the importance of a safe, quality show and considered Zambelli's excellent national record and outstanding service to Ada in previous years. In addition, it was noted a two or three week delay in providing the down payment could jeopardize the scheduling of the fireworks with Zambelli's. **Yes - 6, No - 1; Motion carried.**

PETITION TO STRIKE PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM TAX ROLL

Treasurer Rhoades presented his petition to strike delinquent and uncollectible personal property taxes from the rolls for 2004. **Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the recommendation by Treasurer Rhoades to strike \$261.24 from the personal property tax rolls as outlined in his proposal.**

The Board briefly reviewed the challenges in the attempts already made to collect the delinquent taxes in the past six years.

Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion carried.

ORDINANCE O-021710-1, TO AMEND THE ADA TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

Planning Director Ferro presented the proposed Ordinance to amend the existing zoning ordinance and zoning map, affecting the Township's Agricultural (AG) district. The changes include replacement of the existing Agricultural AG district regulations with three new districts: Agricultural Preservation (AGP), Rural Preservation-1 (RP-1), and Rural Preservation-2 (RP-2). In addition, there have been changes to the PUD (Planned Urban Development) regulations to permit PUDs in the AGP and RP-1 zoning districts to have a higher density than normally permitted, if at least 40% of the land in the development site is permanently preserved open space. The intent of the changes is to implement policy recommendations contained in the adopted 2007 Township Master Plan. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to adopt Ordinance O-021710-1, which is an ordinance to amend the Ada Township Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission.** Tom Korth, Chairman of the Planning Commission, summarized the process of reviewing the zoning ordinance changes, obtaining public input, and meeting the goal of maintaining the rural character of the Township while addressing the needs of the residents. He noted there is a new requirement that any developer or homeowner interested in using the PUD process meet with the zoning commission at the beginning of the process to improve communications and understanding of the ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ORDINANCE O-021710-1, TO AMEND THE ADA TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

Nevin Zolenski, 5631 Three Mile, expressed concern about keeping the natural beauty of Ada Township. He commended the Planning Commission for their hard work and said the proposal was a beautiful compromise. He urged adoption of the zoning changes.

BOARD COMMENT ON ORDINANCE O-021710-1, TO AMEND THE ADA TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

The Board reviewed the recommended changes and explored various examples of potential development. They discussed economic impact, the approval process, open space preservation, and the interest and support by neighboring Townships. The Board members commended the Planning Commission on the successful efforts to meet the various needs of development vs. preserving rural beauty and the wise choices to include the PUD option and institute the pre-application conference for PUD applicants.

Roll Call: Yes - Sytsma, Westra, Proos, Smith, Burton, Rhoades, Haga. No - 0. Absent - 0. Ordinance is adopted.

RESOLUTION R-021710-1, ROAD CLOSURE FOR ARTS IN ADA DAY CELEBRATION

Moved by Smith, supported by Westra, to adopt Resolution R-021710-1, which is request for road closure for Arts in Ada Day. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Smith, Sytsma, Proos, Rhoades, Burton, Haga. No - 0. Absent - 0. Resolution is adopted.

RESOLUTION R-021710-2, REGARDING THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF THE M-21 BRIDGE OVER THE GRAND RIVER IN ADA TOWNSHIP

Planning Director Ferro presented the Resolution to the Board. The Resolution states M-DOT should make every reasonable effort to complete the bridge replacement project in a manner that maintains traffic access across the bridge and M-DOT should conduct a thorough evaluation of the economic and public safety impacts of a full closure of the bridge before committing to such a closure. The Board discussed and agreed the language in the Resolution was not strong enough. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to not adopt Resolution R-021710-2, which is a Resolution regarding the proposed replacement of the M-21 bridge, until the language in the Resolution can be strengthened.** Trustee Proos noted that Supervisor Haga had set the tone for moving on considering alternatives to the closure of the bridge; he called for rapid progress on this issue. Trustee Westra agreed with the need for fast action, but urged all stakeholders be gathered together at the same time. Supervisor Haga asked Trustee Westra compile a package of the costs and timing for a mini-charrette as suggested by Trustee Westra. **Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Rhoades, Burton, Haga. No - 0. Absent - 0. Resolution is not adopted.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk

RS/kj