

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 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 nine community members

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

November 12, 2007, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Planning Commission Minutes - 10/25/07; 2. Utility Advisory Board Meeting - 10/18/07; 3. Zoning Enforcement Activity - 11/14/07; 4. Dudley Party Store Liquor License Revocation - 10/29/07; 5. DNR Application - Phase 3 Trail Project - 11/13/07; 6. Ada Historical Society Minutes - 10/13/07; 7. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 11/09/07; 8. CDBG Grant Program 2007-2008 Materials; 9. Wellhead Protection Recognition - 09/27/07; 10. Larson - Employee Recognition - Peggy Ferguson; 11. Paradise Lake Weed Control - 10/01/07; 12. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes - 09/13/07; 13. Region 8 Notes - 11/07; 14. National Wildlife Federation - Ada Park Wildlife Habitat Designation - 11/06/07; 15. Correspondence from Suzanne Fick regarding Billboard - 11/17/07; 16. Ada Vista 2nd Grade Thank You - 10/12/07.

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 \$29,992.59; #205 \$952.83; #208 \$782.03; #213 \$5,000.00; #590 \$240.74; #591 \$240.74; #592 \$9.82. Total Hand Checks \$37,218.75. Warrants: #101 \$11,715.87; #205 \$47,687.03; #208 \$9,889.72; #211 \$12,201.14; #213 \$30.87; #590 \$563.73; #591 \$574.07; #592 \$178.99. Total Warrants \$82,841.42. Total Checks and Warrants \$120,060.17.

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Proos, to approve the Warrant Report of November 26, 2007, in the amount of \$120,060.17. Trustee Westra asked for clarification on the \$100 expense to the National Wildlife Federation. Clerk Millhuff explained it was for four signs indicating certification of Roselle Park as a certified wildlife habitat. Trustee Westra asked about the \$995 expense for Kent County Emergency Med. Serv. Fire/Rescue Chief Duvall explained the State statute required a medical control authority, and for a number of years the agencies involved had paid dues to maintain the authority. **Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Sytsma, Haga, Pratt, Proos, Damstra, Ensing Millhuff. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Hoover, 700 Marbury, requested an extra leaf pick-up next year because of late-falling leaves.

Planning Director Ferro acknowledged Open Space member, Betty Jo Crosby for donating her time to prepare the application forms for the certified natural wildlife habitats.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Proos stated he had driven by all the trails under construction and they were coming along really well and looked great.

Treasurer Pratt distributed copies of the October investment report and stated tax bills would be mailed later in the week.

Trustee Westra asked if there was an update on the report from the Kent County Sheriff's Department regarding the crosswalk at Central Woodlands School. Supervisor Haga stated he did not have an update and the matter was in the hands of the Sheriff's Department and the school.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff reminded residents of the Santa parade December 1 at 11 a.m. and the Historical Society's annual wreath sale.

Supervisor Haga announced a temporary assessor had started the middle of November through April of 2008, working a minimum of 16 hours per week, to get through the board of review time. He also announced Christmas tree recycling would be from December 26 to January 12 at Ada Park.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

2008 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Supervisor Haga explained historically Ada and Cascade have shared the \$12,000 expense. **Moved by Westra, supported by Ensing Millhuff, to approve the advanced ordering of 4th of July fireworks with Zambelli to be completed by December 15, and a deposit by February 15, with 10% more product. Motion carried.**

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTA DALE LAND PURCHASE

Planning Director Ferro explained the Open Space Advisory Board had been working on this open space acquisition project for the past couple months, and have unanimously approved this recommendation. The proposal is to finance the purchase with a combination of Open Space funds combined with a significant amount of donated funds from nearby property owners. The parcel is owned by Forest Glenn, Inc., the original developer of the Forest Glen development. It consists of 34 acres of undeveloped property and is located south of Forest Glen and north of the railroad tracks. The purchase price is \$300,400, plus some additional transaction costs. The township already acquired an option on the property with a right to exercise the option through the end of 2007. The proposal includes a conservation easement which would be held by the Land Conservancy of Michigan. Plans include a low-impact nature trail with most of the property to remain in a natural state.

Moved by Sytsma, supported by Proos, to approve the acquisition of property at 5686 Forest Glen Drive as recommended by the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board, which includes the four provisions of exercising of option to purchase the property, approves placement of conservation easement, authorizes payment of the stewardship endowment, and authorizes payment of other project costs.

Trustee Damstra asked how much money was left in the Open Space fund. Supervisor Haga answered after this payment and the other recent purchase, there would be \$325,000 left in the fund balance. He added \$203,000 would be added from millage. Trustee Damstra asked Planning Director Ferro how this property ranked in priority to other opportunities. Planning Director Ferro stated this was fairly high because of the creek corridor and adjoining wetlands. There were a couple higher-priority properties, but they were not able to be secured. Trustee Damstra suggested more parking spaces be added.

Trustee Westra stated he would like to see this connected with schools and open space between Central Woodlands and Ada Drive.

Trustee Sytsma stated the intent of the Open Space Board was to limit the impact on the environment.

Supervisor Haga stated the number of parking spaces could be negotiated.

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall described and recommended the two applicants. He stated they both understood the amount of time involved. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to appoint Justine Kramer and Matthew Ferguson as paid on call firefighters, as recommended by Fire/Rescue Chief DuVall.** Clerk Ensing Millhuff asked if references had been checked. Trustee Westra inquired about the cost of training and the possibility of repayment by the individuals. Chief Duvall responded the training was required by the State and legal counsel felt the money could not be charged back. Clerk Ensing Millhuff asked about the number of firefighters. Chief Duvall

answered the addition of these two would bring the total to 21. **Motion carried.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Margaret Lancaster 6838 Skyvale Court, inquired about Ada Township's involvement with MDOT and the Fulton bridge replacement. Supervisor Haga explained there had been some discussions with MDOT as to the design and layout. Ms. Lancaster asked about access during construction. Supervisor Haga invited Ms. Lancaster to meet with him and Planning Director Ferro.

Lloyd Paul, 1268 Pettis, encouraged the board to form the committee regarding Rieth-Riley and their compliance to the settlement terms. He stated there had been an average of about six inches of mud on the street for over 1/2 mile the past couple days. Supervisor Haga responded the Township had put Rieth-Riley on notice and he would be talking to the Road Commission. Mr. Paul added there had been a consensus among board members to want to preserve areas and make them accessible to the community. He urged board members to keep the same attitude in looking at the Pettis corridor. He cited Pettis & Associates concrete crushing on Pettis Ave and the ex-mining site on Conservation He also stated he had asked the supervisor and planning director about the court agreement and if it has been met. The P1A zone had provided if mining was done within a two-year period, reclamation was to be done. He asked what the time period for reclamation was and if there had been violations.

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

MOTION TO PROCEED IN TO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION REGARDING PETTIS MATTER

Moved by Westra, supported by Sytsma, to move into closed session to discuss pending litigation regarding the Pettis matter. Roll Call: Yes - Sysma, Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Haga, Pratt, Proos, Damstra. No - 0. Absent - 0. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to direct legal counsel to file the Record of Appeal and to proceed with judicial decision on merits of the pending appeal. 5-Yes. 2-No. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

RS: JS