

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
JULY 24, 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, Proos, Sytsma and Westra. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Recording Secretary Smith and 11 community members.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION - KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT**

Pamela Vanderploeg, Assistant Director of Kent District Library, gave a presentation based on the Kent District Library 2005 Annual Report. Highlights included the new RFID technology, programs and projects, teen services, older adult services, summer reading program, staff, library environment, and the 18 branches connected by a central service center. She stated the KDL is the busiest system in the state of Michigan, with over 4 million items circulated each year.

Diane Cutler, Cascade Branch Manager, explained Cascade is a large branch that services the southeast side of Kent County. 79% of Ada library users use the Cascade branch. Cascade has 25 staff members, and a highlight of 2005 was the groundbreaking for the addition to the facility.

Mike Maier, board representative for the townships of Ada, Grand Rapids and Cascade and the City of East Grand Rapids, praised those associated with the KDL for their long-term and short-term planning, their forward thinking, and their embracing of technology.

Trustee Westra asked how Ada would proceed if the village charrette indicated residents' desire for a library. Ms. Vanderploeg suggested township officials sit down with KDL administrators to present their interests.

Supervisor Haga asked if there was any coordination of senior programs with the County regarding the senior millage. Ms. Vanderploeg indicated the County was one of their partnerships.

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes**

June 26, 2006, Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports**

1. Financial Report - 5/31/06; 2. Martin Beak Drain Assessment - 6/21/06; 3. Open Space Preservation Board Annual Report; 4. U. S. Senate Cable Bill Summary - 6/29/06; 5. Building Permits - 6/06.

**Receive and File Various Communications**

1. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 06/16/06, 6/23/06 & 7/7/06; 2. GRETS - Minutes - 4/19/06; 3. Amata - M-21 Traffic Safety - 6/20/06; 4. Bos - Consumers Energy - 6/21/06; 5. Open Space Preservation Board Minutes - 6/23/06; 6. Region 8 Notes - 7/06; 7. Comcast - "On Demand" - 6/6/06; 8. Ada Historical Society Minutes - 6/10/06; 9. Korth - Pettis matter - 7/11/06.

**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: July 10 Warrant Report: Hand Checks: #101 \$6,486.66; #205 \$1,615.83; #208 \$908.50; #590 \$98.90; #591 \$98.91. Total Hand Checks \$9,208.80. Warrants: #101 \$11,224.62; #205 \$1,107.59; #208 \$10,055.24; #590 \$3,571.24; #591 \$3,921.57; #592 \$975.29. Total Warrants \$30,855.55. Total Checks and Warrants \$40,064.35.

Treasurer Pratt presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: July 24 Warrant Report: Hand Checks: #101 \$6,106.61; #205 \$904.20; #208 \$1,012.22; #590 \$195.23; #591 \$413.91; #592 \$22.61. Total Hand Checks \$8,654.78. Warrants: #101 \$38,923.45; #205 \$40,209.79; #208 \$4,221.43; #590 \$56,914.24; #591 \$138,770.15; #592 \$3,301.12. Total Warrants \$282,340.18. Total Checks and Warrants \$290,994.96.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to approve the Warrant Reports of July 10, 2006, in the amount of \$40,064.35, and July 24, 2006, in the amount of \$290,994.96. Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Haga. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Barry Bittrick, candidate for Drain Commissioner, explained he has a deep passion for the office, and he had previously served as Drain Commissioner for 12 years.

William Byl, candidate for Drain Commissioner, stated he was a surveyor by profession and had previously served as a County Commissioner and as a State Representative, and he had a passion for the well-being of the County.

### **BOARD COMMENT**

Trustee Sytsma stated she had not received all of the materials on the agenda. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated any item marked with an asterisk would have been in the packet for the July 10 meeting.

Trustee Westra stated he was still waiting for completion of the restoration of the drain issue on Adaway. Supervisor Haga stated he thought it had been taken care of, but he would look into it. Trustee Westra asked about the house that had burned on Rix and asked if there were any guidelines regarding the remaining structure. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated it had been ruled accidental. Supervisor Haga stated he didn't believe there were any standards, but after a reasonable time it would be pursued from the standpoint of a public nuisance issue. He also stated some time was needed for insurance and other factors. Trustee Westra stated he had noticed some children playing in the area, and he wondered about safety issues. Supervisor Haga stated he would follow up with Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff encouraged residents to vote on August 8 and stated local millage questions regarding fire/safety and parks/recreation as well as the referendum question.

Supervisor Haga distributed copies of Grand Rapids Magazine in which Ada is listed in the rankings of communities and school districts. He also distributed a list of anticipated needs for board and commission appointments. Supervisor Haga provided information regarding the Gilmore property and the potential of an anticipated trail.

Trustee Westra questioned whether it would be appropriate to add the issue of the Gilmore property to the charrette process.

Supervisor Haga brought information to the board regarding the liquor license for Dudley Party Store and the inquiry from the Liquor Control Commission. He suggested legal counsel review the information for possible action regarding revocation of the license. Trustee Westra stated a properly-used liquor license is a community asset, and everything should be done to make sure it stays within the community. Clerk Ensing Millhuff added the request was presented, the board acted in good faith, and she felt there was no intention to use the license. She also stated the transfer had already been approved by Grand Rapids Township. Trustee Proos added he had heard the whole business was in the process of being sold with plans to raze and rebuild. Planning Director Ferro stated he had also heard that the daughter and son-in-law were going to take it over.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **PETTIS APPEAL STIPULATION - LIMITING TO APPEAL OF ZBA AND ITS DECISION**

Attorney John Sperla explained the ZBA had made a decision in favor of the Zoning Administrator's enforcement action against Edie Pettis. Ms. Pettis and her attorney had expressed an intent to file an appeal and had asked for a procedural stipulation. He recommended the Township agreed to the stipulation as it would decrease the scope of litigation, decrease expenses, and decrease the timeframe, as the appeal would resolve many of the primary litigation claims. The stipulation would preclude any enforcement action.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff clarified Ms. Pettis had not been operating since the cease and desist order.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to accept counsel's suggestion to stipulate to hold all primary jurisdiction claims that could be brought against Ms. Pettis until the appeal has been decided. Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to amend the motion to include the additional conditions recommended by counsel the stipulation be limited to current operations and to the circuit court appeal matter. Motion to amend carried. Main motion, as amended, carried.**

#### **GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION**

Supervisor Haga explained there had been an increase in the gypsy moth population over the past two years. He showed a bottle of a moth he had captured and the eggs she had laid.

Brian Kroll, owner of Aquatic Consulting Services, explained he had formed the company 23 years ago and had been involved in gypsy moth control for 21 years. He explained the problem of gypsy moths, including their ability to reach high numbers so quickly. A count of egg masses is the best clue to the following season.

Board members asked questions about the difference between gypsy moths and other pests, what the Township would receive for the \$80,000, how much time was involved, timing of a report, and the method of counting.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated \$3,300 remained in the gypsy moth designated fund and a five-year millage was passed but only collected for two years.

**Moved by Damstra, supported by Westra, to approve the agreement with Aquatic Consulting for population surveys for the 2007 season in the amount of \$7,950, and to refer matter of funding alternatives to the Administrative Committee to report back to the board at the August 12 meeting. Motion carried.**

#### **ELEVATED TANK CATHODIC PROTECTION INSTALLATION - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD**

Supervisor Haga explained three bids had been received, and the engineer had recommended the lowest bidder, George Kountoupes Painting. **Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to award the cathodic protection installation for the water tank to Kountoupes Painting in the amount of \$16,720.** Supervisor Haga noted the work would be done on a low-usage time as the tank would have to be down. **Motion carried.**

#### **MOTION TO PROCEED INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION - RIETH-RILEY MATTER**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to proceed into closed session, to discuss pending litigation regarding the Rieth-Riley matter. Roll Call: Yes - Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Pratt, Haga, Ensing Millhuff, Damstra. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried. Proceeded to closed session at 9:08 p.m.**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Pratt, to return to regular session at 9:50 p.m. Motion carried.**

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

There was no additional public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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