

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 23, 2012**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Clerk Burton, Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee Proos, Trustee LeBlanc, Trustee Westra, and Trustee Smith. Also present: Planning Director Jim Ferro, Recording Secretary Dorothy Renegar, and 9 community members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Proos, supported by Smith, to approve the Agenda as amended. Yes – 7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

July 9, 2012 Regular Board Meeting

Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Region 8 Notes; 2. DDA Minutes-6/4/12; 3. Utility Advisory Board Minutes-5/17/12; 4. Open Space Advisory Board Minutes-6/14/12; 5. MTA Legislative Update-7/13/12.

Motion by Westra, supported by LeBlanc, to approve the Minutes, Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. Yes – 7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

ADA TOWNSHIP GENERAL WARRANTS

Treasurer Rhoades reported receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$11,824.90; #205 \$385.94; #208 \$11,791.25; #248 \$180.00; #590 \$27,627.97; #591 \$281.42; \$592 \$17.73; Total all Hand Checks: \$52,109.21; Warrants: #101 \$64,882.06; #205 \$559.27; #208 \$9,125.83; #248 \$226.14; #590 \$12,251.87; #591 \$14,617.98; #592 \$5,166.50; Total Warrants: \$106,829.65. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$158,938.86.

Moved by Smith, supported by Proos, to approve the Warrant Report for July 23, 2012, in the total amount of \$158,938.86. Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Smith, LeBlanc, Rhoades, Proos, Burton and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.

PAYMENT 1 BRONSON STREET RETAINING WALL AND PARKING AREA

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink, Inc. stated Bronson Street is done, the grass is difficult to grow right now but it is beginning to grow, and he recommends retaining \$2,000 and make payment now of \$9,114.00.

Moved by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve Payment 1 Bronson Street Retaining Wall and Parking Area in the amount of \$9,114.00 to Fliers Brothers Independent Excavators. Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Smith, LeBlanc, Rhoades, Proos, Burton and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.

PAYMENT 2 AND FINAL SPAULDING AVENUE SANITARY SEWER FORCEMAIN REPAIR

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink, Inc. stated the job went well and is completely done. He stated the final amount earned by RJT Construction is \$87,819.16; their original bid was \$99,350.00; they took their time building it but it was completed for about 11% under the bid amount. Groenenboom stated he is not recommending any retainage at this time, and the final amount due is \$8,781.92.

Moved by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve Payment 2 and Final Spaulding Avenue Sanitary Sewer Forcemain Repair in the total amount of \$8,781.92 to RJT Construction. Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Smith, LeBlanc, Rhoades, Proos, Burton and Haga; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deb Emery, 7534 Fase Street, stated she is very concerned with what is going on with the property in back of the Ninth Bridge Market, with that whole field cleared of trees. She stated she had heard that someone had bought the houses in back of there and was going to tear them all down. Emery asked if they had to go before the planning commission.

Supervisor Haga stated they would ultimately have to come to the Planning Commission for any plans relative to construction; but they are allowed to remove trees and brush. He went on to state if they plan to remove those houses they will have to go through a demolition process over which the township doesn't have any control.

Emery stated several years ago it was said a three-story apartment complex was going to be built, and that would drastically change the look of the Township.

Supervisor Haga replied the approval for that plan has expired.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee LeBlanc asked if Supervisor Haga had a chance to talk with MDOT about the surface of the new bridge.

Supervisor Haga stated he talked with one engineer, and they are aware of the roughness of the surface, but do not know whether they are going to do anything about it.

Trustee Proos stated he is still waiting for a meeting with Planner Ferro and Reith Riley in regards to what their outlook is on finishing.

Clerk Burton reminded everyone of the candidate forum on Tuesday at Redeemer Presbyterian Church being sponsored by the Ada Business Association, and reported it will be recorded and available on the ABA website. She stated as far as her office knows there is still a burn ban on. Burton stated the Ada Historical Society is featuring the group 13th Hour on Tuesday night as part of their "Music On The Lawn" series.

Trustee Smith stated concern about the issues with the audit, as well as some of the comments, premature conclusions, and accusations made at the last meeting. She then cited a portion of the 2008-2009 audit report which reported similar "material weaknesses", noting it was stated these same weaknesses were common to most municipalities, and the best, most economical way for the township to deal with these material weaknesses would be to continue the "status quo" and make corrections requested by the audit. Also that ¾ of the fiscal year of that particular audit was before she, as well as the Clerk and Treasurer, had taken office. Smith stated she did not find the amount of time between discovery of the audit issues on June 25 and notification of the Board on July 3 or 5 was unreasonable. She stated the Board usually does not have discussions about the "preliminary findings" till after the audits are completed, which usually happens at the end of August or the end of September, and doesn't know why this year would be any different.

Trustee Westra stated in response to comments made by Trustee Smith, and what he made at the last meeting regarding control issues, if there is not sufficient skill set within the walls of the township office to address the control issues and their remedies, then maybe we need a different skill set.

Supervisor Haga stated on July 5 there was another bicycle crash at Adacroft and Ada Drive. He stated on the July 14 Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Day there were 326 cars serviced, but he does not have the details at this point. Haga also stated if anyone has a report relative to fireworks, the Township is keeping a log and utilizing the complaint form in order to possibly begin discussing any type of ordinances or discussions with neighboring townships.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

HALL STREET PROJECT EASEMENT-FOREST HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jim Ferro, Planning Director, stated there are two locations on the Hall Street sidewalk where the sidewalk meanders away from the public road right-of-way, one is at the west end of the project area at the Balsam Hill Condominium property, and the second is the east end at Forest Hills Central High School. He stated easements have been approved and signed by both the school district and the condo association. Ferro stated the intent is for the sidewalk to connect to the internal sidewalk system in the condominium. He stated approval of both those easement documents is recommended.

Moved by Proos, supported by LeBlanc, to approve the Hall Street Project Easement-Forest Hills Public Schools bicycle path sidewalk easement. Yes – 7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.

HALL STREET PROJECT EASEMENT-BALSAM HILL CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

Motion by Proos, supported by LeBlanc, to approve the Hall Street Project Easement-Balsam Hill Condominium Association bicycle path sidewalk easement. Yes – 7; No – 0; Absent – 0. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk

RS/dr