

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
JUNE 23, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Pratt, Clerk Ensing Millhuff, Trustees: Damstra, Sytsma and Westra. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Parks Director Fitzpatrick, Recording Secretary Smith and 20 community members. Members absent: Trustee Proos.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Added to the agenda under Warrants and Receipts: Ada Trails - Phase I, 1. Contract #1, Payment 7 and Contract 2, Payment 4. **Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes**

June 9, 2008, Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports/Communications**

1. Fire Call Reports - 05/08; 2. Building Permit Reports - 05/08; 3. Charrette Implementation Report - 06/08; 4. REGIS Board Minutes - 04/23/08; 5. Garlic Mustard Pull Data - 05/08; 6. Daniel & Pamela DeVos Foundation - Contribution to Woodrick Memorial Deck Landscaping - 05/30/08; 7. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 06/06/08. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, 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 \$22,656.90; #205 \$1,272.17; #208 \$344.02; #591 \$1,322.94; #592 \$89.69. Total Hand Checks: \$25,685.72. Warrants: #101 \$26,126.79; #205 \$41,525.08; #208 \$10,994.92; #211 \$30,500.00; #590 \$58,762.26; #591 \$126,609.38; #592 \$7,606.41. Total Warrants \$302,124.84. Total All Checks and Warrants \$327,810.56. **Moved by Sytsma, supported by Damstra, to approve the Warrant Report of June 23, 2008, in the amount of \$327,810.56. Roll Call: Yes - Sytsma, Westra, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - Proos. Motion carried.**

**ADA TRAILS - PHASE I**

**CONTRACT #1 - PAYMENT #7**

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink, gave a budget summary. Contract #1, which is the Grand River Drive trail, is completed. There were change orders due to additional pilings, boardwalks and retaining walls. **Moved by Damstra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the payment #7 to Rivertown contractors in amount of 52,900.02. Motion carried.**

**CONTRACT #2 - PAYMENT #4**

Steve Groenenboom explained this pay estimate does not include the work being done in front of the Forrest Greendyk property, where an additional 100 feet of boardwalk and extra drainage work is needed to get around what would have been an easement. This portion should be completed in three weeks, with an additional \$40,000 cost. There are a few other items on the punch list that have not yet been completed. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve payment #4 in the amount of 160,753.29. Motion carried.** Trustee Westra asked about the delay with recent contracts and what steps could be taken to prevent similar delays in the future. Groenenboom replied it was a different contractor and different schedule.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Wood, 8060 Vergennes, stated he couldn't see any reason for not reading election results off at the polls: adding everyone would go home happy if it happened. He stated he did not agree with the board members not responding during the public comment was wrong.

Chris Barlow, 3000 Mela Via, asked about the status of paving on Three Mile Road and requested a responds in writing from the supervisor.

Karen Holt, 5701 Three Mile Road, explained the board had voted in Fall, 2007, not to pave the road and those in favor of the decision didn't know they would have to work to protect the board decision. Stating since the "pro-pavers" have been busy, she had obtained signatures of residents on 3 Mile Rd and the support to not do any paving was overwhelming.

Jon Sarb, 590 River, stated he agreed with Bill Wood regarding no board response during Public comment, adding it would be nice to have budget information regarding the trails.

## BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Westra stated he had received positive feedback on paving in the village, asked if there was any new information on the maintenance of the AT&T building and asked if there was a timetable for deployment of AT&T's high-speed internet services. Supervisor Haga responded he spoke with Mr. Swartz at AT&T and they were doing painting and no timetable was available yet regarding high-speed internet. Trustee Westra also asked about the request for Forest Hills Public Schools to participate in funding of the trail. Supervisor Haga stated he didn't have an official response in writing, but he understood FHPS had opted not to participate in the funding. Trustee Westra stated FHPS had a \$28 million millage for the specific purpose of "public recreation and playgrounds", it was the taxpayers' money, and believes for the good of the community FHPS could partner with the Township by off-setting some of the trail cost.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated she understood the frustration regarding the public comment, explaining procedure does allow the board members to comment on issues brought up during public comment, during the board comment time. Clerk Millhuff stated; in regards to Mr. Wood's concern it was the decision of the precinct chairperson whether to read the results. However, with the new voting equipment the numbers should be available on Access Kent possible before they're read off at the polls. The Clerk also distributed "The Rural Connection", the Attorney General's brochure on avoiding foreclosures and information on legal expenditures of tax dollars.

Trustee Damstra stated the board had discussions regarding change orders and he wasn't aware the public didn't have those details asking if there weren't deadlines for the Agenda. Clerk Ensing Millhuff responded there are deadlines for agenda items; however, in this case, she too had not been given the information until today. Trustee Damstra recognized Mark Fitzpatrick for his work in the parks. Trustee Damstra added based on the update on the charrette process it would be worthwhile to have further discussion at a future board meeting.

Treasurer Pratt stated tax bills would be mailed this week.

Supervisor Haga announced work was anticipated to begin on Thornapple River Drive between July 7 through August 29. The work will take longer because the railroad will only allow closure for two days at a time. Two side walls will be removed, redressed with plates and concrete and filled in, the road will be lowered. The scheduled detour down Fase ST and back to Thornapple River Drive. Supervisor Haga will talk to the Road Commission to make sure additional speed limit signs are placed, instruction not to block driveways and possible additional need for stopping at Buttrick. Trustee Westra suggested placing the speed sign during that period.

Trustee Westra stated, as a member of the Public Works Committee, a lot of time was taken to look at the issue of paving Three Mile Road, all went into the recommendation and he was disappointed in those board members who voted not to pave. He would like to see that reviewed again.

Supervisor Haga stated neither the Road Commission nor Ada Township had budgeted for Three Mile Road paving this year.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **RESOLUTION R-062308-1 - RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH A DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; TO SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE AUTHORITY AND DESIGNATING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT**

Planning Director Ferro presented the report and recommendation from the Ada Village Charrette Design Task Force to establish a DDA district in pursuant to state statute. The district would include a DDA board comprised of a minimum of 8 appointed members, including the Township Supervisor and a minimum of one resident serving, and operate in concert with the township to carry out activities and projects. The entire process takes about four months, and the first step is a resolution of intent by the township board. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to adopt resolution R-062308-1, which is a resolution of intent to establish a DDA and setting a public hearing date for Monday, July 28, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.** Trustee Westra as part of the Charrette Task Force expressed support. Treasurer Pratt asked for clarification regarding residential properties. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated she and the Supervisor had discussed the possibility of a DDA in 1998 and again after the Charrette: adding where she supports of the DDA within the business district (without the 2mils) she too is concerned about including residential. **Moved by Ensing Millhuff, supported by Pratt, to amend the resolution to change the term "halt" throughout the resolution to the word "prevent."** Motion to amend carried.

Trustee Damstra asked if Alticor had been contacted and asked for clarification about taxes and budgeting. Trustee Damstra also expressed concern about the possibility of 2 additional mills.

Trustee Westra stated the charrette task force had looked at those items and gave examples of projects that could be paid for by a DDA: adding no additional mills were needed at this time since dollars would be "captured" and brought back to the community through current Kent County millages.

Deb Emery asked who would oversee the DDA. Township Attorney Jeff Ammon explained an 8 to 12 member board would be appointed. Mrs. Emery expressed concern over the performance of previous appointed boards and stated as a resident and property owner she does not want residential included.

Bill Wood stated the township is divided into three parts and asked how money would be apportioned fairly.

Trustee Sytsma stated if the area was not contiguous another DDA would have to be created, and attorney Ammon stated that can no longer be done.

Betsy Ratzsch, 7653 Fase Street, stated she was excited for the opportunity to get things happening in "The Village" as recommended by the charrette.

Bob Kullgren, 8697 Conservation, stated this is about healthy communities and economics and the DDA would only fund about 80% of the charrette ideas.

Jim Todd, 8025 East Fulton, stated the board does not communicate very well with the public and this should be something the community as a whole can comment on. He asked for clarification regarding the DDA appointments.

Trustee Sytsma stated a recent Grand Valley Metro Council seminar she attended the message was you create your community.

Supervisor Haga explained the concept of a DDA had come up off and on for the past few years and the impetus of the charrette had emphasized the need to develop a DDA at this time.

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

#### **RESOLUTION R-062308-2 - ROAD CLOSURE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PARADE**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to adopt Resolution R-062308-2, this is the resolution for the 4th of July parade, to be held on the 4th of July, with the lineup at 9:30 and parade starting at 10:00. Supervisor Haga noted there was insurance coverage. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Sytsma, Pratt, Damstra, Haga. No - 0. Absent - Proos. Resolution adopted.**

#### **FIRE/INTRUSION PROPOSAL FOR ADA PARK BUILDINGS**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the intrusion fire alarm systems for the park office building and community center building in the amount of \$1,985 and township park garage maintenance building, in the amount of \$3,210, for a total of \$5,195, plus the monitoring charge of \$24 per month. Motion carried.**

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deb Emery, 7534 Fase Street, stated thousands of cars travel the road under the bridge every day and asked if temporary speed bumps could be installed. Supervisor Haga responded he would ask the Road Commission again.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**RS: JS**