

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 13, 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, Sytsma and Westra. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Recording Secretary Smith and nine community members. Members absent: Trustee Proos.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Added to the agenda under Communications: Items 19. Roselle Park Project Report - 8/10/07; 20. Trail Project Report - 8/10/07; and 21. Mr. Wood Letter Regarding Billboard Matter - 8/13/07.

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

**Moved by Sytsma, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes**

July 23, 2007, Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports/Communications**

1. Planning Commission Minutes - 6/21/07 & 6/25/07; 2. Building Permit Report - 7/07; 3. Egypt Valley Country Club/MTTT Legal Expenses - 7/10/07; 4. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes - 7/3/07; 5. GO!Bus Service Report - April-June '07; 6. The Model T Ford Club - Thank you Note - 6/30/07; 7. HB-5030 - Overhead High Voltage Transmission Lines; 8. REGIS Minutes - 6/27/07; 9. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 7/20/07, 7/27/07 & 8/3/07; 10. Ada Business Association - Business Connections - 7/07; 11. Township Board/Planning Commission Work Session Minutes - 7/10/07; 12. Grand Rapids Community College - Thank you Note - 7/11/07; 13. Ada Historical Society - The Voice - 7/07; 14. Ada Historical Society Minutes - 7/9/07; 15. Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber - NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program - 7/6/07; 16. Forest Hill Public Schools - Board of Education Secretary - 7/30/07; 17. Park Project Report - 8/3/07; 18. REGIS Agency Award - News Release - 8/2/07; 19. Roselle Park Project Report - 8/10/07; 20. Trail Project Report - 8/10/07; 21. Mr. Wood Letter Regarding Billboard Matter - 8/13/07.

**Moved by Damstra, 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 \$6,640.82; #205 \$1,830.01; #208 \$40,624.79; #211 \$2,715.62; #590 \$2,764.80; #591 \$2,172.36; #592 \$1,000.29. Total Hand Checks \$57,748.69. Warrants: #101 \$44,285.86; #205 \$5,386.16; #208 \$12,609.67; #211 \$33,818.28; #590 \$64,161.06; #591 \$151,179.92; #592 \$2,509.57. Total Warrants \$313,950.52. Total Checks and Warrants \$371,699.21.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the Warrant Report of August 13, 2007, in the amount of \$371,699.21.** The Clerk clarified the AT&T Global Services Inc. telephone maintenance contract, adding Miller Consultants should read Miller Johnson, and Parris Sign Company should read Promotion Advertising. **Roll Call: Yes - Sytsma, Westra, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - Proos. Motion carried.**

**APPLICATION PAYMENT #1 - ROSELLE PARK WOODRICK MEMORIAL**

**Moved by Pratt, supported by Sytsma, to approve Payment #1 for the Roselle Park Woodrick Memorial project in the amount of \$40,450. Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Pratt, Haga, Ensing Millhuff, Westra, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - Proos. Motion carried.**

**APPLICATION PAYMENT #2 - ROSELLE PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE 1**

**Moved by Sytsma, supported by Pratt, to approve Payment #2 for Roselle Park Trail Improvement, Phase 1, in the amount of \$37,712.32. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - Proos. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

James Todd, 8025 East Fulton, submitted a letter to board members regarding the billboard issues. He asked about the amount of land in question. Planning Director Ferro replied it was less than five acres.

Tim Pratt, Buttrick Avenue, expressed concern if the billboard application were granted the landscape of Ada would be seriously disfigured for years to come. He referred to the \$100,000 that was spent holding a charrette which indicated Ada's residents' strong interest in preserving and enhancing the visual amenities of the area. He expressed concern for the number of billboards (this would be the third within a mile), light pollution, destruction of trees, DEQ approval, adding the only people to benefit from the billboard's installation would be Representative Green and DP FOX.

Jon Sarb, 590 River Street, stated he had conducted an informal straw poll regarding the billboard issue, and the result was a resounding no. He stated the township had spent a lot of money on the charrette to determine what was best for Ada, and stated there should not be any billboards in the area. He stated he would be happy to get a formal petition to bring to the board.

#### **BOARD COMMENT**

Clerk Ensing Millhuff handed out information regarding FOIA and how it relates to home addresses and telephone numbers of public employees. She inquired if any meetings of the charrette task force were scheduled and noted the charrette design was available on-line or at the clerk's office. Supervisor Haga replied a meeting would be planned shortly. Clerk Ensing Millhuff announced an approximate 21% turnout for the Grand Rapids Community College Election and thanked the voters for taking the time to vote.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY - 383 PETTIS AVE.**

Planning Director Ferro explained the single-family residential property at 383 Pettis Avenue with a 1/4 acre lot immediately adjacent to the river. A grant had been obtained through FEMA and the Department of State Police to cover about 75% of the acquisition and moving of the home. A fair market value of the property had been reached at \$168,567, and a formal offer had been approved. **Moved by Sytsma, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to approve the purchase agreement in the amount of \$168,567 and a closing cost negotiation not to exceed \$5,000.** There were questions/comments by board members regarding the amount of closing costs being approximately \$1,200,00, the value of the property to the community, the foundation, other property the County is purchasing along the Grand River, the benefit of grant funding, the role of the Open Space Committee and the source of the funding. **Moved by Ensing Millhuff, to amend the negotiations for the closing costs by the Supervisor to a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,500, and if a higher amount is required, than the matter be referred to the Administrative Committee for approval of an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Motion to amend carried. Main motion, as amended, carried.**

##### **AUTHORIZATION FOR LEGAL SERVICES - ADA, CASCADE AND GRAND RAPIDS FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to allow an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for legal services related to discussions of the joint fire department with Ada, Cascade and Grand Rapids townships. Motion carried.**

##### **MOTION TO PROCEED INTO CLOSED SESSION REGARDING LEGAL OPINION CONCERNING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON BILLBOARD APPROVALS**

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to proceed into closed session regarding legal opinion concerning temporary moratorium on billboard approvals. Roll Call: Yes, Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Sytsma, Westra. No - 0. Absent - Proos. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Sytsma, supported by Westra, to return to regular session. Motion carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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