

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

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Clerk Burton and Treasurer Rhoades, Trustees: Proos, Smith, and Westra, Sytsma. Also present, Recording Secretary Alt, and 35 community members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the Revised Tentative Agenda as presented. Yes - 7; No - 0; Absent - 0. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

March 9, 2009 Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Building Permit Report 1/09; 2. DDA Minutes 2/13/09, 3/5/09; 3. Kent County Update 2/26/09; 4. Wetlands Foundation of West Michigan \$1,000 Grant 2/23/09; 5. Comcast Update 2/27/09, 3/9/09, 3/12/09; 6. MTA Legislative Update Fax 2/13/09; 7. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes; 8. Stead E-Mail Heliport Issues 3/23/09; 9. Zuidema E-Mail - Trail Matters 3/22/09.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve the minutes and accept reports and communications under the Consent Agenda. Yes - 7; No - 0; Absent - 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS

Treasurer Rhoades presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$7,734.97; #205 \$487.41; #208 \$504.89; #590 \$371.79; #591 \$1,174.13; #592 \$1.61. Total Hand Checks 10,274.80. Warrants: #101 \$11,123.91; #205 \$38,109.43; #208 \$1,471.24; #211 \$29,019.02; #213 720.35; #590 \$76,749.37; #591 \$90,360.54; #592 \$2,786.85. Total Warrants \$250,340.71. Total checks and warrants \$260,615.51. **Moved by Proos, supported by Smith, to approve the Warrant Report of March 23, 2009, in the amount of \$260,615.51. Roll Call: Yes - Trustees Smith, Westra, Sytsma, Proos, Clerk Burton, Treasurer Rhoades, Supervisor Haga. No - 0; Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Zuidema, 9081 Conservation St., commented on a Grand Rapids Press article about Mike Cox regarding the monies that may be coming to the Township. She presented to Supervisor Haga a petition with an additional 500 signatures; many of the petition signatures came from people who fell on hard times due to the economy. She expressed her concerns regarding the funding and budget for the trail project, and the Natural Beauty Road status of Bailey Drive.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Westra commented regarding the on-going issue and time frame for the clean up of the graffiti on the railroad tresses saying he had a number of residents asking when the clean up will take place. He commented on the sewer break along Adaway, questioning the time frame for clean up. Supervisor Haga responded he had not heard back from the railroad regarding the graffiti issues. Supervisor Haga clarified it was a water break, not a sewer break; adding he does not yet have a time frame from the contractor. Westra suggested we hold payment on contract work till all clean-up and repair have been completed.

Clerk Burton commented on the Heliport Ordinance Referendum concerning action the Board must take. She added according to the Zoning Enabling Act and State Elections Law, the Referendum can be offered at the August 2010 primary, the next regular election, or the Board could offer the Referendum as a special election conducted on any of the following dates; 8/4/09; 11/3/09; 2/23/2010 and 5/4/2010. The entire cost of the special elections would be the responsibility of the Township where the August 2010 election is a State sponsored election (the gubernatorial primary), so the Township wouldn't incur any additional costs if the Referendum were added. Clerk Burton stated at the next meeting, 4/13, the Board will need to make the election date decision.

Trustee Smith asked if the Board had any idea how people submitting the petition felt about this. Supervisor Haga stated the Referendum election date would be an agenda item at the next meeting, in the form of a

recommendation from the Administrative Committee. Westra asked if there needs to be additional data gathering regarding the desires of the petitioners and the rest of the township, regarding this type of expense and timeline. Haga stated the decision would be made by the Board. Westra stated due to interest by the community for the township to be fiscally responsible, he would like to have a hearing held.

Trustee Sytsma stated she had planned to hand out a packet of information from the Planning Commission; however, the copy machine was not working. She stated the Planning Commission will hold a full day work session on Wednesday, March 25, to work on their prioritized list of projects.

Trustee Proos confirmed the work session of the Trail Committee and Board for Wednesday, March 25, 7:00pm at Central Woodlands. He added now is the time for people to get out and help clean up the community by picking up junk and trash while walking our trails. He stated to Supervisor Haga he will get a power washer and set up a date and time to clean up the graffiti on the railroad tresses with John Westra.

Supervisor Haga presented a plaque given to the Township from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan; recognizing Ada Township and the Open Space Community for their dedication and commitment to the preservation of West Michigan's natural beauty by establishing the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

ADA TOWNSHIP STAFF SALARY RECOMMENDATION

Supervisor Haga summarized the plan recommended by the Personnel Committee for a staff salary increase of 3% for fiscal year 2009/2010, adding the raise is based on the US Labor Dept CPI of 3.8%. He also stated that the raise would depend on a favorable employee performance review. Treasurer Rhoades responded saying the increase is justified.

Moved by Burton, Supported by Rhoades to approve the recommendation made by the Personnel Committee for the staff salary increase of 3% for fiscal year 2009/2010. Trustee Westra made comments on the compensation of our Assessor; that we need to keep looking for qualified professionals, look at what we offer as benefits for part time employees, and asked what the ramifications would be if the township were not in compliance due to not having a Qualified Level III Assessor.

Moved by Westra, Supported by Proos to amend main motion to approve the salary increases except for the assessor; and to leave assessors salary at current rate with follow up review after 90 days for any or all alternatives for adjustment or changes. Yes - 7; No - 0. Amendment to the Motion carried. The Main Motion as amended: Yes – 7; No – 0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION R-032309-1, FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 BUDGET ADOPTION

Moved by Proos, Supported by Rhoades to adopt Resolution-R032309-1 as presented. Haga summarized changes: a change from \$550,000 to \$150,000 to be transferred from the General fund to the Trail fund. Also, elected officials' salary freeze for two years, as recommended by the Compensation Commission, wasn't reflected in the original budget. There was discussion on whether to treat transfers as loans.

Moved by Westra, Supported by Sytsma to amend the motion to remove the \$150,000 transfer from General Fund(#101) to Trail Fund (#211) until further evaluation related to what the Board wants to accept. Roll call; Yes – Trustees Westra, Smith, Proos, Sytsma, Treasurer Rhoades, Clerk Burton, Supervisor Haga; No - 0; Absent - 0. Resolution is adopted as amended.

Supervisor Haga offered public comment in regards to Resolution to adopt the budget.

Stephan Ibanez, Greentree Lane., commented he needed some clarification; if the \$150,000 amendment had not passed, how would that affect the budget? Trustee Proos stated what historically the township has done over the last two phases of the trail, coming in under or very close to the budget, and the township has been strict in exercising diligent oversight of the project.

Michelle Zuidema, 9081 Conservation St., had questions about millage for the trails, the budget amendment, and grant information concerning the bridges.

LEONARD FIELD IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Park Director Mark Fitzpatrick summarized the irrigation system, commenting they will come under budget for this project, and money will be saved in staff time with the addition of this irrigation system.

Moved by Westra, Supported by Smith to award bid to Aquarius Lawn Sprinkling in the amount of \$4,275. Proos wanted to go on record as saying he would rather go with the Ada company which was \$25 lower, but what he likes about Aquarius Lawn Sprinkling is their 5 year warranty and on-off service. Westra added they are already one of our vendors, and have done a great job. **Yes - 7; No - 0; Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION R-032309-2, OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD AMENDMENT TO R-030909-A MEETING DATE CHANGE

Meeting date change from April 9, 2009 to April 16, 2009.

Moved by Westra, Supported by Sytsma to adopt Resolution R-032309-2. Roll call; Yes - Trustees Smith, Sytsma, Proos, Westra, Treasurer Rhoades. Clerk Burton, Supervisor Haga; No - 0; Absent - 0. Resolution is adopted.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephan Ibanez, Greentree Lane, wanted some clarification on the Trail Committee/Board work session, and wanted to know what to expect. Supervisor Haga responded they will review the funding aspects of the project, and the natural beauty designation of Bailey Drive. Haga stated issues discussed at the work session can follow with public comment, but no decisions will be made or action taken. Proos stated the intent of the meeting was to get the Trail Committee, the Board and the public together to discuss the trails, a project that has been so beneficial to the community. Mr. Ibanez discussed the "Recovery and Reinvestment Act, adding money is available to the community for Broad Band service, equipment and training. Haga commented it will be looked at by the Board.

Deb Emery, 7534 Fase St., asked what days of the week the assessor is in the office. Haga responded Tuesdays, Thursdays and sometimes on Fridays.

Steve Hall, 8115 Bailey Dr. stated he feels the communication/website for the community is poor. Clerk Burton responded the website is in transition and will be updated on a regular basis. Trustee Westra responded there is an interim site that will be in place soon, and the new website is currently being worked on with a tentative launch date of July 4, 2009. Trustee Westra stated there will be an electronic newsletter in addition to hard copies of the Adaview. Mr. Hall stated his issues regarding the millage from a legal standpoint, whether it's legally possible to change what the community voted on and approved.

Mark Fitzpatrick, Director of Ada Township Parks & Recreation, gave a quick overview of the Forest Hills Community Expo held last Saturday (March 21, 2009). He stated it was a good turn out, and went over the activities that were offered at the function.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **9:01** p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk