

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 27, 2008**

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, Parks Director Fitzpatrick, Recording Secretary Smith and 14 community members. Members absent: Trustee Damstra.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

May 12, 2008, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Fire Call Reports - 04/08; 2. Planning Commission Minutes - 04/17/08 & 05/05/08; 3. Supervisor Report - 05/08 (2); 4. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes - 04/10/08; 5. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 05/02/08 & 05/09/08; 6. Investment Report - 04/08; 7. Kent County Sheriff's Department East Precinct - 4th Annual Children's Identification & Safety Days.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, 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 \$3,943.11; #205 \$691.92; #208 \$593.96; #211 \$500.00; #213 \$6,500.00; #590 \$6,500.00; #590 \$219.96; #591 \$219.96; #592 \$8.64; Total Hand Checks \$12,677.55. Warrants: #101 \$44,057.62; #205 \$31,564.48; #208 \$8,316.07; #211 \$54,731.71; #213 \$36.99; #590 \$60,285.62; #591 \$112,232.35; #592 \$600.33. Total Warrants \$311,825.17. Total Checks and Warrants \$324,502.72. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to approve the Warrant Report of May 27, 2008, in the amount of \$324,502.72.** A clarification was made regarding the VOLF policy (which should have been BOLF) for volunteer fire coverage. **Roll Call: Yes - Sytsma, Westra, Haga, Pratt, Proos, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - Damstra. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Ripley - 6016 Three Mile Road NE - requested the board reconsider paving Three Mile at Pettis, stating it had again become a hazard and the County's efforts to maintain it don't do any good.

Rick Fisher stated he had just purchased a lot on Three Mile/ Mela Via where he plans to build a house and he doesn't want to tend with a gravel road.

Robert Kintz, 6025 Three Mile Road, stated he had lived on a dirt road his entire life, he loved dirt roads, but after a rain the ruts are so deep the road cannot be driven without a 4-wheel drive adding with the current condition his main concern was with safety issues.

Brent Korf, stated the committee had addressed the safety and financial issues and the board voted against the recommendation and is now looking for what further action can be taken to re-visit the issue.

Anna Barlow, 3000 Mela Via, stated what more can be done toward paving, stating a natural beauty road is not required to be gravel.

Karen Holt, 5701 Three Mile Road, stated she had been behind maintaining the natural beauty and gravel status along with other activities. Adding, those who wanted the road paved had come from the city to a lovely area high on a hill and were aware the road was gravel when they bought their properties. She stated the solution was to drive more slowly. Robert Kintz responded it was disrespectful to mischaracterize the opinion of those wanting to have the hill paved.

Lloyd Paul, 1268 Pettis, announced he was running for township trustee and the Clerk's Office had been helpful in providing forms and information. He expressed concern about the dust problem occurring at both the Pettis concrete crushing and the conservation pit. Adding, it was a violation for dust to go on another person's property

and believes the 75-foot perimeter in the agreement may have been violated. Mr. Paul asked if there was any further update regarding the document issue.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Sytsma stated the Planning Commission had submitted a letter to the board to either be read into the minutes or submitted into the minutes. The letter was regarding the charrette process, where it stands at this time and it reflected no confidence in the townships follow up on the issue. The Planning Commission had requested the letter be made available to the board members and the draft minutes of the work session between Ada Township Planning Commission and Cascade Township Planning Commission be added to the packet. She inquired about the status of the investigation of altered documents. Sytsma asked if residents on Three Mile had been given any information at the time of purchasing their property regarding plans to pave the road.

Trustee Westra asked if the Parks Director could give a status on pond areas at Ada Park. He reported on observing an adult with a child riding an electric-powered moped in violation of state law and asked if Supervisor Haga could get clarification of the law from the Sheriff's Department. He commented the painting over the graffiti on the railroad trestle looked good.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff distributed a note from the Secretary of Defense expressing thanks to Ada Township and recognition of resident Jim Decker for the 9-11 Memorial he had carved and the thousands of signatures collected. Clerk Millhuff noted minutes are a summary, not a verbatim record and as stated in the policy if a board member has a statement for the record it is to be given to the recording secretary to be attached to the minutes. The issue of altered records had been turned over to the Sheriff's Department for investigation, who declined to investigate and was forwarded to the State Police for possible referral to the Prosecutor's Office. Supervisor Haga noted the issue had been forwarded to the State Police for investigation by a detective familiar with that type of matter and he had not heard anything more. Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained she had been talking with MTA regarding security, access of records by staff, preventative measures and explained the clerk's office attempts over 7 years for purchasing document imaging to prevent documentation breaches.

Trustee Proos referred to the Three Mile paving issue by recalling the board's vote to go back to the Road Commission, adding the issue needed to be further researched in light of residents' comments. Trustee Proos referred to noise complaints he had received regarding a yellow airplane over Grand River and dirt bikes off Fulton. He referred to the previous suggestion for a committee of residents to follow up on the Rieth Riley settlement and similar issues; stressing the need to get the committee formed and volunteers to serve. Proos added he was excited at seeing bikes on the new trails and suggested installing signs encouraging bikers to use the path instead of the street. He expressed thanks to Steve Groenenboom for progress on the trail and suggested monitoring of trail conditions. He asked for an update on the security systems in the garage. Proos stated he appreciated the board's action on roads and encouraged the board to be vocal about all activities in the township and prioritize all future projects.

Supervisor Haga stated the Rieth-Riley committee was in place and a meeting would be scheduled. He thought the reported noise complaint was an airboat. Haga added prices have been received for the alarms and will hopefully be on the agenda for the next board meeting. Chairman Haga stated there was an attempt by someone to set the railroad overpass on fire and currently no one had been arrested. The IT committee has not yet met but will look at alternatives for additional security on documentation. Supervisor Haga stated the Road Commission was planning to do some drainage work on the Three Mile and Pettis area. He stated he would seek to reconvene the Public Works Committee to assist in dealing further with the Road Commission regarding paving. He explained the yellow tape on the township hall and stated he had been working with the contractor to find matching bricks to replace those damaged by the storm drain.

Trustee Westra stated he had been a member of the committee to research Three Mile and safety issues had been looked at and reviewed very carefully and supported the original recommendation to pave. Westra added the is documented evidence paved surfaces are safer than non-paved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE O-052708-1 - CEMETERY ORDINANCE

Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained the purpose for having a cemetery ordinance adding the proposed ordinance was based on current policies and procedures. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to adopt Ordinance O-052708-1, which is the Ada Township Cemetery Ordinance.** Trustee Sytsma asked what the cost was for a concrete lining. Clerk Ensing Millhuff responded it is charged back to the family through the funeral home, not a township charge. **Roll Call: Yes - Proos, Pratt, Haga, Ensing Millhuff, Westra, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - Damstra. Ordinance adopted.**

RESOLUTION R-052708-1 - RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSAGE AND ENFORCEMENT OF STATE LEGISLATION INVOLVING THE THEFT OF AND SALE OF VALUABLE OR SCRAP METALS TO SCRAP METAL PROCESSORS AND SECOND HAND DEALERS

Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Westra, to adopt Resolution R-052708-1, which is a resolution supporting passage and enforcement of State legislation involving the theft of and sale of valuable or scrap metals to scrap metal processors and second hand dealers. Trustee Proos asked about the response from scrap yards. John Swartz, external affairs manager for AT&T replied the scrap metal industry had been involved in the discussions regarding the proposed legislation and they generally agreed there was a problem. Trustee Westra expressed concern regarding the deplorable conditions of the AT&T property at Thornapple River and Ada. **Roll Call: Yes - Ensing Millhuff, Pratt, Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Haga. No - 0. Absent - Damstra. Resolution adopted.**

RESOLUTION R-052708-2 - AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION R-022502-1 - ADA TOWNSHIP CHARGES & FEES

Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to adopt Resolution R-052708-2, which is an amendment to Resolution R-022502-1, of the township charges and fees. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated it had been 14 years since an increase in lot cost. **Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Sytsma, Pratt, Haga, Proos. No – 0. Absent – Damstra. Resolution adopted.**

LICENSE AND RELEASE AGREEMENT FOR USAGE OF ALTICOR PROPERTY FOR 4TH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Proos, to approve the license and release agreement with Alticor regarding the commonly known green space located at 7215 Headley Street for the 4th of July activities. Motion carried.

PAINTING OF THE AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall s explained the bids submitted by three local painting contractors and recommended Cascade Painting. **Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to contract with Cascade Painting for painting of museum building, in the amount of \$2,175 which includes an additional \$300 for painting of the addition.** Trustee Sytsma stated she wished we had had foresight to have a township painting party. **Motion carried.**

PAID ON CALL FIRE FIGHTER APPOINTMENT

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Proos, to approve the appointment of John A. Ferin as a paid on call fire fighter. Motion carried.

GO!BUS SERVICE ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Supervisor Haga explained services would be over the \$10,000 approved by township board before the beginning of July. A rough calculation indicates about \$13,080 by the end of July. Trustee Proos pointed out public transportation may be used more due to high fuel prices and costs could be higher. **Moved by Proos, supported by Pratt, to authorize an additional \$7,500 for the service of the GO!Bus program for this fiscal year**

based on the numbers and increase in service. Motion carried.

ROSELLE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mark Fitzpatrick, Parks Director, explained two projects planned for Roselle Park. The first is landscaping around the memorial deck and will be paid for through donor funds, and the second is the area around the planned new entrance. Supervisor Haga noted a budget amendment would have to be made and there was about \$191,000 in unused park funds.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to adopt the concept plan as presented regarding the Woodrick memorial deck, which is the landscape plan surrounding the deck. Trustee Proos stated he thought we should talk to the family, and Parks Director Fitzpatrick stated he had talked to Alecia Woodrick. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Westra, to postpone action on the proposed entry area of Roselle Park until the next board meeting. Motion carried.

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink, gave an update on the trails, stating the east-west portion on Grand River Drive should be completed by the end of the week and the north/south section along Grand River was awaiting an easement on one section. Final pay estimates should be available for both jobs by the next board meeting. The Thornapple River Drive path was completed under budget. Contracts 1 and 2 are slightly over, but it is hoped that can be made up on Honey Creek. Easements are being negotiated on Knapp Street #4 and bids will be opening next Tuesday. Construction this year is far ahead of 2007.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Lloyd Paul, 1268 Pettis, thanked the board for support on the scrap metal issue. For the first time in 30 years of real estate, he had recently been a victim. He stated there are 38 bank-owned homes in Ada, with 5 of those up for foreclosure action. Many of those homes are vacant, making them more susceptible, and he suggested a list be made of those properties.

Jon Sarb, 590 River Street, suggested the Sheriff's Department do some serious long-term patrol on Ada and Thornapple River Drives and "speed limit enforced" signs be added below the speed limit signs.

Trustee Sytsma stated she too had asked for speed limit enforcement and even children at play signs and at that time was told it wasn't possible.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

RS: JS