

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2013**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee Jacobs, Trustee Smith and Clerk Burton. Also present: Planning Director Jim Ferro, Fire Chief Jim DuVall, and Lt. Dave Murray. Absent: Trustee LeBlanc, Trustee Proos, and Recording Secretary Dorothy Renegar.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Haga added #8, Ada Village Design Plan Update, under Communications.

Motion by Smith, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Agenda as amended. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

June 10, 2013 Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Building Permit Report-5/13; 2. Comcast Update-6/3/13; 3. Kent County Land Bank 2012 Annual Report; 4. Cunningham Dalman PC-Kent County Land Bank; 5. Open Space Preservation Advisory Board Minutes-5/29/13; 6. MTA Legislative Update Fax-6/14/13, 6/7/13; 7. Hope Network Transit Services Report-5/13; 8. Ada Village Design Plan Update.

Motion by Jacobs, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Minutes, Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

ADA TOWNSHIP GENERAL WARRANTS

Treasurer Rhoades reported receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$6,190.83; #205 \$170.00; #208 \$294.47; #248 \$330.00; #590 \$76.50; #591 \$76.50; #592 \$17.00; Total all Hand Checks: \$7,155.30; Warrants: #101 \$50,894.02; #205 \$4,661.95; #208 \$12,492.25; #213 \$360.00; #248 \$655.00; #590 \$118,594.51; #591 \$117,670.26; #592 \$3,828.46; Total Warrants: \$309,156.45. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$316,311.75.

Motion by Smith, supported by Jacobs, to approve the Warrant Report for June 24, 2013, in the total amount of \$316,311.75. Roll Call: Yes – Jacobs, Smith, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – LeBlanc, Proos. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Rathbun, Access Business Group, stated when the Board approved their tax abatement they asked for a periodic update on construction progress. Amway started designing the facility in June of last year and have been putting their final designs together; in February began construction; masonry walls were put up in March; at the end of April the beams started arriving and they had a beam signing ceremony; and the first of June they started setting steel, with decking on the second floor. The rough schedule is to get the construction done this year; equipment starts arriving in 2014, and then they have about a years' time to get the equipment validated; the first quarter of 2015 is when the first production begins. He invited everyone to visit the web site that shows all the Amway construction going on in west Michigan as well as around the world:
Amwaymanufacturingexpansion.com .

BOARD COMMENT

Treasurer Rhoades stated the tax bills are going out July 1st.

Supervisor Haga stated he heard the City of Grand Rapids will have an ordinance in place prior to the 4th of July in regard to the public act which the governor has signed regarding regulation of fines for fireworks. He stated he's had conversations with neighboring townships Grand Rapids and Cascade, and they have discussed whether they wish to have a common ordinance similar to what was done with the solicitation ordinance. Regarding Roselle Park, we are developing an additional playground area, and are planning to solicit contributions to the various playground items. He told the Board if they know of anyone who

might be interested in making a donation to the Roselle Park playground they can pass this information on. There will also be opportunities to contribute to benches or memorials.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

FIREWORKS PERMIT BYRNE

This is an application for a fireworks display at 2736 Honey Creek, to celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary on September 7, 2013. The Byrnes have had fireworks displays previously, done by Melrose Pyrotechnics, and they provided us with certificates of insurance.

Trustee Smith stated since they requested to be placed on the July 8th agenda, and there was no representative present, we ought to postpone action to the July 8th meeting.

Motion by Smith, supported by Jacobs, to postpone the application request for the Fireworks Permit to the July 8th Board meeting per communications in the letter from Mr. Byrne. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO DDA CITIZENS COUNCIL

Jim Ferro, Planning Director, stated the Downtown Development Authority has a nine member Citizens Advisory Council that is provided for under the DDA statute for any DDA that has more than 100 residents within its boundaries. This council was created at the time the DDA was created in 2008, and was involved in the DDA's preparation of its initial development plan, which is a statutorily required plan that was also adopted by the Township Board. There are currently four vacancies on the council, and four members have been recruited to fill those vacancies: Sara Andro, Jerry Bronkema, Barbara Myers, and Craig Rybarczyk. He stated he would recommend appointment of those four individuals to the DDA Citizens Council.

Motion by Burton, supported by Smith, to approve the Appointments to the DDA Citizens Council as listed in the memorandum of 6/13/13: Sara Andro, Jerry Bronkema, Barbara Myers, and Craig Rybarczyk. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

Clerk Burton asked if they will serve on the Steering Committee or as a separate group, or how would that work.

Ferro stated the incumbent members and prospective new members were invited to the initial meeting of the Steering Committee on the 17th, but they are not considered members of the Steering Committee since they are required by statute to be a separate body; they'll be required to have some of their own meetings during this planning process.

RESOLUTION R-062413-1, REGIONAL ECONOMIC COLLABORATION SUPPORT

Supervisor Haga stated this resolution came about through discussions in the Supervisor's Association meetings, and it was suggested to adopt this as related to the economic development in our region. In the long-run Ada is affected by economic development; when people come to visit our area, they use our restaurants and parks and facilities. It is recommended to adopt this resolution.

Motion by Rhoades, supported by Burton, to adopt Resolution R-062413-1, Regional Economic Development Collaboration.

When Trustee Jacobs asked what The Right Place, Inc. is, and if we have a contract with them, Supervisor Haga stated we partner with the Right Place; they do economic work with companies in their efforts to have them move their businesses into the Kent County area; they work with the State for any funding that might be available, such as with the Amway Nutra-lite plant. He stated we do not have a contract, but we are participating members; we are in the process of funding that entity at \$15,000 over a five-year period.

Trustee Jacobs asked if it was necessary to have them named in the Resolution; couldn't we say "we strive to be diligent in our partnerships with all entities and local officials who foster entrepreneurial undertakings." The purpose is to say that we as a Township are going to work with whoever we need to work with in order to support bringing businesses to the Township.

Motion by Jacobs, supported by Smith, to postpone taking action on Resolution R-062413-1, Regional Economic Development Collaboration for further research by the Supervisor on the specific entity noted. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

DONATION OF FIRE TRUCK TO ABBOTT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lt. David Murray stated in April the West Texas Fire Department had a large explosion in a fertilizer plant, and the Abbott Volunteer Fire Department lost two firefighters and two pieces of equipment. He stated we've got a new truck coming in, and we

have a 1993 truck that we could give them to replace the truck they lost in the fire. Four of our firefighters have volunteered to transport the truck to Abbott and give them training for this truck. He stated he has been in contact with Chief Mike Larson of Amway to help with the expense of getting the truck to Texas, and once it has been determined whether the truck will be donated these plans will be finalized.

Motion by Smith, supported by Jacobs, to authorize the Township to donate Engine No. 4 to Abbott Texas Volunteer Fire Department without any additional expenses related to the delivery of the unit. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

It was discussed the Township will still have exposure to staff that goes to Abbott Texas, and will keep liability insurance on the truck until it is delivered; the Township will also require an “as is” statement to be signed for protection from further liability. The anticipated timetable for the delivery of the new engine is in September or the first of October.

2013 TRUTH IN TAXATION

Supervisor Haga stated this is the adoption of millage rates the Township collects in December. It should be noted, we do hold a hearing on our millage rates at our Budget public hearing. He stated the motion is to approve the millage rates under the “allowable millage rates without Truth in Taxation hearing” because historically, those are the numbers we have used. Those rates are: Operating .9165; Fire/Police .8000; Parks .2500; Open Space/Parks .3963; and Trails .4977; for a Total of 2.86.05 mills.

Motion by Burton, supported by Jacobs, to approve the 2013 Truth in Taxation under the maximum allowable without Truth in Taxation hearing. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk

RS/dr