

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee Smith, Trustee Proos, Trustee Westra, Clerk Burton, and Supervisor Haga. Also present: Recording Secretary Renegar, and 16 community members. Absent: Trustee Sytsma.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE PARADISE LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

Supervisor Haga stated the notice for the Public Hearing was published two times as required, and asked for a motion to proceed into the Public Hearing regarding the Paradise Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District No. 1.

Motion by Proos, supported by Smith, to proceed with the Public Hearing for the Paradise Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District No. 1. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent 1. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

There was no Board comment.

Motion by Proos, supported by Rhoades, to close the Public Hearing regarding the Paradise Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District No. 1. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

March 14, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Planning Commission Minutes 2/17/11; 2. Township Investment Report 2/11; 3. Utility Advisory Board Minutes 2/17/11; 4. Open Space Advisory Board Minutes 2/10/11, 2/21/11; 5. Ada Downtown Development Authority Minutes 2/7/11; 6. GVMC-Policy Committee Minutes 2/16/11. **Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Treasurer Rhoades reported the general township warrants, with receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$1,307.99; #205 \$354.41; #208 \$83.27; #590 \$88.80; #591 \$629.77; #592 \$3.62; Total all Hand Checks: \$2,467.86; Warrants: #101 \$8,586.29; #205 \$2,075.16; #208 \$967.89; #248 \$1,778.50; #590 \$94,246.70; #591 \$85,274.34; #592 \$317.74; Total Warrants: \$193,246.62. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$195,714.48. **Moved by Westra, supported by Smith, to approve the Warrant Report for March 28, 2011, in the total amount of \$195,714.48. Roll Call: Yes - Proos, Smith, Westra, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carlton Blough of the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board thanked the Township for participating in the PDR program and presented highlights of the PDR. The mission of the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights Program is to: Maintain a long-term business environment for agriculture; preserve the rural character and scenic attributes of the county; enhance important environmental benefits; and maintain the quality of life of county residents. He stated there are four different zones: North, South, Fruit Ridge, and the Parnell Corridor. The PDR applications are scored on a sub-regional basis, and new points have been added to the scoring criteria for a minimum of \$2,000 contribution for a farm from the township and additional points for a line item in the township's budget to support PDR. This spring a trip is planned to Lancaster, PA and township officials interested in attending to learn more about how PDR works and is used as an economic development tool should contact Kendra Wills.

BOARD COMMENT

Supervisor Haga stated this will also be forwarded to the Open Space Advisory Board for their review.

Trustee Westra asked if there are any qualifications for the smaller family owned farms versus corporate or industrial lands in terms of which lands receive PDR monies.

Carlton Blough responded it could be by the size of the land base, and the main scoring system starts at 40 acres. The specialty crops would be in a different class.

Trustee Proos would like to see the information put on the web site because there is a lot of interesting information in the brochure about what the local farms do with their products.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD COMMENT

Supervisor Haga pointed out the Census changes from 1980-2010. Ada Township shows 13,142, a 33% growth. He stated the Kent County Sheriff's Office has a new program called Crime Reports where citizens are able to go on the web site www.CrimeReports.com to receive crime reports in our particular area. This will be put on the web site. Citizens can also go to www.accesskent.com to report incidents. Supervisor Haga also noted there were 71 appeals during the Board of Review, 50 residential, 14 commercial and 5 hardships. For the 2010 year the Assessing Department did 837 field reviews.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-032811-1, CONFIRMATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE PARADISE LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve adoption of Resolution R-032811-1, Confirmation of Assessment Role for the Paradise Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District No. 1. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Proos, Smith, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No - 0; Absent 1. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION R-032811-2, GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (PA-621) FOR BUDGETS OF ALL ADA TOWNSHIP FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2011 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2012

Supervisor Haga asked for a motion to proceed into a Public Hearing for the Township Budgets. **Motion by Smith, supported by Westra, to adopt Resolution R-032811-2, General Appropriations Act (PA-621) for Budgets of All Ada Township Funds for Fiscal Year April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Proos, Smith, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No - 0; Absent 1. Resolution adopted.**

Supervisor Haga handed out a new graph with the estimated revenues for 2011/2012. The General Appropriations Act is a statutory requirement and in plain language it is adoption of all the Township Budgets which must be adopted before April 1st in order the Township to spend any money.

Trustee Smith commented there was a public hearing and no one showed up, so she hopes everyone is happy with what the Board has done.

RESOLUTION R-032811-3, LOCAL GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION FOR CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSES

Shelly Smith of the Parents Booster Board for Forest Hills Central High School, stated their purpose is to raise funds to support the football program for everything that the school district can't provide, so applying for the license is one way to raise funds.

Supervisor Haga stated the information provided reflects that they are a non-profit organization.

Motion by Smith, supported by Rhoades, to adopt Resolution R-032811-3, Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses. Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No - Proos, Westra; Absent 1. Resolution adopted.

Trustee Proos asked what kind of games they would be playing.

Shelly Smith stated they would not be hosting, they would be working at other licensed facilities.

Tim Belgrow with Forest Hills Central explained there are venues throughout Grand Rapids, Lowell and Ionia that put on events the parents in this organization go in and assist, getting a percentage of the proceeds.

Trustee Proos asked if there is an age limit for these events.

Tim Belgrow stated you have to be “of age” to gamble, which in the State of Michigan is 21, and the people who put on these events have to be licensed through the State of Michigan.

PROCLAMATION P-032811-1, OPEN GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATION

Supervisor Haga stated the Administrative Committee did review the draft presented by Trustee Westra. We determined it was relevant and would like some public input as we try to accomplish this within 90 days.

Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to adopt Proclamation P-032811-1, Open Government Proclamation for Ada Township. Roll Call: Yes - Westra, Proos, Smith, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 1. Proclamation adopted.

Trustee Westra thanked the Administrative Committee and Township for reviewing the proposal, and it shows Ada is moving in the right direction by embracing transparency and openness.

Treasurer Rhoades stated as Governor Snyder works toward transparency in the State government, Ada is trying to proceed in the same vein, which may help capture any money that might be out there.

LICENSE AND RELEASE AGREEMENT-ALTICOR INC. PROPERTY USE IN CONNECTION WITH 4TH OF JULY ACTIVITIES

Supervisor Haga stated except for dates this is the same agreement we’ve had for years with Alticor regarding our 4th of July activities, for parking space on their property and the green space. They do not charge us anything for this, and they do require a certificate of insurance.

Motion by Westra, supported by Burton, to approve the License and Release Agreement-Alticor Inc. Property Use in Connection with 4th of July Activities. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.

MOWING, TRIMMING AND EDGING SERVICES FOR PROPERTIES OWNED BY ADA TOWNSHIP

Supervisor Haga stated six proposals were received ranging from \$92,413.00 to \$139,605.00. The Administrative Committee met with staff to review the proposals. Some background checking was done on Thornapple Lawn with positive reports. Clean Cut Lawn Care has previously done the lawn care and they have faithfully done a great job in providing services to Ada Township. In view of the background check and the low bid the committee is recommending contracting with Thornapple Lawn for \$92,413.00 for a three-year period. At the end of the first year it would be reviewed to determine if services have met requirements.

Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve the contract with Thornapple Lawn in the amount of \$92,413 for mowing, trimming and edging Township properties. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.

Trustee Westra commended those who reviewed this and put out the bid, and believes this is an excellent example of the free market and the bidding process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk

RS/dr