

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
JUNE 27, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee Smith, Trustee Westra, Clerk Burton, and Recording Secretary Renegar. Also present: Planning Director Jim Ferro, Ada Parks & Recreation Director Mark Fitzpatrick, One Kent Coalition representative Nyal Deems, and 4 community members. Absent: Trustee Proos, and Trustee Sytsma.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

June 13, 2011 Regular Board Meeting, and June 16, 2011 Special Board Meeting  
Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Planning Commission Minutes-5/19/11, 5/20/11; 2. Building Permit Report-5/11; 3. Kent County Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment-6/15/11; 4. One Kent Study Group – Meeting Notes-6/16/11; 5. Regis Board Minutes-3/23/11, 4/27/11; 6. Discussions with Kent County Conservation League and Neighbors-6/13/11; 7. Utility Advisory Board Minutes-5/19/11; 8. Planning Commission Master Plan Update Survey-6/11; 9. Open Space Advisory Board 2010/2011 Annual Report-6/19/11; 10. Comcast – Update-6/14/11; 11. 2010 Grand Valley Estates Water Quality Report; 12. 2010 Ada Township Water Quality Report.

**Motion by Westra, supported by Smith, to approve the Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

Treasurer Rhoades reported the general township warrants, with receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$25,809.50; #205 \$25.00; #590 \$32.84; #591 \$3,832.94; Total all Hand Checks: \$29,700.28; Warrants: #101 \$29,640.38; #205 \$11,066.40; #208 \$14,031.23; #211 Township Trails \$150.00; #590 \$18,525.92; #591 \$9,712.01; #592 \$1,904.67; Total Warrants: \$85,030.61. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$114,730.89. **Moved by Smith, supported by Burton, to approve the Warrant Report for June 27, 2011, in the total amount of \$114,730.89. Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Westra, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – Proos, Sytsma. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Haga noted Item #6 was the sand blasting for graffiti at the wall on McCabe, and there was also tagging of the wall on Knapp Street near the high school. These all get reported to the Sheriff's Department.

There was a question on item #7, the response being it was part of the bonding process for the Bronson Street and water main project on Bronson Street.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**BOARD COMMENT**

Trustee Westra commented regarding the tagging of the walls on the trails, and questioned if thought had been given to adding video surveillance to those areas. He wondered with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July coming if a decision had been made to spray for mosquitoes.

Supervisor Haga stated it has been discussed but there are a lot of walls in the Township and it would be difficult to cover them all. As far as spraying for mosquitoes, the committee did discuss it and felt for the reasons of private property, the cost, the lack of effectiveness because of the river corridor in the area, and people bringing their own repellent, that it should not be done.

Trustee Westra commented on the Reports and Communications, Item #5, the communication from Regis regarding the GIS System, and that it appears they are continuing to struggle as an organization. He inquired whether we are getting the best value from that organization.

Supervisor Haga stated based on attendance at Board meetings, Regis is still viable. He stated the township utilizes it to the degree possible, and really believe it is a viable service versus setting up our own GIS department.

Trustee Westra asked the Clerk if there was any progress in folding the Fire Department web site into the Township web site.

Clerk Burton responded there has not been anything done concerning that idea yet.

Clerk Burton stated she expects everyone to have a grand ole' time at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, and there will be a full-page ad coming out in the Cadence this week.

Treasurer Rhoades stated the Grand Marshall is going to be Virgil Westdale this year.

Supervisor Haga stated the bond sale on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, was very successful and the township received good rates on the sale, with an AA rating from Standard & Poors. Chemical Bank purchased the bonds. He also commented he just received a copy of the document put together by the One Kent Coalition called "One Kent – Together For Growth", and we will be talking about the resolution later in the meeting.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### **ORDINANCE O-062711-1, PLANNING COMMISSION ORDINANCE**

Planning Director Jim Ferro stated after review by legal counsel there were a few revisions made to the proposed ordinance. One major change was a provision stating that a member of the Planning Commission shall be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals as required by State zoning. It's not a provision of the Planning statute so it was not in the original draft of the planning ordinance, but it doesn't hurt to have it in there. There was also a provision added that states members of the Planning Commission may be appointed to successive terms subject to any term limits that may be established by resolution of the Township Board. There was also a provision added stating that terms of the Planning Commissioners shall over-lap with one-third expiring each year to the extent possible. The wording concerning establishment of the commission was changed slightly "to confirm and establish the continuance of the planning commission". So, the intent is that the planning commission as currently comprised is to continue.

Trustee Westra asked for clarification of the terms "as currently comprised".

Ferro stated with its present make-up, present appointees, so that re-appointment of new planning commission members in their entirety is not required. Also, with regard to the suggestion from Trustee Smith regarding publications and use of electronic means, counsel looked into that and there is legislation pending that allows under certain circumstances publication of notices in an online fashion rather than in a printed newspaper publication. That is being accomplished in the proposed state legislation by changing the actual definition of the term newspaper, so the revised definition of a newspaper applies, and all of those laws don't have to be amended. So the possible change in those publication requirements doesn't need to be specifically addressed in our ordinance since it is already being taken care of in the proposed legislation through changing the term of newspaper.

**Motion by Westra, supported by Smith, to adopt Ordinance O-062711-1, Planning Commission Ordinance. Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Westra, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – Proos, Sytsma. Ordinance adopted.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### **CONTRACT AWARD ADA PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS**

Parks Director Mark Fitzpatrick stated in February the proposal for improvements at the Ada Park playground was put out for bid, and for O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. (OCBA) Landscape Architects to manage the project. Five bids have been received, and the low bidder is Twin Lakes Nursery, Inc. The Parks Department has worked with them, has a good rapport with them, and is comfortable accepting them as the low bid. So the request is for the Board to accept Twin Lakes' low bid of \$101,810.00, and to contract with them for the playground improvements project.

**Motion by Smith, supported by Rhoades, to approve the recommendation for the Ada Park playground improvements 2011 project to contract with Twin Lakes Nursery, Inc. in the amount of \$101,810.00. Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 2.**

**Motion carried.**

Fitzpatrick stated Wes Steer from OCBA did not include a 7% contingency fee in case something came up. It was reviewed and decided to not move forward on that, as there is the assumption there will not be any major issues.

### **RESOLUTION R-062711-1, RESOLUTION REGARDING THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY ONE KENT COALITION**

Supervisor Haga stated this resolution comes before the Board as a result of discussion in the Kent County Supervisor's Association of concerns related to the speed in which the project is going forward. As the resolution indicates, there have not been any formal reports or studies, and only one report that has been put together by One Kent in draft legislation. There have been a number of townships that have adopted this resolution, including Cascade, Alpine, Grand Rapids, Lowell, Nelson and

Oakfield, and Kent County has opted not to participate in the study group. The intent is to slow down the legislation because everyone needs to be in the know relative to potential impact on local government.

**Motion by Smith, supported by Rhoades, to adopt Resolution R-062711-1, Resolution regarding the Metropolitan Government proposal advanced by One Kent Coalition. Roll Call: Yes - Smith, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – Westra; Absent – Proos, Sytsma. Resolution adopted.**

**Public Comment:**

Nyal Deems, member of the One Kent Coalition, offered a few thoughts. He stated perhaps one of the things the coalition can take the blame for is not getting out enough information about this to the townships. He doesn't really feel they are moving too fast, but if they are giving that impression, they need to address that too. The legislation being proposed requires enabling legislation for the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County work together, so they are working on a draft enabling legislation. The idea is to get the legislature to adopt it, and then it can be used for an election here in Kent County. The logic on timing for this important issue is they think it should go on the ballot that draws the largest voting population in the county, which is a presidential year, 2012. It was felt if that if you can leave a year for the presentation and dialogue, the legislation needs to be complete this fall. Therefore, it's presumed they have to get something to the legislature in time for them to handle it and get it through their committee process this fall. They asked us to give them something in March and they are now considerably behind. When you read the draft I think you'll find there's very little that creates an issue unless you're concerned with combining the city and the county. If you read through it you'll notice 95% of the governments stay as they are. The idea is this legislation allows you to achieve consolidating two very large governments; the money saved can be used to restore services; and it gives the entire metro area an entirely new dynamic for its size and position for the economic viability it's going to present. We are not making the mark in the world as we should for who we are, because this is a very good, strong place. The Coalition is not out to offend anyone. No one with One Kent has a political career and no one is going to make any money from this. These are philanthropists who are working on what can be done to help the metro area achieve what it can achieve, and that is the goal.

Frank Hoover, community member, would like to see it slowed down to the point where it does not exist, because this is not a good resolution for the regular person of this Township or any Township. Ada Township is well run and we're well taken care of.

**Board Comment:**

Trustee Westra stated he has been impressed that none of the proposed enabling legislation has a direct impact of monies being taken away from Ada. Ada Township has contributed monies that would normally have been the responsibility of the Kent County Road Commission to accomplish road projects within our township. The money saved by the consolidation of Kent County and Grand Rapids would mean there would be money available for entities like the Kent County Road Commission. Also, One Kent has done a terrible job in communication. But we should not be in a rush to dismiss the potential that One Kent has to offer the greater community of Kent County.

Trustee Smith noted starting a project like this is difficult, but she thinks we need to go back to the beginning and ask not how do we get this done but should we do it. She doesn't have enough information yet.

Treasurer Rhoades stated he thinks this resolution gives everyone the opportunity to say they need to have more information in order to participate.

Clerk Burton agreed we need more information.

Supervisor Haga stated the public also needs to be educated about what this is. The township is asking the Coalition to slow down to get that communication out to the public. There are options in the legislation for the residents or the Board of a municipality to join this metro government, but it should be a vote of the people. There are a lot of unknowns that we're concerned about.

Trustee Westra stated there should be a web site; the Coalition needs to engage people through social media to make sure this information gets out to people. He noted this resolution was not drafted by the township, and did we have any input? Also, is this a resolution of another group that has its own agenda?

Supervisor Haga stated it was not drafted by an attorney; it was drafted by representatives of the Township Supervisors Association.

Clerk Burton stated she did not feel approval of this resolution would put a halt to the project.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Burton  
Ada Township Clerk

RS/dr