

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 14, 2007**

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. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Parks Director Tatar, Recording Secretary Smith and nine community members. Members absent: Trustee Proos. Trustee Sytsma arrived at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deleted from the agenda under New Business: Item D. Motion to Proceed into Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation - Pettis Matter.

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

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

April 23, 2007, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Building Permit Report - 04/07/ 2. Investment Report - 03/07; 3. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes - 04/10/07; 4. Building Permit Trends Report - 04/07; 5. Ada Historical Society Minutes - 03/10/07; 6. 4/17/07 Kent County Road Commission/MDOT Meeting; 7. Ada Historical Society Newsletter - 04/07; 8. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 04/27/07; 9. REGIS Board Minutes - 03/28/07; 10. Advance Newspaper - Rieth Riley Clarifications - 04/30/07; 11. Roselle Park Trail Improvements Grant - 04/24/07; 12. Comcast - Channel Update - 04/23/07; 13. Shea - GO!Bus Thank You - 04/26/07; 14. GO!Bus Activity Report - 04/12/07; 15. Inman GO!Bus Thank You - 04/27/07; 16. Kent County Road Commission - Road Name Change - 05/08/07.

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 \$8,486.14; #205 \$1,893.34; #208 \$1,616.98; #590 \$3,322.22; #591 \$1,135.28; #592 \$333.35. Total Hand Checks \$16,787.31. Warrants: #101 \$39,148.58; #205 \$29,323.32; #208 \$6,065.56; #211 \$22,326.59; #213 \$1,050.00; #401 \$21,291.47; #590 \$60,484.88; #591 \$104,652.83; #592 \$2,568.64. Total Warrants \$286,911.87. Total Checks and Warrants \$303,699.18.

Moved by Damstra, supported by Westra, to approve the Warrant Report of May 14, 2007, in the amount of \$303,699.18. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Sytsma, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - Proos. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jon Sarb, 590 River Street, stated he had noticed an abandoned home in foreclosure at 7330 Thornapple River Drive, and he encouraged board members to adopt an ordinance related to upkeep of property.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Sytsma asked how the moratorium on grant funding would affect money Ada was to receive toward Roselle Park. Supervisor Haga responded it would not be affected.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff reminded the community of the need for help for the 4th of July celebration. She responded to Mr. Sarb's comments, stating one option would be a noxious weed ordinance which had been presented several years ago but never adopted.

Supervisor Haga stated he had instructed the Zoning Administrator to look at other ordinances that are available, including the noxious weed ordinance. He also stated the Open Space Advisory Board had approved a motion to not exercise the option of 851 Grand River Drive unless there was clear information on the access riparian to the Thornapple River.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

LICENSE AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

Supervisor Haga explained this agreement was for the 4th of July activities on what is commonly known as the green space. There were no changes from the prior year. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the license and release agreement between Ada Township and Alticor Inc for use of the land commonly known as green space for Ada Township for the 4th of July activities. Motion carried.**

THORNAPPLE RIVER DRIVE PAVING

Supervisor Haga explained this issue started with the request to repair Thornapple River Drive in accordance with the resolution for the criterium bicycle race. The Road Commission wanted Ada to pay 50% of the cost, and the budget estimate was \$95,000 total. He stated he had suggested the idea of Ada advancing the money as suggested at the last board meeting and the Road Commission did not support the idea. Mr. Haga stated he also suggested the idea of delaying the viaduct project (as suggested by the Administrative Committee) and move the Thornapple River project up, and the Road Commission was not willing to do that either. This project was not in the plans for the Road Commission for the next three years. Supervisor Haga stated patching would not be conducive to a bicycle and in some cases even to car traffic. Thornapple River is a primary road, and the Road Commission is required by Michigan Law to fund 100% of major repairs. Clerk Millhuff informed the board members she had just received the planned KCRC projects through 2011 and Thornapple River Dr within Ada Township was not on the list. **Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to approve the work order by the Road Commission for local road construction authorization in the amount of \$47,000, which is the estimated split of the \$95,000 cost.**

There were questions and comments from board members regarding Kent County's refusal to meet their statutory obligation, Ada's responsibility to its residents, Kent County's plans for this road, Ada's lack of input into the project, possibility of adding color to the pavement as suggested in the charrette, Ada's residents paying twice for the same thing, time frame, and having the section of road designated as secondary.

Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to postpone action on the local construction authorization for paving of Thornapple River Drive from Bronson to Ada Drive, pending discussion with the Road Commission on Thursday, relative to the charrette process. Motion carried.

EASEMENT FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE

Supervisor Haga explained this was an easement to provide electrical service through township property at the Fulton lift station to the new dental office of Norman Family Dentistry. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the easement for underground elect service across twp property to service new office building of Norman family dentistry.** There were questions/comments regarding interruption of the 4th of July celebration, the location, review by legal counsel, width of the easement, tree removal, and compensation. **Motion carried.**

TRAIL EXTENSION AT ROSELLE PARK

Wes Steer explained at the last Park Meeting the feasibility of building more of the paved path in Roselle Park was suggested. The positives are a current advantage in price, not having to seek bids, limiting the disturbance to one construction season. The drawbacks are a delay in the schedule and need to get a new permit from DEQ.

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Pratt, to amend the scope of the Roselle Park improvement project presently under way to include an expansion of the trail sections identified as from the Overlook to the bridge, approximately 1300 feet and the north loop from the bridge approximately 2650 feet, as reflected in the Roselle Park master plan, at an estimated cost of \$160,150.

There were questions/comments from board members regarding bonding, future repairs, funds coming from the trail millage, timing, and seeding.

Motion carried.

ADA PARK BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENT

Parks Director Tatar explained the scope of the project got bigger when she learned she could get a good deal on two hoops for the price of one. The plan is to repave the existing half-court and add a new half-court, making a

full court with two goals.

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Damstra, to approve the basketball court improvement project at Ada Park, including paving and new basketball goals, in the amount of \$13,042. This does come as recommendation from park commission.. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION R-051407-1 - RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX, SERIES 2007

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Damstra, to adopt Resolution R-051407-1, which is the resolution to authorize the issuance of capitol improvement bonds, general obligation limited tax series 2007.

Trustee Damstra explained the size of the bond issue was based on the size of revenue coming in from the trail project, with a maximum of \$4,575,000. The overall project is just over \$6 million, and the plan is to use the township tax revenue to fund part of it and grant money for the balance. A big part of the grant money is for crossing the Knapp bridge and to cantilever a bike path on the existing bridge similar to the Beltline bridge. This resolution is a formality to be able to issue the bonds.

There were questions/comments from board members regarding the bond sale date, special board meeting the day of sale, clarification there were no changes from previous board approval.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jon Sarb, 590 River Street, stated, in light of the charrette, he was surprised finances were not already put together for the repaving of Thornapple River Drive. He also expressed disappointment in Kent County for not funding the project as required.

Supervisor Haga stated, "The resignation of Planning Director Jim Ferro to become effective April 27, was withdrawn on April 27, 2007, and the withdrawal was accepted by me."

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Deborah Ensing Millhuff
Ada Township Clerk**

RS:JS