

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 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 76 community members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deleted from the agenda under New Business: Item A. Resolution R-100901-1 - Delinquent Utility Services Charges.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - PRESENTATION ON ADA VILLAGE CHARRETTE RESULTS

Supervisor Haga thanked everyone involved in both the development of the charrette and those who had participated. Adding, the participation level of the business owners and residents had surpassed everyone's expectations.

Gianni Longo from ACP Visioning and Planning presented results of the charrette and recommendations for the village. He explained the charrette was a very intense process; collecting input from business owners, residents and all interested parties. Mr. Longo stated the two major concerns expressed at the meetings and during interviews were traffic calming and how to maintain the character of the village. Adding, everything done by the task force became subordinate to those two issues.

The process involved looking at good and bad places in the village, developing principles, and identifying a vision. A meeting was held on October 3, with approximately 150 residents. An open house was held on October 5 to receive residents' comments, and those comments are in the process of being looked at. Public meetings are scheduled for October 30 and 31, in which a series of activities are planned.

In the analysis of good places and bad places, the following were listed: Good places - Ada Drive south of Thornapple Drive (business district), residential neighborhoods, the river; Bad places - Thornapple Village shopping center, uncompleted sidewalks, railroad underpasses.

Development principles include: 1. Take full advantage of Ada Village's natural assets 2. Create a focal point in the heart of the village 3. Ensure roadway corridors complement the distinctive, intimate village feeling 4. Improve walkability throughout the village 5. Encourage building types that preserve the feeling of the village 6. Reconfigure the Thornapple Village shopping center 7. Strike balance between residential and commercial uses 8. Encourage shared parking, 9. Expand outdoor recreation opportunities and enhance existing parks and green spaces 10. Establish standards to ensure implementation of the community's vision for Ada Village.

The purpose is to develop a vision and design public places to make Ada Village a vibrant and prosperous place.

Draft initiatives include: 1. Expand road network 2. Traffic calming 3. Sidewalks and trail 4. Improve pedestrian crossings of Fulton Street 5. The civic district (*doesn't currently exist*) 6. The village retail district 7. General initiatives including shared parking through entire village.

Public Comment/Questions:

Eric Piehl, 511 Adaway, asked for clarification regarding the plan for a cantilever bridge on M-21. The bridge is on Fulton (M-21) over the Grand River, and is already in the State of Michigan plan for a bridge replacement within five years.

Henry Hoeks, 5671 Michigan Street, NE, was thankful for the excellent work done by ACP, stating the citizens of Ada Township are grateful for the vision and for so many good ideas. He asked how a 36,000 square foot building could be compatible with the draft principle number 5. The charrette process does not comment on aesthetic quality of a certain building, but the design does call for buildings closer to the sidewalk and suggest the proposed building is constructed to compliment the village.

Pat Childers, 1041 Dogwood Meadows, liked the park on Alticor property and asked if anyone had contacted Alticor. The charrette task force had made contact with the property owners, but they were no specifics or agreements discussed.

Chris Mast, 485 Boynton, was curious if a north-south thoroughfare through the community had been discussed. The bridge would be a bottleneck, and there had been no suggestion for a fast-going thoroughfare going north to divert traffic from the village.

Bruce Sienkowski 199 Deer Run - asked what MDOT's position would be. MDOT had been contacted and was not necessarily in opposition but at this time no specifics or commitments had been made. It was noted the profile of the street would not be changed.

Jim Owens, 6374 Lehigh Court, asked how roundabouts worked.

Bob Redd, 7180 Thornapple River Dr, asked if there would be parking on both sides of Thornapple. Thornapple already has some parking carved in from the roadway, which would stay. The traffic consultants had stated additional parking was possible on Thornapple River Drive due to its width

Mike Tonner, 7810 Leonard, asked for more clarification on the roundabouts.

Angela Butterfield, Grand River Drive, NE, asked how items would be prioritized and funded. The meeting on October 30, 2006 will be to establish the importance and priorities.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

September 25, 2006, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports

1. Planning Commission Report - 8/06; 2. Building Permit Report - 8/06; 3. Investment Report - 8/06; 4. Zoning Board of Appeals - 9/06.

Receive and File Various Communications

1. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 9/15/06; 2. Region 8 Notes - 10/06; 3. GRETS - Minutes - 8/06; 4. Comcast - Lineup Update - 9/15/06; 5. Utility Advisory Board (UAB) Minutes - 9/06; 6. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes - 7/06.

Moved by Sytsma, 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: Hand Checks: #101 \$6,012.89; #205 \$2,173.40; #208 \$1,206.00; #590 \$335.55; #591 \$355.52; #592 \$140.27. Total Hand Checks \$10,224.62. Warrants: #101 \$34,227.84; #205 \$965.18; #208 \$1,944.66; #401 \$7,875.96; #590 \$56,331.46; #591 \$145,374.08; #592 \$1,009.68. Total Warrants \$247,728.86. Total Checks and Warrants \$257,953.48.

Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the Warrant Report of October 9, 2006, in the amount of \$257,953.48. Clerk Ensing Millhuff clarified that the expense to Falcon Printing for township clothing was for approximately 30 logo shirts that the township provides to staff members to wear on casual attire days. **Roll Call: Yes - Damstra, Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Haga. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lloyd Paul, 1268 Pettis, commented on the activities going on in the Pettis corridor, including concrete crushing, Rieth-Riley, and another Pettis & Associates mined area on Conservation. He knew there as a settlement allowing mining, but questioned whether the time period had expired. Supervisor Haga stated there was a 15-year agreement with restoration involved, and that approximately 5 to 7 years had passed. Mr. Paul stated he had some old topographical maps showing the land about a year before the settlement. Supervisor Haga stated he would take a look at the settlement terms.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Damstra asked how the increased assessment due to new development amount would impact the budget.

Trustee Proos stated he was impressed with the charrette process so far and the participation adding it was money well spent.

Treasurer Pratt agreed with Trustee Proos' comments stating she was very excited about the plans and thought the use of roundabouts were a wonderful idea.

Trustee Sytsma stated she too excited about the charrette and stated it had surpassed expectations.

Trustee Westra reminded board members of a previous proposal by Fire/Rescue Chief Duvall for defibrillators and stated he had looked into the possibility of a better price. Due to certification requirements and strict controls, there was not a better price available and the purchase would be made according to the original proposal. Trustee Westra also stated he hoped the momentum of the charrette could be kept up and asked for feedback.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff distributed copies to board members of the student reporter's first article. Also, stating she agreed the charrette had been successful in both residents and business owner participation adding from a historic perspective, it was interesting that many of the comments made were mirroring goals for the village voiced by residents and previous board members over the last decade. Adding, through the professionalism of the consultants any concerns about contracting a firm from outside Michigan had been eliminated.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC
Ada Township Clerk

RS: JS