

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Pratt, Trustees: Proos, Sytsma and Westra. Also present: Planning Director Ferro, Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall, Recording Secretary Smith and 16 community members. Members absent: Clerk Ensing Millhuff, Trustee Damstra.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

MDOT UPDATE ON M-21 BRIDGE

Art Green, Department Manager of the Grand Rapids Transportation Service Center, MDOT, explained the history and the process for this project. Given the bridge's age and deterioration, it does need to be replaced. The past year has seen significant increases in the cost of asphalt, concrete, steel and fuel. Mobilization costs have increased to the point of maxing out on a lot of bids. The cost breakdown is 60% federal government, 20% MDOT and 20% Ada Township.

Board members asked for clarification regarding material costs, mobilization costs, timeline, the bidding process, the non-motorized trail, and confirmation the board would get another chance to look at the project before the bid is awarded.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

October 13, 2008, Regular Board Meeting; DDA Work Session Minutes – October 6, 2008

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Fire Call Reports -09/08; 2. Planning Commission Minutes – 09/18/08; 3. Building Permit Trends – 10/13/08; 4. Utility Advisory Board Minutes – 09/18/08; 5. Fire Department Personnel/Resignation – 10/09/08; 6 . Ada Historical Society Minutes – 09/13/08; 7. AdaView Correspondence – 09/13/08; 8. MTA Legislative Update Fax – 10/10/08 & 10/17/08; 9. Salvation Army Correspondence – 10/20/08; 10. Building Permit Report – 09/08.

Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to approve items on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Sytsma asked about the difference in permit fees for different types of projects. Supervisor Haga replied the fee is based on the type of permit. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND RECEIPTS

Treasurer Pratt presented Warrants and Receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$2,265.46; #205 \$816.59; #208 \$2,594.16; #211 6,686.00; #590 \$255.35 #591 \$255.36; #592 \$10.42. Total Hand Checks: \$12,883.34. Warrants: #101 \$37,995.95; #205 \$2,397.58; #208 \$7,482.32; #211 \$18,349.51; #590 \$58,848.41; #591 \$141,188.47; #592 \$1,042.19. Total Warrants \$267,304.43. Total All Checks and Warrants \$280,187.77. **Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to approve the Warrant Report of October 27, 2008, in the amount of \$280,187.77.** There were questions/clarifications regarding the expenditure to USA Blue Book for parts to repair the chlorine pumps for the water system and the Grand Rapids Press advertising expense for the farmers' market ads. **Roll Call: Yes – Proos, Sytsma, Westra, Haga, Pratt. No – 0. Absent – Damstra, Ensing Millhuff. Motion carried.**

PAY REQUEST 3, ADA TRAILS CONTRACT 3, KNAPP ST. TRAIL

Supervisor Haga stated the item had been postponed from the last board meeting.

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink, explained the balance to finish the project plus retainage was \$582,602.95 and through October 3 the job was just over 50% complete. The goal is to have the project complete by the middle of November. Trustee Proos asked for clarification regarding the end date (supposed to be October 17) and possible penalties.

Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve Pay Amount #3 to Katerberg VerHage for the Knapp Street trail project in the amount of \$313,050.75. There was further discussion about the retainage amounts. Trustee Proos asked Mr. Groenenboom to look into the matter further. **Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Sytsma, Proos, Haga, Pratt. No – 0. Absent – Damstra, Ensing Millhuff. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Hoover, 700 Marbury, gave some history of the Ada Township Compensation Board for elected offices and explained it there were provisions established to start at a lower salary for any new clerk or treasurer until they obtain all the certifications needed to perform the duties required Mr. Hoover added there was obvious animosity among certain board members and encouraged the members to put their animosity aside and act professionally during meetings.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Westra expressed discouragement regarding the heliport ordinance. Stating it has been 10 months and the request has not been dealt with objectively: adding, the only two issues the township has statutory control of is safety and noise, but there was public perception the issue was political and being dragged on until after the election. Mr. Westra stated experience and credentials were important for all board members and he hoped all members were committed to getting the education needed to fulfill the duties of the office they won. Adding he agreed compensation should reflect skill level. He reported seeing and receiving reports about great activity with the parks and complimented the Parks Director Mark Fiitzpatrick.

Supervisor Haga distributed information from Foreclosure Response, a non-profit project, and the 2009 Assessment Information, with an explanation of Proposal A. He announced the Kent County Road Commission would be conducting a public hearing on November 20 at 8:30 regarding the number of board members on the Road Commission. Mr. Haga explained an e-mail from John Schwartz of AT&T regarding their building.

OLD BUSINESS

GYPSY MOTH PROPOSAL – EGG MASS SURVEY

Dr. Greg Forbes explained the concern regarding a possible increase in the number of gypsy moths in the township and potential courses of action. Damage can be economic, environmental or aesthetic. Although it hasn't been determined, it appears from residents' complaints the problem is more aesthetic. The way to deal with gypsy moths is to spray a bacteria on the caterpillars, but the spray destroys all caterpillars of the species. He clarified the damage is done only to the foliage, not to the body of the tree. The defoliation occurs in May, and there is plenty of time for re-foliation. Trees can sustain damage for about three years before there's permanent damage. He expressed concern the proposed vendor had no detail about survey method, etc. There were questions/comments from board members regarding the

survey cost, destruction of all caterpillars, possibility of just spraying without a survey, property owner responsibility, private contractor versus public resources, other communities' actions, and Ada's history of treatment.

Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to not approve the gypsy moth proposal for egg mass survey and take no further action at this time.

Planning Director Jim Ferro, 641 Honey Creek, asked for clarification on number of acres that have been treated in the past. He stated the ecological impact of spraying is limited to the small targeted areas. He expressed concern of stating it's only an aesthetic problem and said a serious outbreak impacts people's lives. He recommended assisting residents in spot treatment.

Ms. Timmer, Greentree Lane, 34-year resident, stated she and her husband had been fighting a heavy infestation and they are desperate for help. They would be happy to be assessed for costs if their area could be treated.

There were comments from board members regarding neighborhood issues, timing of treatment, putting an informational brochure out to the community, spending money on spot treatment, using traps,

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT – MEDICAL RESPONSE

Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall explained he would like to replace two suburban vehicles due to age and mileage.

Moved by Pratt, supported by Sytsma, to approve the request to purchase two medical response vehicles in the amount of \$42,030 each, for a total of \$84,060.

Trustee Proos suggested buying a new truck for Unit 8 and using the current Unit 8 to replace Unit 9. Chief DuVall responded that was the original thought, but over the last 6-8 months they started having more problems with both vehicles.

Trustee Westra asked if safety was at risk and suggested searching for vehicles coming back from leases.

Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to amend the original motion to authorize the purchase of one new vehicle in the amount of \$42,030 and to move Vehicle 8 to Station 2. Motion to amend carried. Main motion, as amended, carried. Chief DuVall stated the 1988 Ford is worth between \$1,000 and \$3,000 and suggested there are Departments who might be able to use it.

METRO PCS PROPOSAL – ADA ELEVATED TANK

Ed Winkler and Jim Cox, from PCS, explained the proposal to put six around the rim of the tower.

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Westra, to approve the lease agreement for the installation of a cell tower unit on the 1 million gallon water tank and that PCS contract with Dixon Engineering to make certain the project is completed properly, at a maximum rate of \$1,750.

Trustee Proos stated he was bothered by the 30-day termination language without penalty.

Motion withdrawn.

Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to proceed with the project pending the development of the lease site agreement and to particularly look at the termination language of the agreement.

Trustee Westra asked about PCS' perspective regarding the market and planned services. He suggested the township consider cell providers other than Nextel. Mr. Winkler explained that PCS is a discount provider and uses monthly pay instead of long-term contracts; adding they had recently done the Detroit area and plan to expand to the lakeshore area.

Motion carried.

ADA’S “VILLAGE STREETScape MAINTENANCE AND FLOWER PLANTING”

Supervisor Haga explained the bid process and Our Secret Garden’s experience with the township.

Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to award the three-year contract for the village streetscape planting services to Our Secret Garden in the amount of \$38,510. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

David Field, 6526 Ada Drive, stated his land abuts the DeVos property and referenced a court case where Ada would have the authority to stop the helicopter traffic while awaiting an ordinance. Mr. Field stated Mr. Hoeks compromised the integrity of the sub-committee and put the township in a delicate position by his actions, adding the delay in adopting an ordinance allows more of a precedent to be set. He stated helicopter take-offs and landings are not normal daily activity of any residential neighborhood.

Trustee Sytsma suggested the Planning Commission entertain a work session with AT&T to coordinate in helping AT&T have a more aesthetically pleasing façade to their building. Ms. Sytsma also stated she was offended by comments regarding the Planning Commission adding they work harder than any other body and the amount of time spent on public comment at every meeting is astronomical and keeps the commission from being more productive.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

RS: JS