

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 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, Proos, Sytsma and Westra. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall, Recording Secretary Smith and five community members. Trustee Sytsma left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added to the agenda under Reports/Communications: Item 8. Trail Progress Report - 10/8/07; A. Ada Trails Contract 1, Pay Recommendation 2; B. Ada Trails Contract 2, Pay Recommendation 2. Also added to the agenda: Item IX. Opportunity for Additional Public Comment.

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

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

September 24, 2007, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes - 9/4/07; 2. Publicity for Proposed Master Plan Hearing; 3. Comcast, Government Affairs - 9/21/07; 4. Board of County Road Commissioners, 3 Mile Rd. - 9/20/07; 5. Utility Advisory Board Minutes - 8/16/07; 6. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 9/14/07, 9/21/07 & 9/28/07; 7. Fire Call Reports - 8/7/07; 8. Trail Progress Report - 10/8/07.

Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve items on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Proos asked if more of his statement regarding the maintenance ordinance at the previous meeting could be added to the minutes. Adding, "Sometimes when a person speaks their heart, they'd like some of the heart put in it." Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated she could listen to the tape and amend the minutes based on the statements made. **Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to amend the motion to approve the minutes allowing the Clerk to amend the minutes to reflect the statements of Trustee Proos. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS

Treasurer Pratt presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$5,168.71; #205 \$26,079.58; #208 \$9,184.01; #213 \$500.00; #590 \$148.50; #591 \$148.50; #592 \$51.12. Total Hand Checks \$41,280.42. Warrants: #101 \$15,699.67; #205 \$2,549.40; #208 \$2,193.91; #590 \$40,019.65; #591 \$144,433.68; #592 \$554.91. Total Warrants \$205,451.22. Total Checks and Warrants \$246,731.64.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve the Warrant Report of October 8, 2007, in the amount of \$246,731.64. Roll Call: Yes - Sytsma, Westra, Haga, Pratt, Damstra, Proos, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.

ADA TRAILS CONTRACT 1, PAY RECOMMENDATION 2

Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to approve Pay Recommendation 2 for Ada Trail Contract 1, in the amount of \$64,329.30. There were questions/comments from board members regarding driveway and curb moves, estimated completion date, the total contract amount, impact of weather, and the November 15 closing date of asphalt plants.

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

ADA TRAILS CONTRACT 2, PAY RECOMMENDATION 2

Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to approve Pay Recommendation 2 for Ada Trail Contract 2, in the amount of \$172,801.87. Trustee Proos asked about the timing of the invoices and payments. Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained the checks are sent out approximately two days after the meeting in which they're approved. Trustee Proos asked about waiting until the end of the month. Supervisor Haga stated the contractor was anticipating the payment. **Roll Call: Yes - Ensing Millhuff, Westra, Sytsma, Pratt, Haga, Proos, Damstra. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donald Marsh explained he had been before the board before asking for either an ordinance or changes regarding property maintenance. He talked about a neighboring property with unmowed lawns, recreational vehicles, unlicensed and inoperable cars, boats, and an inoperable trampoline. He referred to past safety issues, such as gasoline cans. He suggested amending the current ordinances, one at a time, and putting some teeth into them. He requested support from the board. Supervisor Haga stated he was frustrated as well, and he would look at the record to see what had happened, and he'd champion the cause and put Mr. Marsh on the committee.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Damstra expressed appreciation for the gate at Roselle Park being left open on weekends, and he encouraged residents to visit the park. He also encouraged the board to keep moving on the trail projects and to expand the projects, and he suggested planning for next year begin earlier. There will be an open house at Roselle Park on Sunday, October 28, and Trustee Damstra encouraged residents to attend. Trustee Damstra stated he understood mining would be started on the Koning property this Fall. He expressed concern about the berms on the Pettis property, stating they are an eyesore and asked if the Reith Riley berms on the Koning property could not be used as an example.

Trustee Proos asked if Planning Director Ferro could at a later date summarize the important issues related to the Rieth Riley matter. Adding, there needed to be trespassing signs posted at the Koning property to attempt to keep children off the berms. He agreed the berms on the Rieth-Riley property were well done. He asked if there were state laws to address some of the maintenance issues brought up by Mr. Marsh. Trustee Proos asked for an update on Lt. Dave Murray's injuries, and Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall explained the injuries and recovery and stated Lt. Murray would probably not be back to work until after the "New Year." There was further discussion among board members and Chief DuVall about safety issues and prevention of injuries.

There was general discussion among board members regarding possible options for dealing with property maintenance issues.

Trustee Westra suggested highlighting the trail in the AdaView. He requested Supervisor Haga contact the new government affairs manager at Comcast to come to a future board meeting. Trustee Westra stated he had been contacted by residents regarding safety issues related to students crossing Alta Dale between Clements Mill and Central Woodlands School, and he suggested checking into the possibility of additional signage.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff distributed statistics regarding the township's web-site. She suggested board members be available to help at the Roselle Park Open House, and explained some of the plans for the open house. Clerk Millhuff added The Historical Society is having a speaker at the Township Hall Tuesday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m., with tickets available at the door.

Supervisor Haga explained to Trustee Westra he had been in contact with the school district and the Sheriff's Department about crossing guards. Trustee Westra suggested the web-site of www.saferoutes.org.

OLD BUSINESS

AMENDMENT TO MINUTES OF 6-25-07

Clerk Ensing Millhuff explained the language had been in the minutes but somehow the last section was dropped during copying. **Moved by Pratt, supported by Damstra, to amend the June 25, 2007, minutes regarding the contract award to Ada Trail System, Phase 1, Contract I. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-100807-1 - AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION R-012207-1, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE

Moved by Proos, supported by Damstra, to adopt Resolution R-100807-1, which is a resolution to amend R-012207-1, which is the meeting schedule for the Planning Commission. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Proos, Damstra. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Resolution adopted.

ORDINANCE O-100807-1 - AMENDMENT TO SIGN ORDINANCE REGARDING BILLBOARDS

Planning Director Ferro explained the Planning Commission had completed an analysis of the existing zoning rules concerning billboards and had recommended some changes. The changes basically would establish a prohibition on any new billboards in the township. The Planning Commission had held a public hearing and recommended adoption of the amendment. Legal counsel had concluded the township had the authority to pass the proposed amendment. **Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to adopt R-100807-1, which is amending the sign ordinance regarding billboards.** There was discussion among board members regarding the frustration in getting to this point and possibilities to prevent this kind of situation in the future, regulation of existing billboards and keeping them in good repair, and non-conforming uses. Clerk Ensing Millhuff suggested the sign ordinance be reviewed for temporary signs and allow the business owners to have a "sandwich" sign which could be put out in

the morning and taken in at closure. Supervisor Haga stated he thought the Planning Commission was in the midst of reviewing the entire sign ordinance. Planning Director Ferro stated the Planning Commission was waiting for input from the Retailers' Group, a subdivision of the ABA, before proceeding with the review. Trustee Proos asked about the status of the petition regarding billboards that had been submitted by 41 residents. Planning Director Ferro stated the ordinance hadn't been published, but the public hearing had been published. He had not had any direct communication with the parties who signed the petition. **Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Proos, Pratt, Haga, Ensing Millhuff, Westra. No - 0. Absent - Sytsma. Ordinance amendment adopted.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE REQUESTS

1. FIRE FIGHTING HELMETS

Fire/Rescue Chief Duvall explained after complaints of discomfort with some of the helmets, it was realized some of them were from 1993. The inside replacements were no longer available. After contacting several vendors, the best price was available from Time Emergency. **Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to approve the purchase of 13 new firefighting helmets, at a total cost of \$2,821.** There were questions/comments from board members regarding a better quantity discount if all helmets were replaced and the possibility of donating the used helmets to a more needy department. Supervisor Haga asked for a report back regarding the disposal. Trustee Proos asked if there were any plans regarding National Fire Protection Month/Week, and he suggested a public demonstration. Trustee Proos Ada has a real good department, Chief DuVall had done a fine job, and he thought it should be shown off. Chief DuVall replied presentations would be made at several schools. There was discussion regarding adding a Fire Department demonstration to the Roselle Park Open House. **Motion carried.**

2. THERMO IMAGING CAMERA

Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall explained the history of the donation of a thermo imaging camera by Ada Elementary School and the Ada Business Association back in 1999. Current technology makes the new cameras lighter, better quality, color, and better ergonomically. After research, it was determined the MSA camera would best fit Ada's needs. **Moved by Proos, supported by Damstra, to approve the purchase of an MSA 5200 thermo imaging camera, at a cost of \$8,169, from 5 Alarm Company.** There were questions/comments by board members regarding the different cameras, frequency of use of the cameras, price difference and sole source vending, **Motion carried.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC
Ada Township Clerk