

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2007**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Pratt, Clerk Ensing Millhuff, Trustees: Proos, Sytsma and Westra. Also present: Parks Director Tatar, Recording Secretary Smith and 33 community members. Members absent: Trustee Damstra.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deleted from the agenda under New Business: Item H - Eastbrook - Third Amendment to Settlement Agreement.

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

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

April 9, 2007, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Building Permit Report - 03/07; 2. Zoning Board of Appeals - 03/06/07; 3. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant - 03/19/07; 4. Kent County Road Commission - Act 50 of 1999 Reporting - 04/03/07; 5. Township Engineer - Thornapple River Drive Trail Update; 6. Township Master Plan Update - 04/11/07; 7. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 04/06/07 & 04/13/07; 8. Open Space Preservation Board Minutes - 03/06/07; 9. Kent District Library Minutes - 03/15/07; 10. Depiazza - Thank you Letter - 04/11/07.

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 \$3,992.49; #205 \$1,245.40; #208 \$1,462.70; #590 \$256.62; #591 \$728.38; #592 \$129.72. Total Hand Checks \$7,815.31. Warrants: #101 \$13,380.01; #205 \$30,337.31; #208 \$971.39; #401 \$6,365.00; #590 \$13,254.82; #591 \$10,212.75; #592 \$2,901.11. Total Warrants \$77,422.39. Total Checks and Warrants \$85,237.70.

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Proos, to approve the Warrant Report of April 23, 2007, in the amount of \$85,237.70. Supervisor Haga clarified the expense for water and a sewer contract service was not for Etna, but for Ryan's Municipal Services. **Roll Call: Yes - Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Haga. No - 0. Absent - Damstra. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edie Pettis, in commemoration of Earth Day, reminded the board it takes 500 years for nature to make an inch of soil. She noted Ada's old maps in regard to farms, trees, and mechanical equipment in agriculture and the importance of composting/recycling.

Bill Lievens, 1749 River Oaks Drive, Cascade Township, and officer of the Thornapple Association, explained the Association had asked its members to speak with demeanor and courtesy and they had strong reasons regarding the appropriateness of the purposed purchase of the property on the Thornapple Dam for public access.

Alan Moore, Ada resident, expressed concern about the intersection of Thornapple River Dr. / Buttrick Ave. and the potential for launching kayaks and canoes; stating there is a facility for that purpose at the Cascade dam. He would rather see the money go to develop Roselle Park along the Grand River.

Debbie De Jonge, 7004 Ada Drive, stated she had lived on two opposite ends of the Thornapple River. She stated the current holds so much gravity that it's "very dangerous". She stressed it's a river, not a lake, and it's beautiful with all the wildlife. There are safety issues with the road and ecological issues with the waterfall.

Jason Henry, 965 Thornapple River Drive, Ada, had concerns about the purchase; stating there were many safety concerns with the "dangerous" corner and speeding cars. He was concerned about the ecology of the river adding, he wondered who was going to pay for maintenance of a public access.

Dave VanderJagt, 1041 Thornapple Rive Drive, Ada, representing Thornapple Downs, pointed out he knew the Thornapple Downs lot was very dangerous but it was only intermittently used. He was concerned about the foot, auto and boat traffic if a park was put in. He stated the Township was doing a phenomenal job of green spaces for the area, but with the new parks being developed the money for this purchase could be put to a better use, stating the purchase of this property was not necessary and there was already enough public water access.

Edie Pettis, 1023 Pettis Avenue, stated she understood river residents feeling territorial about water access and concerns about additional water pollution, but the water belonged to the people. She stated the property should be open to the public and

encouraged the township to purchase for public access.

John Teerman, 1029 Thornapple River Drive, stated he had participated in the charrette and he didn't recall any ideas regarding this purchase. He stated there were other projects where the money could be put to better use.

Carolyn Sebasco, 1434 Hillsboro, Cascade Township, commented about ways to enforce or discourage loitering.

Norm Rhoades, 571 Rookway, asked for an update about the County's intent to purchase 95 acres for expansion of Chief Hazy Cloud Park. Supervisor Haga stated he thought they were still working on it.

Greg Forbes, Greentree, Ada Township, stated he didn't hear any additional issues other than the endangerment of a private monopoly. State law and statute states water is a public resource, and right now it's private. He added all the issues mentioned in this case would apply to all waterways. His charge to the board was to do the best by all members of the township, not just the property owners that live along the river and want only private use.

Steve Walton, 7251 Driftwood, Ada Township, stated in his opinion it was not fiscally responsible to spend the purposed amount for a piece of green space when there was already a significant amount of green space in the township. Adding, the money could be better spent elsewhere.

Steven Save, 7080 Ada Drive, Ada Township, stated the Thornapple River, Buttrick and Fase location was a pinch-point for both cars and bikes; adding the money would be better spent at Roselle Park.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Proos thanked the community for showing up and stated it was important to have community input; adding the issue of purchase was premature since the board had not yet received a recommendation. Trustee Proos also asked if there was any update regarding the Three Mile/Pettis Natural Beauty Road project. Supervisor Haga replied there had been one meeting with the Road Commission, but not much progress, adding the Public Works Committee had also met with four residents in the area. Trustee Proos asked for an update on the trails. Supervisor Haga stated a meeting was scheduled for April 24 at Forest Hills Eastern to meet with residents regarding the first phase of the trail. Trustee Proos asked about the status of the Rieth-Riley lawsuit. Supervisor Haga responded some work was still needed regarding the title and no document had yet been signed.

Trustee Westra stated the Open Space Advisory Board has worked hard to find properties, and the Parks Committee had also worked hard to add to open space and trails. He stated there had been a recommendation 20 years ago for the township to purchase the dam. He felt it would have made sense then, but not today.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff announced resident volunteers were needed to help for the 4th of July celebration.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-042307-1 - ROAD CLOSURE FOR ADA CRITERIUM BICYCLE RACE

Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to adopt Resolution R-042307-1, which is the authorization for road closure for the Ada Criterium Bicycle Race, scheduled for August 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jim Ippel, Ada Bike Shop, explained the biggest change this year is an earlier start and end, with the entire event lengthened by one hour. A charity event is planned in the middle of the day with all proceeds to go to DeVos Children's Hospital. Mr. Ippel had one meeting with the Road Commission and their plan was to patch and seal both Thornapple/Bronson roads as opposed to an overlay. As the issue was cost, he had asked for information regarding the amount. Due to safety concerns, if the roads are just patched and sealed, the entire event would probably be cancelled.

There were questions and comments by board members regarding past events, the township's spending priorities, conditions of the roads, the county's neglect, and safety.

Supervisor Haga clarified this is a primary road, and the Road Commission has 100% responsibility. Even though they're asking the township to contribute 40-50%, primary roads are technically and legally the county's responsibility.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained as a resident of Ada Township (or any township), the same taxes are paid at the gas pump as a resident of a city or village, yet cities and villages don't contribute *any* additional funds for road maintenance; Therefore if Ada were to pay for standard improvements/repairs on a primary road, the residents of the township would be "double-dipped" in taxes for that repair. She suggested Ada lend the money to the Road Commission with a payback over the next three years to resurface Thornapple River Dr.; adding there is legislation stating if a local Road Commission has been made aware of road damage and repairs do not take place in a timely manner and a citizen sustains damage to their vehicle due to non-repair the local county road commission and/or MDOT can be held liable for damages.

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

TOWNSHIP FERTILIZATION

Supervisor Haga explained there was not a recommendation because Parks Director Tatar had been on vacation. He explained he went to the three lowest bidders to rebid, and they were all cooperative.

Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Sytsma, to not apply any fertilizer to the township properties. Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to allow Supervisor Haga to refine the specifics of the weed abatement and make a decision that reflects the spirit of the board's discussion.

There were questions/comments by board members regarding the pros and cons of fertilization, phosphorous, slow-release fertilizer, impact on animals, mulching,

Parks Director Tatar explained she had been with the township nearly nine years, and when she started the ball fields were the only township properties being fertilized. Since starting fertilization of other properties four or five years ago, there has been a drastic improvement in the trees in the arboretum.

Motion to amend carried. Main motion, as amended, carried.

NEW BUSINESS

GRANT APPLICATION FOR MOBILE AND PORTABLE RADIOS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall explained Ada had been involved in this same grant program for the past five years. This year he recommended updating portable and mobile radios.

Moved by Pratt, supported by Westra, to pursue application for a grant to purchase mobile and portable radios for the Fire Department.

Fire/Rescue Chief Duvall explained the history of the grant process, started through FEMA and now through the Department of Homeland Security, to supply basic equipment to fire departments. Smaller communities have a 5% match, with the federal government paying 95%.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION R-042307-2 - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to adopt Resolution R-042307-2, which is the Emergency Medical Services Week. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Sytsma, Pratt, Proos. No - 0. Absent - Damstra. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION R-042307-3 - NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (EMSC) DAY

Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Sytsma, to adopt Resolution R-042307-3, which is National Emergency Medical Services for Children Day. Roll Call: Yes - Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Proos, Westra, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - Damstra. Resolution adopted.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON OPEN SPACE IN MONTREUX PUD DEVELOPMENT

Supervisor Haga explained this was part of the approval process for 4-single family lots on private road.

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Westra, to approve the conservation easement on open space in Montreux PUD Development. Trustee Sytsma added this was a portion of the property at the southeast corner of the entire development with a drastic slope and this property was not buildable. Motion carried.

LEONARD FIELD RESTROOM PROJECT

Joe Grochawalski, Omega Design services architect, explained they had run through the bid process and came out under budget. The recommendation was not for the lowest bidder because of inexperience. The recommendation was for Rivertown Contractors. Supervisor Haga noted this project was not part of the moratorium.

There were questions and comment from board members regarding the township-wide development moratorium and accepting the lowest bidder.

Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to accept the low bidder with the added provision the Supervisor negotiate with the trenching company for a less than \$10,000 quote or put the trenching out for public bid.

There was additional board comment/questions regarding the moratorium, park/rec plan, use of stainless steel vs. porcelain

Trustee Westra moved to call the vote. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED TO BIDDING - ROSELLE PARK SILO LOOKOUT

Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to proceed to bidding for the Roselle Park Silo Lookout.

There were questions/comments from board members regarding the silo lookout having been a suggestion from the Roselle Park charrette, the cost, details of the design, lighting, security, insurance and safety.

Wes Steer, explained the silos were saved from the demolition project because it was believed it could be a strong vertical element in a vast expanse of property as well as a focal point for the entry.

Motion carried.

GO!BUS SERVICE FUNDING

Supervisor Haga made one correction to the memorandum, stating the \$4,000 per month should read \$4,000 per quarter. He explained the history of using the GO!Bus program and the current status of the CDBG funds.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to supplant additional funds for the GO!Bus program as necessary up to 10,000 and if that amount is not sufficient to bring back to the board.

Gretchen Ballema, 3017 Boynton NE, stated her 28-year old daughter uses GO!Bus and it is her lifeline. She thanked the township for providing that.

Audrey Inman, Adacraft commons, stated her son rides the GO!Bus and it means a great deal to those with disabilities.

Kathy Shea, 481 Adapointe, stated her 24-year old son is an employee at Meijers and he would not be able to have a job without GO!Bus.

Terri Beadle stated she is an Ada Township resident and coaches Special Olympics. She is very appreciative of GO!Bus and what it means to her athletes.

Comments from the Clerk and Supervisor regarding the history of the Go!Bus within the township; more comments by board members regarding the need to continue the services and the responsibility of the township to provide them.

Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Wesley Steer, gave an update on the Roselle Park trail project, which is just getting started.

Norm Rhoades, stated he had spent some time walking around the Pettis Recycling Center and had not observed any rats as stated at a previous meeting; adding he had consulted with several people familiar with concrete recycling who stated due to strict regulations asbestos or formaldehyde was not a concern.

Supervisor Haga stated Planning Director Ferro had submitted a letter of resignation effective Friday April 27, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

RS: JS