

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
JULY 8, 2013**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Trustee LeBlanc, Trustee Proos, Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee Jacobs, Trustee Smith and Clerk Burton. Also present: Planning Director Jim Ferro, Recording Secretary Dorothy Renegar, and 10 community members.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion by Proos, supported by LeBlanc, to approve the Agenda as presented. Yes – 7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

June 24, 2013 Regular Board Meeting

**Receive and File Various Reports/Communications**

1. Treasurer's Investment Report-5/31/13; 2. Utility Advisory Board Minutes-5/31/13; 3. Comcast Update-6/17/13; 4. Ada Township Open Space Preservation Advisory Board 2012/2013 Annual Report-6/13/13; 5. MTA Legislative Update Fax-6/28/13, 6/21/13; 6. Regis Board Minutes-5/22/13; 7. Resch-"Miles for Smiles"-6/20/13; 8. Representative Posthumus Lyons-AT&T Cell Tower Application-5/16/13; 9. Fire and EMS Incident Report-6/13; 10. Irving-AT&T Cell Tower-6/29/13.

**Motion by Rhoades, supported by Smith, to approve the Minutes, Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

**ADA TOWNSHIP GENERAL WARRANTS**

Treasurer Rhoades reported receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$19,084.77; #205 \$676.38; #208 \$197.00; #248 \$5.49; #590 \$174.08; #591 \$198.47; #592 \$39.27; Total all Hand Checks: \$20,375.46; Warrants: #101 \$12,649.88; #205 \$27,098.68; #208 \$7,955.84; #248 \$795.00; #590 \$91,339.61; #591 \$111,436.58; #592 \$1,165.49; Total Warrants: \$252,441.08. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$272,816.54.

**Motion by Proos, supported by Jacobs, to approve the Warrant Report for July 8, 2013, in the total amount of \$272,816.54. Roll Call: Yes – Jacobs, Smith, LeBlanc, Proos, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Matt Zimmerman, Attorney, Varnum Riddering law firm, stated he was there on behalf of Dennis Madden, 6468 Bridalwood Ct. regarding the AT&T proposed cell tower. He requested they look at another alternative, such as the water tower on the Forest Hills School property at Knapp and Pettis. Zimmerman stated Mr. Madden recommends three things be done: 1. The school be contacted and asked if they would consider an analysis being done of using the water tower as the site for the cell tower; 2. That the Township Board support that action; 3. That the Township contact AT&T to ask for a voluntary extension of the statutory time limit for considering their request, while they, AT&T, would have sufficient time to consider the alternative water tower location. He then referred to the Township's Master Plan, Chapter 8, Community Facility Needs, on wireless telecommunications infrastructure that references a consultant prepared analysis from 2005 on the need for potential wireless antenna and tower sites. Zimmerman stated it doesn't hurt to ask, and Mr. Madden is asking the Township to ask the school to consider putting the antenna on the water tower or the light pole.

Erika Irving, 6501 Bridalwood, stated they will see the cell tower all day long at their home, and a realtor stated it will have an impact on the salability of their house. She asked the Board to deny this proposal from AT&T and ask them to search for another area.

Diane Thomas, 8700 3 Mile Road, stated she had heard of a plan to complete 3 Mile Road between Honeycreek and Giles, and was wondering if it is true. She heard the North Country Trail wants to extend to 3 Mile Road so they can come into Ada Township and use some of the existing trail, and asked if that is true, who will pay for it.

Township Planning Director Jim Ferro stated he would give information on these questions at the end of public comment.

Ron Hoogeboom, 6475 Bridalwood, stated he lives 900 feet from where the cell tower will be and will see it all day long, and asked the Board to prevent this from happening. He then referred to the Township ordinances regarding cell towers, and the clause that refers to manmade objects. He stated he has circulated a petition and received 50 signatures from people in the area who are against the cell tower going into a rural residential area, as it will have a significant impact on all of them, and requests the school board use one of their high structures.

Diane Thomas, 8700 3 Mile, thanked the Board for donating the fire truck to the Abbott Fire Department in Texas.

Jim Ferro, Planning Director, stated that he, Supervisor Haga, Trustee Jacobs, and Planning Commissioner Leisman had a meeting with the school superintendent and assistant superintendent regarding the proposed cell tower and use of the water tower. He stated the superintendent had been directed by the school board not to spend more time on the cell tower on the campus, and the school board president was not interested in revisiting this issue. As for 3 Mile Road, he has not heard about any proposal to extend 3 Mile Road.

Jim Ferro stated the North Country Trail Association has approached the Township about moving the route of the trail, running it west from the Lowell area, connecting with our trail on McCabe to Conservation, through Seidman Park to Honey Creek to Cannonsburg state game area into Cannon Township. He stated it is a long distance un-paved natural trail that is intended only for use by through-hikers on foot. Ferro stated the Trail Association does have a proposed Memorandum of Understanding defining the roles and responsibilities, and Cannon Township has received and adopted the memorandum.

#### **BOARD COMMENT**

Trustee LeBlanc stated he felt the proposal of Township support for Miles for Smiles concerning “bullying” was a good idea as presented in the letter sent to the Township by Trinity Resch, and asked whether it was something being considered. He stated he was impressed with the letter, and asked if there wasn’t something we could do to encourage her. He also thanked the staff and volunteers who made the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade a great experience. Concerning the cell tower, he would like to have some insight as to why the school board is reluctant to help with this issue.

Jim Ferro stated he did not hear any good reason from the school district in regards to the cell tower issue. He stated the school asked AT&T to make a presentation at a public informational meeting. The school board expected AT&T supporters to be there but none were present, and they only heard opposition from a number of parents.

Trustee Proos commented on the quality of the fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup>. Concerning the cell tower, he asked if there has been research into using other areas, such as the Reith Riley property, and where the Consumers substation is for the cell tower.

Jim Ferro stated AT&T says the center of the desired area is Knapp and Pettis, and Egypt and Knapp is farther away; they would prefer a site in the river valley to reach the biggest share of their customers.

Trustee Jacobs stated the parade was wonderful, however there was no time listed for the parade on the web site. She also commented on White’s Bridge in Ionia that burned down, and whether there were any safety concerns for our bridge.

Supervisor Haga stated he has asked the East Precinct Commander to put extra patrols on, especially at night.

Trustee Proos stated he has a product he will donate that will protect the bridge from fire for 20 years, as long as the inside of the bridge doesn’t get wet.

Clerk Burton stated this year for the parade they held a float competition with two categories, and the winners were Creekside Neighbors and Jam n’ Bean Coffee. The sponsor was Pat Vredevoogd of AJS Realty.

Supervisor Haga commented on the Clean Air Action display in the front entry. He stated the Road Commission has several road projects planned for Ada Township: traffic signal modernization and sidewalk ramp updates at Ada Drive and Spaulding from August 18 to September 14; improvement of the intersection of Knapp and Grand River from July 13 to August 15, when the bridge should be done; and also Grand River will be closed for a couple weeks.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **BYRNE FIREWORKS PERMIT**

Mike VanLoo, Melrose Pyrotechnics, Inc. presented the proposal for a fireworks display for the purpose of celebrating an anniversary, at 2736 Honey Creek Avenue.

**Motion by Proos, supported by Smith, to approve the Byrne Fireworks Permit for Melrose Pyrotechnics, Inc., at 2736 Honey Creek Avenue to celebrate Norman and Rosemary Byrnes 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 7, 2013. Yes - 7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.**

##### **RESOLUTION R-070813-1, SUPPORT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION**

Supervisor Haga stated Ada Township is a partner in the Right Place program, and they work to create economic development, and are sanctioned by the MEDC.

**Motion by Proos, supported by LeBlanc, to approve Resolution R-070813-1, Support of Regional Economic Development Collaboration, as amended. Roll Call: Yes – Jacobs, Smith, LeBlanc, Proos, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 0. Resolution adopted as amended.**

**Motion by Jacobs, supported by Smith, to amend Resolution R-070813-1, Support of Regional Economic Development Collaboration, to add in the 4<sup>th</sup> “Whereas” sentence after “The Right Place, Inc.: ...and all other similar entities ... is a leader in...”, and to delete “and approve” in the last sentence. Yes -7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF KENT, ADA TOWNSHIP AND HOPE NETWORK WEST MICHIGAN-TRANSIT SERVICES**

Supervisor Haga stated this is renewal of our contract with Hope Network for transit service.

**Motion by LeBlanc, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Contract Between the County of Kent, Ada Township and Hope Network West Michigan-Transit Services for the community.**

**Motion by Proos, supported by Smith, to postpone action on the contract between Kent County, Ada Township and Hope Network till a representative of Hope Network can be present. Yes -7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION R-070813-2, REVISED PRELIMINARY PUD PLAN FOR “BROOKSIDE” PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT**

Jim Ferro, Planning Director, stated this is a request for approval of a minor change in a side yard setback for one of the lots in the Brookside Planned Unit Development. Approval of this minor amendment has been recommended by the Planning Commission, there was no one in opposition at the public hearing, and there was a letter of support submitted by the condo homeowners association.

**Motion by LeBlanc, supported by Jacobs, to approve Resolution R-070813-2, Revised Preliminary PUD Plan for Brookside Planned Unit Development. Roll Call: Yes – Jacobs, Smith, LeBlanc, Proos, Rhoades, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 0. Resolution adopted.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erika Irving, 6501 Bridalwood, stated she attended the school board meeting on the cell tower, and the Board did not like that they would need a 1,500 foot area at the base of the tower for their equipment; AT&T had said they did not think the water tower was practical. She stated the Board said the Township and the school have an unwritten pledge with the neighbors that they would not come back to the neighborhood asking for another structure around the water tower; and they suggested the Township revisit that pledge and reconsider going to the neighborhood and community and asking for the cell tower at the school location.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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Susan Burton, CMC  
Ada Township Clerk

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Date

RS/dr