

## **ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**MAY 8, 2006**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Pratt, Clerk Ensing Millhuff, Trustees Damstra and Westra. Members absent: Trustees Proos and Sytsma. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall, Recording Secretary Smith and 10 community members.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Added to the agenda under Communications: Item 8. Clark - riparian buffer issue; Item 9. Kent County Health Department - Animal Shelter - 2006 dog license renewal. **Moved by Pratt, supported by Westra, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION - KENT COUNTY SENIOR MILLAGE**

Tom Czerwinski, director Area Agency on Aging, and Al Sage, part of the Allocation Committee, gave a presentation on the programs and services provided through the Kent County Senior Millage. The current millage was approved in 1998 for a period of eight years. Thirty-nine different services are offered to help older adults live independently in their homes. To qualify for services, one must be 60 years of age, be a resident of Kent County, and have a service need. In the past year over 12,000 older adults were served, but noted there are still many unmet needs throughout the county. Mr. Czerwinski added the millage dollars concentrate on services to help seniors stay in their homes and retain some independence. Half of the clients are low income seniors the others share in the cost of services. The millage proposal in August will ask for 1/3 mill instead of the current 1/4 mill, and will generate \$6.5 million.

Board members commented and asked for clarification on the waiting list for services, Personal Emergency Response System program, private sector funding and long-term needs.

### **GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### **Approval of Minutes**

April 24, 2006, Regular Board Meeting

##### **Receive and File Various Reports**

1. Planning Commission Minutes - 3/16/06 & 3/28/06; 2. Financial Report - 3/31/06; 3. Sheriff Report - East Precinct Quarterly Report - 3/31/06; 4. Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Inspection - 4/27/06; 5. Option to Purchase Real Property - 383 Pettis.

##### **Receive and File Various Communications**

1. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 4/21/06; 2. Kent District Library Minutes - 3/16/06; 3. Ada Business Association - Business Connections - 4/06; 4. Comcast Communications - 4/18/06, 4/25/06, 4/26/06 & fax of 4/24/06; 5. Dewey - Thank you note - 4/06; 6. Utility Advisory Board (UAB) Minutes - 3/16/06; 7. KCRC - Act.50, 1999 Reporting and Federal Aid Urban Boundary Map; 8. Clark - riparian buffer issues; 9. Kent County Health Department - Animal Shelter - 2006 dog license renewal.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, 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 \$3,091.35; #205 \$497.16; #208 \$62.39; #590 \$98.59; #591 \$98.59. Total Hand Checks \$3,848.08. Warrants: #101 \$37,243.35; #205 \$13,557.89; #208 \$14,570.57; #590 \$9,530.70; #591 \$33,707.67; #592 \$1,251.51. Total Warrants \$109,861.89. Total Checks and Warrants \$113,709.77.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to approve the Warrant Report of May 8, 2006, in the amount of \$113,709.77. Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Westra, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Haga. No - 0. Absent - Proos, Sytsma. Motion carried.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **BOARD COMMENT**

Clerk Ensing Millhuff reported there was an approximat 4% voter turnout for the school election within Ada Township; which included Forest Hills, Northview and Lowell school districts. Clerk Millhuff stated the ability to combine precincts during school elections does lower the cost to between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Adding HB 4755 if approved by State Legislators would require all school elections without a millage question to be held in the regular scheduled even year November elections; if the legislation passes there would be no cost to any public school through out Michigan.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION R-050806-1 - POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGE RENEWAL**

Supervisor Haga explained the current voted millage is 1 1/4 mills and could be renewed at 1 mill if the board agrees. Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall had compiled a report regarding some history as well as anticipated expenses. The information had been reviewed by counsel. There were questions and comments by board members regarding the proposed reduction, the increasing total value of property in the township, anticipated large equipment purchases, and length of the millage.

**Moved by Pratt, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to adopt Resolution R-050806-1, to request a renewal millage of 1.00 mills from 2007 through 2011, with anticipated revenue of approximately \$845,000, based on the current taxable value.**

There were questions and comments by board members regarding the current fund balance of \$1 million, reserves, further reduction in millage, restricted uses of millages, population growth, possibility of adding a constable, and options if the millage were not sufficient for needs or if 1 mill generated more than needed.

Frank Hoover, Marbury Street, stated he didn't mind spending \$7 more per year in case something happens.

There were questions and comments by board members regarding safety, the amount of time spent on research to prepare for the proposal, other budgeted items such as legal costs, strategic planning, growth and need projections, and possible ways to decrease costs.

Trustee Damstra suggested in future millage requests, a budget be presented including contingencies so the trustees can have more information.

Trustee Westra asked if a constable could be funded with the money generated by the millage.

Clerk Millhuff stated the motion was to reduce a 15 year old the millage by the reduction was a substantial decrease (approximately \$250, 00 annually), but the amount generated at the lower rate would allow for growth and unforeseen emergencies.

Supervisor Haga added he was also concerned about over-taxing, but reiterated the suggestion is for a reduction of 1/4 mill.

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

### **RESOLUTION R-050806-2 - PARKS AND RECREATIONAL MILLAGE RENEWAL**

**Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Pratt, to adopt Resolution R-050806-2, which is a millage renewal matter for the August election to renew the park millage at .25 mill from 2007 through 2011.**

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

Clerk Millhuff explained this would be the second renewal request for the Park and Recreation Millage.

### **RESOLUTION R-050806-3 - ADA TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE O-072505-1 - REZONING BALLOT QUESTION**

Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained this proposal is based on the referendum petition presented regarding the 0.43 acres of property from R-3 to R-3/PUD within Ada Moorings.

Planning Director Ferro explained the 0.43 acre piece of land, which is about 20,000 square feet, is occupied by parts of two lots in the Ada Moorings North development. The lots have been reconfigured so they conform to the zoning irregardless of whether or not the referendum passes.

**Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Westra, to adopt Resolution R-050806-3, which is the rezoning proposal for the August Primary regarding Ada Moorings North. Roll Call: Yes - Haga, Pratt, Westra, Damstra, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - Proos, Sytsma. Resolution adopted.**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS IN STATION NO. 1 AND 2**

Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall explained there is approximately \$2.2 million worth of assets in the two fire station buildings. Although the property is insured, if fire trucks burned, it would take time to replace them. **Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Pratt, to approve the installation of fire alarm systems in Stations 1 and 2, as proposed in the memo from Chief DuVall dated April 21, 2006.**

There were questions and comments from board members regarding the cost-effectiveness and other options.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to postpone voting until there is an opportunity to explore other options, including putting the entire security system out to bid. Motion carried.**

### **REEDS LAKE TRIATHLON PERMIT REQUEST**

**Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Westra, to postpone action on the Reeds Lake Triathlon Permit Request until a representative is present from the East Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department. Motion carried.**

### **VILLAGE CHARRETTE COMMITTEE FUNDING REQUEST**

Planning Director Ferro explained the available space is in the Norma Teerman Buttrick building on Ada Drive, and it had been reviewed by the Charrette Task Force. There wasn't a quorum, but those present felt it was a good space to meet their needs. All six of the consultant finalists had also thought the building suitable.

There were questions and comments from board members regarding suitability and proposed usage of the building, additional cost, suitability of the Township Hall or Park facilities at no additional cost, the proposed building being open during the day, additional insurance cost, rent being paid without the building being in used, lack of participation of the consultant in choosing the location and the overall accessibility to residents and interested parties.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to approve the recommendation of the Ada Village Charrette Committee to appropriate funds necessary to lease the proposed space between May 15, 2006 and October 15, 2006.**

**Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Westra, to amend the motion to indicate not-to-exceed \$8,000 expenditure for the lease.**

**Motion to amend carried.**

**Main motion, as amended, carried.**

**BRONSON STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to postpone action on Bronson Street construction project pending review of the charrette process. Motion carried.**

**ORDINANCE O-050806-1 - DOG DAY CARE AND BOARDING IN THE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

Planning Director Ferro explained the Planning Commission had recommended adoption of this amendment which addresses dog day care and boarding, which are not addressed in the current regulations. The proposed amendment would allow dog day care and boarding as a special use permit, with some specific standards that must be met.

**Moved by Damstra, supported by Westra, to postpone action on Ordinance O-050806-1, which is the dog day care and boarding in the industrial district. Motion carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**RS: JS**