

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2007**

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added to the agenda under Warrants: Pay Recommendation 2 - Moore and Bruggink. **Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC INPUT ON 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

There was no public comment.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

November 26, 2007, Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes - 11/06/07; 2. Consumers Energy - Touching Base - 11/19/07; 3. Kent County Road Commission 2008 Operating Budget; 4. Comcast - Public Education Governmental (PEG) Channel Update - 11/15/07; 5. MTA Legislative Update Fax - 11/16/07, 11/21/07 & 11/30/07; 6. Correspondence from Susan Siler - 12/03/07; 7. Correspondence from D. Small - 12/04/0.

Moved by Westra, 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 \$8,828.76; #205 \$801.03; #208 \$1,488.16; #213 \$64.68; #590 \$2,335.05; #591 \$953.00; #592 \$631.43. Total Hand Checks \$15,102.11. Warrants: #101 \$34,337.43; #205 \$15,494.12; #208 \$755.11; #211 \$13,085.73; #590 \$54,836.81; #591 \$214,583.99; #592 \$115.14. Total Warrants \$333,208.33. Total Checks and Warrants \$348,310.44.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve the Warrant Report of December 10, 2007, in the amount of \$348,310.44. Trustee Proos asked for clarification regarding the Bank of New York payment for long term bond (principal and interest), and Treasurer Pratt responded it was for the Utility Department. **Roll Call: Yes - Sytsma, Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Pratt, Proos, Damstra. No - 0. Absent - Haga. Motion carried.**

PAY RECOMMENDATION #1 -

Steve Groenenboom, engineer with Moore & Bruggink, explained the recommendation for payment to C L Trucking for \$336,927.06, which made the total paid to date \$830,000. He also stated there was about \$40,000 of work to be completed. He gave a progress report which included the receipt of the DEQ permit, inability to obtain an easement from one property owner, boardwalks to be completed, anticipation of paving in early April. He noted nearly \$60,000 had been saved by the negotiation of asphalt. **Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to approve payment to C L Trucking in the amount of \$336,927.06.** There was discussion among board members regarding the retainage for completion, total expenditures and amount earned to date. **Moved by Damstra, supported by Sytsma, to amend the motion to reflect a payment of \$317,000. Motion to amend carried.** Trustee Westra requested the revised billing be an agenda item for January's meeting with intent to determine whether additional payment should be made. **Original motion carried. Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to make payment to Rivertown Contractors in the amount of \$47,533.46. Moved by Westra, supported by Damstra, to amend the motion to reflect the change orders are approved and the payment of \$4,533.46 to Rivertown Contractors in the amount of \$47,533.46 is approved. Motion carried.**

PAY RECOMMENDATION #2 -

Moved by Damstra, supported by Westra, to approve application for payment #2 in the amount of \$172,200. . Trustee Proos requested a punch list for the project be obtained. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated she would contact Mr. Steer and request a list for the January meeting. **Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Ensing Millhuff, Pratt, Proos, Damstra, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - Haga. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Landman, Greenwood Forest Court, expressed displeasure on behalf of himself and his neighborhood association regarding the purchase of the property and the billboard issue. He stated there had also been problems with enforcement of the Hilltop Building on Cascade Rd and blamed the supervisor and board for failing to act. Stating he believed there was special treatment on the billboard circumstance because of the board's fear of potential litigation.

Paul Young, 855 Boynton Hills Southeast, stated he had been in the township for 13 years and had never had a reason to come to the board and complain; however he had questions about the billboard issue. Stating he had voted for the parks and open space millage but wanted it to go for parks and trails, not for dealing with things the township had failed to do. Adding, professionals should have been involved in the negotiations not township staff or board members. Also, stating he would rather have had a third billboard in the area than to pay \$329,000 for the land. Asking what other projects had been put off to spend the money on the land?

Kim Young, 855 Boynton Hills Southeast, expressed disappointment in the board, stating it was an enormous amount of money to spend and could have been spent on something else, adding she would have no confidence the next time there was a millage request. Mrs. Young gave a copy of questions to the Chair requesting a written response.

Denise Stolk, 6820 Knapp, asked about the alignment of the trail. She stated it was originally planned on the golf course side of the street and they didn't want it on their side. Planning Director Ferro replied the alignment of the trail is in process and there would be a neighborhood input meeting in January, and all options of alignment are being considered.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Damstra recommended either the clerk, supervisor or treasurer put together a communiqué outlining the factual information regarding the billboard situation. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated she would suggest the supervisor do so upon his return, since he was involved in the entire process.

Trustee Proos agreed with Damstra and stated the Grand Rapids Press article was slanted and published for ulterior motives. He stated there was a lot of misinformation and all the facts were needed. Adding, the vote had been 4-3, and it was unfair to single out one person. Stating any decision is a board decision, not an individual one and some of these decisions are very difficult. He further stated township officials are elected to do a fiduciary duty, which never pleases everyone. Trustee Proos also talked about the mining issue, stating he'd like to see the committee formed and a monthly report submitted. He stated the digging was still going on and the streets had been washed down today. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated the supervisor had been actively working at putting the committee together. Trustee Proos asked people keep their prayers with the Haga family on the death of their daughter.

Trustee Westra stated the facts of the billboard matter were available long before it became an issue but they were ignored by multiple parties. Stating the township board is not responsible for planning functions and the issue should have been resolved at the planning level; adding a better job of strategic planning was needed to avoid these types of incidents in the future.

Trustee Sytsma stated the billboard property had been targeted by the open space advisory board list and became a higher priority when the potential of it being used for a billboard came to light.

Treasurer Pratt stated several residents had inquired about a public hearing meeting prior to the final purchase of the billboard property and the probability of delaying the sale. She reported the township had received documents from the township attorney showing the sale and transfer of land had been completed on November 30, so an additional meeting would serve no purpose.

Trustee Sytsma stated she had received an anonymous phone call on her cell phone asking to please postpone any further information regarding the billboard.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated the billboard land had been a 4-3 vote and although she had voted in the minority she did respect the other board members and open space members opinions; adding since the sale had taken place it was time to move forward on this issue and work to assure the township was never put in this type of position in the future. Clerk Ensing Millhuff announced the

certified wildlife habitat designations for Roselle Park and stated residents could also receive this for their own properties. All that was needed was food, water, cover and places for animals to sustain life and raise their young. Applications are available at the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Ensing Millhuff announced a number of resumes had been received for the park director position. The Supervisor, Clerk, and Dr. Greg Forbes from the park and the open space committees had done the interviews for the final four, and Mark Fitzpatrick would be starting this week. He has Master's Degree in Parks and Recreation Resource Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Fishery and Wildlife Management. Adding, he also has experience in grant writing, and the director of Blandford Nature Center.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

2008 CDBG PROGRAM ALLOCATION

Trustee Westra stated he had heard positive feedback regarding the GO! Bus program. Clerk Ensing Millhuff stated any program that qualified for the grant needed funding for a minimum of \$5,000.

RESOLUTION R-121007-1 - CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

Owners Dave and Heidi Organek were present to explain their plans, including tearing down the building and moving next door where the exterior and interior would be remodeled. **Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to adopt Resolution R-121007-1, which is an application for the Class C liquor license transfer.** There were comments among board members regarding the activities allowed under the liquor license. Trustee Proos noted this was just the first step of a multi-step process. Clerk Millhuff clarified a Patron Dance License already existed. **Moved by Westra, supported by Pratt, to amend the motion to reflect the approval of this request was pursuant to MCL 436.1916, with the exception of the last line of the first paragraph, is to be struck. Motion to amend carried. Roll Call on Original Motion: Yes - Damstra, Proos, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Westra, Sytsma. No - 0. Absent - Haga. Resolution adopted.**

RESOLUTION R-121007-2 - ANNUAL MEETING/BUDGET SCHEDULE 2008/2009

Moved by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve Resolution R-121007-2, which is the annual meeting/budget schedule for 2008/2009. Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to amend the motion to move the annual meeting to Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 1 p.m. Motion to amend carried. Roll Call on Original Motion: Yes - Proos, Pratt, Ensing Millhuff, Westra, Sytsma, Damstra. No -0. Absent - Haga. Resolution adopted.

ASSEMBLY ROOM PAINTING PROPOSAL

Move by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to approve the quote of \$3,850 with Techniques Painting as recommended. Motion carried.

ASSEMBLY ROOM ROOF REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL

Moved by Proos, supported by Sytsma, to approve the assembly room roof replacement proposal of \$7,410 with Sherriff-Goslin Company. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Young, 855 Boynton Hills Southeast, expressed frustration the land relating to the billboard had been sold November 30, and the letter asking for funds went out on December 7. Clerk Ensing Millhuff clarified the letter had been sent by private citizens, not by the township.

Doug Landman, Greenwood Forest Court, clarified his earlier comments, stating he was not blaming individuals here for the actual price unless those individuals had been involved in the negotiations. He was, however, blaming the group as a whole for the fact the situation existed at all. He stated the township had polled the citizens extensively, and he asked the township board take definitive action to represent the desires of its constituents. Adding the hope for private donations to cover the board's failure to prevent the situation from occurring was not adequate fiduciary responsibility.

Paul Young, 855 Boynton Hills Southeast, didn't like the comments about people having inaccurate facts; stating the facts would be easier to get out if a public meeting regarding the purchase had been held.

Jon Sarb, 590 River Street, clarified the idea of private donations came about after the township had agreed to buy the property. He defended the board and said the money would be raised by people like himself going door to door and sending out letters because other like minded concerned citizens agreed the purchase price asked by Representative Green was too high; adding the township board had nothing to do with the price set by the property owner. He stated it was an unfortunate situation however; it was time to move on to make Ada a better community.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

RS: JS