

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 25, 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. Absent: Damstra Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Recording Secretary Thompson and 7 community members.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes**

August 11, 2008, Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports/Communications**

1. Fire Call Reports - 7/08; 2. Building Permit Report - 7/08; 3. Ada Historical Society Minutes - 07/08; 4. Township Boards & Commissions Needs - 08/08; 5. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes – 7/10/08; 6. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 8/1/08 & 8/8/08; 7. Fase Street Speed Board Report- 8/08; 8. City of Grand Rapids-“FEMA TANK NO THREAT TO OUR WATER SUPPLY”- 8/08; 9. Citizens Police Academy Program-8/08.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, 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 \$920.84; #205 \$1,740.96; #208 \$377.86 #590 \$35.35; #591 \$35.36; #592 \$1.44. Total Hand Checks \$3, 111.81. Warrants: #101 \$14,914.51; #205 \$33,556.46; #208 \$3,881.99; #590 \$69,871.33; #591 \$157,032.03; #592 \$5,490.76. Total Warrants \$284,747.08. Total Checks and Warrants \$287,858.89.

**Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the Warrant Report of August 25, 2008, in the amount of \$287,858.89.**

Trustee Westra stated the township continued to make payouts for water and sewer services totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and would like the board (within the next two sessions) to discuss bidding out the service, since it had been over 10 years when the last review took place.

**Roll Call: Yes- Westra, Sytsma, Proos, Pratt, Millhuff and Haga. No -0. Absent –Damstra. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

**BOARD COMMENT**

Trustee Proos asked for an update on the on Amway tax abatement request. Supervisor Haga stated the township had not received any official notice yet. Trustee Proos thanked Supervisor Haga for setting up the meeting with Reith Riley and asked for an update on the cell tower proposed on the Thomet property. Supervisor Haga stated a public hearing was held at the Planning Commission level on the cell tower, adding there was “very little feedback from the public” at the meeting, however written correspondence had been received and the decision postponed for further investigation.

Trustee Sytsma added the cell tower issue had generated quite a bit of written opposition and was postponed until further investigation and communication with Forest Hills School District to see if an alternate site is possible: or if the tower could be placed on the Pettis Ave. water tower.

Supervisor Haga stated the township owns the water tower and the school owns the property.

Treasurer Pratt thanked the Kent County Road Commission for the two Fase Street speed board reports during the bridge construction.

Trustee Westra stated there appears to be an interest in the cell tower adding concern about the issue; adding there were a couple of things the Township Board could do in the future to be proactive. Trustee Westra requested the liaison to the Planning Commission, Trustee Sytsma, furnish the board with a written summary (to be included in the board packet), of all Planning Commission actions and important information regarding these types of "hot issues" within the community. Secondly with respect to the tower, there are a number of options the township could utilize one hypothetically would be to site the tower on the property within the area owned by the township; based on the typical revenue from a cell phone tower and estimating the purchase price between \$75,000 & 100,000 for the property: the township could get those dollars back in 2 ½-3 years. Then the revenue from the property could be used for other projects within the township. In the interest of the community and to avoid construction of additional facilities to place this type of structure on property already owned by the township would immediately derive revenue to use for the public good. Trustee Westra strongly encourages the Planning Commission and Township Board to work in a coordinated effort for the benefit of the tax-payers and the community.

Clerk Millhuff stated often the township is asked to donate money to organizations and because the township itself has no money, it is tax-payers money, in most cases donations are not a legal expenditure of tax-payers dollars. Clerk Millhuff added there are specific community events such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Armistice Day and Historical preservation where the dollars can be spent. Millhuff stated she for future reference she would get a copy of MTA's "Smart Steps to Lawful Expenditures" to all board members.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### AMENDMENT 10 TO THE GO! BUS SERVICE AGREEMENT

Supervisor Haga stated this agreement was dated back in October of 1998 between Ada Township and the Inter Urban Transit Partnership related to the Go! Bus Program, effective October 1<sup>st</sup> through then end of September. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma to approve the amendment #10 to the Go! Bus Service Agreement with Inter Urban Transit Partnership Program effective from October 1, through September 30th.** Trustee Westra requested Supervisor Haga contact a Go! Bus representative to ask the Go! Bus drivers to respect the 25 mph speed limit within the residential area. **Yes-6 No-0 Absent: 1 Motion carried**

#### RECOMMENDATION FROM OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR ENDORSEMENT OF KENT COUNTY PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Supervisor Haga stated the recommendation from Open Space Preservation Advisory Board for endorsement of Kent County Purchase of Development Rights Program, as provided by Kent County Commissioner Gary Rolls. Supervisor Haga acknowledged Clerk Millhuff had brought to his attention the township board had adopted Resolution R-112502-2 in support of the Kent County Commission Purchase of Development Program in 2002. Based on this discovery the board would want to readopt the resolution with minor changes: 1) Delete the second to the last "Whereas" 2) add "Therefore, be it resolved" as presented for support. **Moved by Westra to re-adopt Resolution R-112502-2 and to include the recommended language contained in the memorandum from the Open Space Advisory Board, dated 8/18/08, supported by Sytsma.** Supervisor Haga stated the suggestion for the removal of the second to the last "Whereas". **Trustee Westra amended the motion to include the omission of the recommended text and the actual resolution to reflect the current resolution number, supported by Sytsma.** Supervisor Haga stated "Whereas, the establishment of the PDR program itself does not financially obligate the county to any expenditure of funds for the program, but leaves financing decisions to be decided over time." Supervisor Haga added the Open Space Preservation Committee was not aware of the earlier resolution (Resolution R-112502-2) approved by the Township Board in 2002.

Clerk Millhuff stated at the time the original resolution was approved the county was not considering any funding. However, now consideration of funding exists, which is the reasons for deleting the "Whereas" not clarify funding. Millhuff stated the Kent County Farm Land and Open Space Preservation was established several years ago and both the supervisor and she were among the original supporters. **Roll call: Westra, Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Proos and Sytsma Yes-6 No-0. Absent: Damstra Motion carried to adopt resolution.**

**NAMING OF OPEN SPACE SITE-5686 FOREST BEND DRIVE-**

Supervisor Haga stated the recommendation to name the property at 5686 Forest Bend Drive to be Carl Creek Wetland Preserve

**Moved by Sytsma, supported by Proos to accept the recommendation from the Open Space Preservation Board to name the 5686 Forest Bend Property to be named the property Carl Creek Wetland Preserve. Yes-6 No-0. Absent: 1**

Trustee Proos recommend a sign to identify the property as Carl Creek Wetland Preserve.

Trustee Westra suggested the cost of sign not exceed the \$1500.00 bidding policy and to utilize Carlson Design.

**Moved by Westra to amend original motion to obtain a sign for Carl Creek Wetland Preserve from Carlton Design unless the cost exceeds \$1,500, supported by Proos to amend the original motion to include the signage resourced out to Carlson Design, local merchant, as long as purchase requirement of the township is \$1,500. Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1. Motion to amend carried. Main motion Y: 6 N: 0 Absent: Damstra: Motion carried**

**MOTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION REGARDING TAX TRIBUNAL MATTER-ADA COGENERATION (V) ADA TOWNSHIP**

**Moved by Proos, supported by Millhuff to proceed into closed session to discuss attorney opinion regarding pending litigation. Roll Call: Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Sytsma, Proos, Westra. Absent: Damstra Yes-6 No-0. Absent: 1 Motion Carried.**

**Motion to Return to Regular Session**

**Moved by Millhuff to return to regular session at 9:15 pm, supported by Pratt.**

**Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: Damstra: Motion Carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

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

RS/DT