

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 12, 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 Proos, Trustee Westra, Trustee Sytsma. Also present: Planning Director Jim Ferro, Fire Chief Jim DuVall, Recording Secretary Johnson and five community members. Members absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the agenda as presented. Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

March 22, 2010, Regular Board Meeting and March 29, 2010, Special Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Fire Call Reports - 03/2010; 2. Planning Commission Minutes - 02/18/2010; 3. Ada Township DDA Board Minutes - 03/01/2010; 4. Kent District Library Minutes - 02/18/2010; 5. REGIS Minutes - 02/24/2010; 6. The Michigan Public Policy Survey - 03/2010; 7. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 03/12/2010, 03/19/2010, 03/26/2010, 04/01/2010; 8. Zoning Enforcement Report - January - March 2010; 9. Treasurer's Investment Report - 02/28/2010. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the Minutes and accept the reports and communications under the Consent Agenda. Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS

Treasurer Rhoades presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$2,410.42; #205 \$25,314.76; #208 \$1,039.03; #590 \$3,954.00; #591 \$2,382.33; #592 \$383.85; Total All Hand Checks \$35,484.39. Warrants: #101 \$27,317.85; #205 \$32,117.27; #208 \$13,636.10; #211 \$301,879.55; #213 \$5.62; #248 \$1,045.32; #590 \$13,301.04; #591 \$6,163.03; #592 \$157.83; Total Warrants \$395,623.61. Total All Checks and Warrants \$431,108.00. **Moved by Trustee Smith, supported by Trustee Sytsma, to approve the Warrant Report for April 12, 2010, in the total amount of \$431,108.00.**

Trustee Smith requested clarification on the membership dues for the National Association for Interpretation; she inquired if a master list of all membership dues the Township is paying is available. Trustee Westra expressed interest in such a list; memberships often grant access to online materials, which could be useful. The Board discussed the charges for a lock replacement, the BS&A .Net update for the personal property software, the recycling of fluorescent light bulbs, the contingency allocation for the new fire truck, the purchase of a wireless keyboard and computer minitower, and the phone system costs paid from the previous fiscal year. Trustee Westra encouraged reducing legal costs. He suggested a monthly report of all expenses broadly categorized and compared to the previous month, previous quarter, and previous year to allow a snapshot of spending trends.

Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Rhoades, Burton, Haga. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT OTHER THAN AGENDA

There was no Public Comment.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Westra encouraged the Board to reassess the overall value offered by REGIS to Ada Township as opposed to obtaining the data and services elsewhere for lesser cost.

Trustee Westra noted the Kent County Sheriff's Department is canceling the bike rodeo safety event this year due to reduced participation and limited resources. Trustee Westra suggested the Township consider holding a bicycle safety event, particularly in light of the many biking options and events in Ada, the local bike shop in the village, and the high level of funds in the Public Safety Fund.

Trustee Smith inquired about the process for determining the priorities of which roads will be repaired with the money budgeted, particularly if 3 Mile hill would be prioritized. Supervisor Haga indicated he would be meeting with Planning Director Ferro and the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) to review the 2007 list of roads ranked by condition and begin creating priorities. He noted that the 3 Mile Hill issue was a project, not a road maintenance repair. After that meeting, Supervisor Haga will bring proposed priorities and prices to the Board. Trustee Smith asked that the road condition report be distributed to the Board. Trustee Proos strongly recommended Supervisor Haga and Planning Director Ferro review the state of the roads prior to the meeting with the Kent County Road Commissioners so that they can bring their own viewpoint to the report on the condition of the roads.

Supervisor Haga updated the Board on the status of the Millhuff unemployment claim. Documents have been filed with the Board of Review; Ms. Millhuff's attorneys have requested oral arguments based on the unique aspects of the case.

Supervisor Haga noted the Township Board is invited to a luncheon with the Kent County Road Commissioners to review the previous year's accomplishments and discuss current and future needs. Trustee Sytsma requested the Board be provided a copy of the proposed project list when it is completed.

Supervisor Haga reminded everyone to be alert to possible con artists that may be out in the community approaching residents and homeowners with potentially fraudulent proposals for home repair, etc. Contact the Township office to verify that a person has been granted a permit to solicit in Ada Township. Contact the Better Business Bureau with questions about potential contractors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LEAF BAG PURCHASE APPROVAL

Supervisor Haga presented the leaf bag purchase approval request with the additional information previously requested by the Township Board. He noted the leaf bag pickup company, Allied Waste, has not yet billed the Township for the 2009 service, although they will be billing shortly. In addition, he indicated the previous purchase of 20,000 leaf bags by the Township was a sufficient supply for four years. Mr. Todd Hentges, Operational Manager for Allied Waste, was present to answer any Board questions. **Moved by Smith, supported by Sytsma, to authorize the purchase of 20,000 leaf bags from Resourceful Bag and Tag in the amount of \$7,240.00.** Mr. Hentges indicated that Allied Waste is going to discount the cost of the 2009 services by 10% as an acknowledgement of the administrative delay in billing; changes have been made to correct this issue. The Board discussed continuation of the leaf bag program with a revision to recoup a larger portion or the total amount of the cost. Members reviewed the policy of providing free, unlimited bags to seniors, regardless of need. Elimination of the program altogether was suggested, as was expanding the program to include waste pickup. The Board also discussed if the leaf collection portion of the program should be put out to bid. Supervisor Haga briefly reviewed the original instigation for the policy in conjunction with the leaf burning ban and the history of the leaf bag collection in Ada Township. He summarized some of the challenges encountered with various methods of collection and with some of the collection services. He noted that Allied Waste has provided excellent service and has also stored the bags purchased by the Township, as there is no facility for the Township to store them. The Board considered what price point would be most beneficial to the residents, while recouping an appropriate percentage of the total cost. **Yes - 5, No - 2; Motion carried.**

Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to charge the actual cost, including the cost of the leaf bag and leaf bag pickup, and to place the pickup contract out for bid. The Board discussed the timing for the price change and the concern that charging total actual cost would cause the program to be too expensive for residents. The Board debated the value of the program as a service to the community that supports the ban on leaf burning versus a subsidized program in competition with private business. The Board also discussed with Mr. Hentges similar strategies that other communities pursue. The Board also considered the difficulty in obtaining bids for pickup service in time for the spring pickup and the need for informing residents of the cost increase. **Westra withdrew the motion; Sytsma supported the withdrawal.**

Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to charge 75 cents per bag for residents of all ages, no exemptions, effective immediately. Yes - 5, No - 2; Motion carried.

Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to require the pickup for the yard waste service to be put out to bid effective for the fall schedule pickup dates. The Board discussed the parameters needed to prepare the specification for the bid. Mr. Hentges recommended having the vendors bid based on cost per tonnage. Fire Chief DuVall reminded the Board that twelve pallets of bags would also need to be stored. **Yes - 3, No - 4; Motion defeated.**

RESOLUTION R-041210-1, REVISED TOWNSHIP INVESTMENT AND DEPOSITORY DESIGNATION

Treasurer Rhoades presented the revised Township investment and depository designation. This designation was last updated in 2005; the redline copy showed the proposed changes. Treasurer Rhoades indicated that he added two credit unions to the document; their rating is as high as the banks. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to adopt Resolution R-041210-1, a resolution to adopt revised Township investment and depository designation.** The Board expressed appreciation for Treasurer Rhoades' redline report and for his efforts to both pursue good rates and keep business local where possible.

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

NEW BUSINESS

INTERURBAN – GO! BUS SERVICES 2010/2011 CONTRACT

Supervisor Haga introduced the agenda item and requested postponement. He is working with neighboring Townships on possible alternatives. The new contract does not currently contain no termination language, so this item is best postponed at this time. **Moved by Westra to postpone action on the Interurban Transit Partners - Go! Bus Services 2010/2011 contract until work on alternatives can be researched. Support by Smith. Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion to postpone carried.**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN, MARCH 25, 2010 DRAFT

Planning Director Jim Ferro presented the capital improvement plan DRAFT of March 25, 2010. The revision incorporates Board feedback from the March 15, 2010 work session and Board approvals voted at the March 22, 2010 Board meeting. **Moved by Proos, supported by Rhoades, to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan DRAFT dated March 25, 2010.** The Board discussed the importance of maintaining an appropriate level in the funds and the necessity of keeping an eye on the economy and pending costs, such as the potential force main repair, etc. The Plan is a fluid, working document that is reviewed and updated regularly. **Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion carried.**

NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL LEAF BLOWER PURCHASE

Fire Chief DuVall outlined the request to purchase a leaf blower for use on the non-motorized trail. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the purchase of an AgriMetal BW 1600 leaf and debris blower for the non-motorized trail maintenance from Kubota of West Michigan in the amount of \$2,885.00.** The Board discussed the trail needs and the capabilities of the blower. **Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION R-041210-2, STATE ROAD FUNDING TO MATCH FEDERAL FUNDING

Clerk Burton presented the Resolution to urge state legislators to give priority attention to ensure that state funds are available to obtain the maximum possible federal matching funds for road repairs. Given the poor state of the roads, the high unemployment rate, the continued decline of state revenues dedicated to road repair, and the overall state of the economy, it is critical that the state seek to ensure adequate funding to obtain matching federal funds to repair roads and prevent further deterioration which will negatively affect the state's economy. **Moved by Westra, supported by Smith, to adopt Resolution R-041210-2, a resolution concerning state road funding to match federal funding.** The Board commended Clerk Burton for bringing this issue to their attention. The Board discussed the importance of obtaining maximum value for taxpayer money by capturing all of the federal matching funds and the need for emphasizing that state funds should be allocated from existing revenue, not captured through new taxes. The resolution noted that Michigan has been among the bottom 10 states in the nation per capita for state and local road funding for more than 45 years.

Moved by Proos to amend the motion to insert a paragraph into Resolution R-041210-2 to stipulate a reallocation of existing funds as opposed to levying new taxes. Support by Sytsma.

Yes - 7, No - 0; Amendment to the motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION R-041210-3, MATCHING STATE FUNDING FOR FEDERAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION MONIES IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

The resolution is parallel to the previous resolution, but directed to the federal government. **Moved by Westra, supported by Smith, to adopt Resolution R-041210-3, a resolution concerning the matching state funding for federal road construction moneys in the state of Michigan.** Clerk Burton noted that there are two bills pending in the House of Representatives that would allow ease the challenge of matching federal funds for states with high unemployment and poor economies.

Moved by Proos to amend the motion to insert a paragraph into Resolution R-041210-3 to stipulate a reallocation of existing funds as opposed to levying new taxes. Support by Smith.

Yes - 7, No - 0; Amendment to the motion carried.

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

CONSUMERS ENERGY RATE INCREASE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

Supervisor Haga presented the request for an addition \$510.00 expenditure to support the local government coalition intervention in the Consumers Energy rate increase. **Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to authorize the expenditure of \$510.00 for the latest Consumer Energy rate increase local government intervention. Yes - 7, No - 0; Motion carried.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Cliff Leizer, 475 Ada Point, thanked the Board for continuing the bag and leaf pickup program; he felt it was a valuable service to the community. He noted that he had a recent incident with unauthorized solicitors coming to his home; they did not have proper identification and they didn't have a permit, which is required. The Board discussed the Township policy governing solicitation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk**

RS/kj