

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
MAY 22, 2006**

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: Planning Director Ferro, Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall, Recording Secretary Smith and 12 community members. Members absent: Trustee Damstra.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Pratt, supported by Sytsma, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes**

May 8, 2006, Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports**

1. Fire Call Reports - 4/06; 2. Building Permit Report - 4/06; 3. GO Bus Service Report - 4/06.

**Receive and File Various Communications**

1. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 4/28/06, 5/5/06 & 5/12/06; 2. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes - 3/29/06; 3. Bank - Honey Creek Erosion - 5/8/06; 4. "Forest Hill Parents Unite" - various e-mails and letters.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, 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 \$3,616.38; #205 \$1,322.09; #208 \$542.56; #590 \$195.52; #591 \$415.12; #592 \$22.65. Total Hand Checks \$6,114.32. Warrants: #101 \$17,174.59; #205 \$31,522.70; #208 \$6,391.99; #249 \$34.60; #590 \$47,527.11; #591 \$100,199.61; #592 \$2,178.74. Total Warrants \$205,029.34. Total Checks and Warrants \$211,143.66.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the Warrant Report of May 22, 2006, in the amount of \$211,143.66. Roll Call: Yes - Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Haga. No - 0. Absent - Damstra. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Wood, 8060 Vergennes, stated it was unfortunate that the new board members had not followed the experienced board members and had chosen to shut down Ms. Pettis; adding he found the ZBA proceedings very depressing, with a board member unnecessarily harassing the applicant's attorney and the Township not being prepared. He stated the recycling operation was more than a business, it gave people jobs. Mr. Wood added townships can make any laws they wish but they must be sustainable under the US constitution and he had learned the township's arbitrary percentage of usage of product within the P1A zone had not been sustained by the courts. Ada's 1999 ordinance was voted at on a special meeting at 5:30 on a Wednesday night. Stating upon his research he believes the ordinance has several flaws that would not hold up in a court of law. Adding, the lawsuit should be dropped before any more money is spent. Mr. Wood stated he was also concerned about the Koning property and felt the township should drop the matter. He also referenced a 2003 discussion about a walking trail along the Thornapple River, and asked when it would be done. Trustee Sytsma clarified that it was the actions of the Planning Commission, not the Township Board, that were the catalyst for Rieth Riley.

Tom Riemersma, 5723 Ada Drive, stated the clean-up day was run very poorly as he sat on Thornapple River Drive for an hour and 10 minutes in stopped traffic.

Karen Holt, 5701 - 3 Mile Road, a resident of Ada sine 1966, stated she is very active in preserving the environment and protecting animals. She felt that development was displacing the wildlife habitat. Ms.

Holt stated she had fought development so the beauty of land in Ada and wildlife habitat could be protected. Stating the Planning Commission and township had worked very closely with preservationists back in the 60s and 70s but had changed in the 80s and 90s to invite development and not care about the land. She urged board members to have a vision of what development is doing to the habitat.

### **BOARD COMMENT**

Trustee Sytsma noted that the PUD at the southeast corner of Pettis and 3 Mile (referred to by Ms. Holt) and approved by the Planning Commission be on the Township Board meeting Agenda for June 12, 2006 adding the approval had not been unanimous.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff distributed copies of a correspondence regarding the new Uniform Zoning Enabling Act as well as information regarding rules and regulations for teleconferencing.

Supervisor Haga announced that the natural features inventory project was under way and explained that was the project being funded by a grant from the Urban Cooperation Board. Dr. Dave Warners, Associate Professor of Biology at Calvin College, will give an overview of the process on June 14 at 7 p.m. Supervisor Haga also explained that termites had been discovered in the township hall building and that the building was also in need of a new roof.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Susan Perry, Assistant Director with East Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation explained the event, which is now in its 23rd year. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the application permit to Michigan Dept of Transportation for the 23rd Reeds Lake triathlon. Motion carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT KOVI OAKS**

Planning Director Ferro explained in January the board had approved the small residential development consisting of four single-family lots on the south side of Conservation between Honey Creek and McCabe. One of the conditions of that approval had been a conservation easement. **Moved by Sytsma, supported by Pratt, to accept an conservation easement of property on Kovi Oaks Court PUD , which is the conservation easement as attached in the memo from Planning Director Ferro. Moved by Proos, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to amend the motion to perform an annual inspection of the conservation easement as presented and an annual report as part of the Open Space Preservation program. Motion to amend carried. Main motion, as amended, carried.**

#### **APPROVAL OF 2006-07 KENT COUNTY PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) APPLICATION FROM JOSEPH JAKEWAY TRUST FOR 35.9 ACRES AT 8700 2 MILE RD. NE**

Planning Director Ferro explained that Kent County annually takes applications for the PDR program and this year there was one application submitted from Ada Township. It was a repeat submittal for a project applied for last year which was favorably recommended by the County and was now being submitted to the federal government. The application is the same as approved by the board a year ago. **Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Pratt, to approve the application for the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights program regarding the Joseph Jakeway Trust property at 8700 - 2 Mile Road totaling 35.9 acres. Motion carried.**

**WATER SYSTEM CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS**

John Racek, Moore & Bruggink, gave an overview of the proposed project. Ada's water system is composed of the main system fed by the City of Grand Rapids and a small system in Grand Valley Estates. The main water system pump station is controlled by the City of Grand Rapids, and signals from the pump station and the tower are transmitted from Ada to Grand Rapids via telephone lines. The control system in Grand Valley Estates has a water tower, two wells, and a wellhouse. The controls are a radio communication between the tower and wellhouse. The large system on Ada Drive is about 30 years old, and the controls are a system has become obsolete. Grand Rapids is encouraging all its customers to convert control systems to a state-of-the-art PC-based system. The minimum system would cost about \$80,000-85,000. The second level would consist of a SCADA system (consisting of a computer terminal and radio communications), and would add approximately \$115,000 to the cost. An additional \$30,000 would add radio communications between Ada and Grand Rapids and eliminate the telephone lines.

Supervisor Haga noted the telephone line bill is approximately \$325 per month and when the phone lines go out, the monitoring is contracted by Ryan's.

Board members questions/comments included frequency and nature of breakdowns, when the updates would become mandatory, cost of repairs, availability of used components, additional costs to users, budgeting, and planned capital improvements.

**Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to postpone action on the water system control improvements. Motion carried.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FOREST HILLS**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Pratt, to adopt the proclamation of the governing boards of the community of Forest Hills regarding Superintendent Washburn's 21 years of service in the Forest Hills Public School system. Motion carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

---

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

**RS: JS**