

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
MARCH 10, 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 and Westra. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Recording Secretary Smith and 12 community members. Members absent: Trustee Sytsma.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deleted from the agenda: Warrant Report. Added to the agenda under New Business: Item D - Grounds Maintenance Bids.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 2008-1**

Supervisor Haga noted that he had handed out an amended agreement that was agreeable to the corporation.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to move into public hearing regarding the matter of Industrial Development District 2008-1.**

Eric VanDellen from Alticor explained the proposed upgrade project. There was no public comment.

**Moved by Pratt, supported by Damstra, to close the public hearing on the Industrial Development District 2008-1. Motion carried.**

**1.RESOLUTION R-031008-1 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR ALTICOR, INC.**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to adopt Resolution R-031008-1, which is the resolution establishing the Industrial Development District for Alticor 2008-1. Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Westra, Haga, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Proos. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Resolution adopted.**

**B. APPLICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (IFT)**

**Moved by Damstra, supported by Proos, to move into public hearing regarding the application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (IFT) regarding District 2008-1.**

Eric VanDellen, Alticor, explained the application was part of the tax abatement process and Alticor was requesting a 50% abatement for 12 years for the personal property stating the equipment would allow product processing for the length of the contract adding they were looking for a 10-year commitment from the company. Mr. VanDellen stated the overall investment with the building upgrade would be approximately \$9.6 million. The application included a list of the equipment included for the request.

There was no public comment.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Pratt, to close the public hearing regarding the application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate regarding District 2008-1. Motion carried.**

**1. RESOLUTION R-031008-2 - RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION OF ALTICOR, INC. FOR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE.**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to adopt Resolution R-031008-2, which is a resolution approving the application of Alticor, Inc. for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate.**

Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated the board had historically approved PA198 applications and with employment concerns within Michigan it would benefit the community and bring additional employment opportunity.

Trustee Westra inquired whether this would have any impact on the discussions regarding the potential for a DDA. Supervisor Haga replied didn't believe it would impact a DDA but it could have a positive impact on tax revenues.

Mr. VanDellen further explained if Alticor obtains the bid and their goal would be to start production by late spring or early summer of 2009.

**Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Haga, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Proos, Damstra. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Resolution adopted.**

**2. AGREEMENT REGARDING GRANTING OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

Supervisor Haga explained this was a revised agreement with provisions for the event of the project ceasing before the conclusion of the abatement period.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve the agreement regarding the granting of a tax abatement certificate to Alticor, Inc. Motion carried.**

**C. FY 2008/2009 ADA TOWNSHIP BUDGETS**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Damstra, to proceed into public hearing regarding the fiscal year 2008-2009 Ada Township budgets. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Haga summarized the projected revenues and expenses of each fund as follows:

Fund:	Anticipated Revenue:	Anticipated Expenses:
101 - General Fund	1,904,204	2,022,992
205 - Public Safety	932,150	822,638
208 - Ada Park Arboretum	466,563	275,683
	(Note: 31% transfer in from parks open space to Ada park arboretum)	
211 - Trails	503,518	1,885,963

213 - Parks and Open Space	380,090	232,887
249 - Building Dept.	41,700	22,780
590 - Township Sewer System	826,380	954,459
591 - Township Water System	1,634,015	1,880,987
592 - Grand Valley Estates	81,000	91,780

There was no public comment.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to close the public hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 budgets. Motion carried.**

Trustee Proos stated due to the economic environment in Michigan the township needed continue to be very conservative in the way it spends money.

Trustee Westra stated the information was important and needed to be put on the website in graphic form.

Trustee Damstra noted the budget was increased from the original proposal to incorporate Ada's share of the paving of Thornapple River Drive.

Supervisor Haga noted there was an increase in general spending related to technology updates.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained the Michigan Township Association was an excellent information source and has an attorney available every Thursday when any member can ask questions at no additional fee; suggesting to save money MTA be contacted prior to any additional paid consultant.

### GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

##### Approval of Minutes

February 25, 2008, Regular Board Meeting

##### Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Financial Report - 01/08; 2. Urban Cooperation Board Minutes - 02/20/07; 3. Utility Advisory Board Minutes - 01/17/08; 4. Petition Regarding Master Plan Designation between Carl Drive and Taos - 02/13/08; 5. REGIS Minutes - 01/23/08; 6. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 02/22/08.

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

#### APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS

It was noted that the Warrant Report had not been distributed.

##### **A. ADA TRAILS CONTRACT 1 PAY RECOMMENDATION #6**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to approve Ada Trails Contract 1, Pay Recommendation #6, in the amount of \$38,318.50. Roll Call: Yes - Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Proos, Damstra, Westra. No - 0 . Absent - Sytsma.**

##### **B. ROSELLE PARK SILO LOOKOUT PAY RECOMMENDATION #4**

There was discussion among board members regarding the camera system, not yet working properly, and the possibility of withholding part of the payment.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to postpone action on the Roselle Park Silo Lookout Pay Recommendation #4 for two weeks. Motion carried.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### BOARD COMMENT

Treasurer Pratt congratulated members of the Planning Commission, Clerk Ensing Millhuff, Trustee Westra and Receptionist Cassie Rupke for completing the MSU Citizen Planner classes.

Trustee Damstra suggested a work session be placed on the calendar to discuss best practices. Supervisor Haga stated he would like to receive a list of areas to be discussed. Clerk Ensing Millhuff suggested MTA as a good resource. Supervisor Haga suggested referring the issue to the Administrative Committee

## OLD BUSINESS

### THORNAPPLE RIVER DRIVE PAVING

Planning Director Ferro summarized the boards previous discussions regarding participating financially with the Kent County Road Commission in repaving Thornapple River Drive, even though Thornapple is a primary road and the sole responsibility of the County. Other issues with the project include the County's refusal to allow some of the design suggestions resulting from the charrette process.

**Moved by Westra, seconded by Ensing Millhuff, to approve the recommendation to cost-share the portion of Thornapple River Drive for repaving from Fulton to the Thornapple River Bridge, with the township's share of the cost estimate at \$115,490.**

There was discussion among board members regarding crosswalks, the planned train trestle widening, township residents paying double, the fact the Township's hands are tied, the condition of other roads in the county, the State's budget problems, the County's inflexibility in adopting charrette suggestions, setting precedent, the possibility of something being done about roads on a state level regarding funding, the responsibility for funding, this roadway being the heart of the community, the fact that the County is willing to spend money for the train trestle (which the residents do not want) but not for the roads which are their responsibility, the fact that the County has set aside funds to do half of this project, and the possibility of shifting funds from public safety funds.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Ippel, owner of Ada Bike Shop, 597 Ada Drive, stated he has been frustrated with this issue since last Spring, that he wished a lot of things were different, including the State's economy, the Road Commission, etc., and the only way this road will get fixed is if the board votes this through.

Frank Swanson, 7212 Thornapple River, his house and business were on Thornapple Rive Dr and he was disgusted with the road conditions and nothing was being done because he was losing business due to people avoiding the street.

Norm Rhoades, 571 Rookway, said new asphaltting of the road would benefit small businesses in the "Village" and the bicycle race sponsored by Mr. Ipple.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated everyone on the board believed the paving needed to be done, but the board members were frustrated because the taxpayers would have to pay twice to get it done; adding residents already pay the taxes which go to cover the expenses of "primary" roads which are the total responsibility of the KCRC to maintain and repave adding this would take additional tax funds out of the pockets of the township residents whom already pay one of the highest gas tax rates in the country.

Trustee Westra stated all taxpayers in Kent County have paid their responsibility to Kent County, but those tax dollars were not enough to keep up with the demand.

Trustee Proos said that his biggest concern was setting a precedent by spending township general fund money for a project the Ada taxpayers were not responsible for.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to amend the motion to include a not to exceed amount of \$116,000 for the paving project from Fulton to the bridge. Trustee Westra called for the vote. Motion to amend carried. Main motion, as amended, carried.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### RESOLUTION R-031008-3 - ADA TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE FY 08/09

Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained the meeting schedule had gone to the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals for their review, noting the dates in red with asterisks will be taken as vacation time by staff. **Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to adopt Resolution R-031008-3, which is the Ada Township Meeting Schedule for FY 08/09. Roll Call: Yes - Pratt, Haga, Damstra, Proos, Ensing Millhuff, Westra. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Resolution adopted.**

### RESOLUTION R-031008-4 - ADA TOWNSHIP STREET LIGHTING CHANGE

Supervisor Haga noted that this item had previously been approved but that Consumers Energy requires a resolution. **Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to adopt Resolution R-031008-4, which is the Ada Township Street Lighting Change with Consumers Energy for the streetlight at Buttrick and Thornapple River Drive. Roll Call: Yes - Proos, Damstra, Pratt, Haga, Ensing Millhuff, Westra. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Resolution adopted.**

### ORDINANCE O-031008-1 - AMENDMENT TO C-1 DISTRICT RULES TO PERMIT SCOOTER SALES

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to adopt Ordinance O-031008-1, which is an amendment to the C-1 District Rules to permit scooter sales. Roll Call: Yes - Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Westra, Pratt, Proos, Damstra. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Ordinance adopted.**

#### **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE BIDS**

**Supervisor Haga explained that nine bids had been received and that it was in the best interest to retain Clean Cut for a three-year period in the amount of \$106,000.**

**Moved by Pratt, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to authorize contracting with Clean Cut for a three-year grounds maintenance and lawn mowing in the amount of \$106,000.**

There was discussion among board members regarding math errors and lack of references in the bids submitted, buying "local," the sensitivity of care for the cemeteries, positive feedback regarding the current contractor, previous history of the cheapest not providing acceptable services, previous damage to gravesite markers, cemetery charges, and comparison of the bids. **Trustee Proos called the question. Motion carried.**

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gail Platte, 7095 Knapp, inquired about the status of the trail placement along Knapp Street. Supervisor Haga stated there was not a formal vote, and the engineers had pursued placement on the south side of the street.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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