

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Clerk Susan Burton at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Clerk Burton, Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee LeBlanc, Trustee Proos, Trustee Smith, Trustee Westra, and Recording Secretary Renegar. Also present: Planning Director Jim Ferro and 6 community members. Absent: Supervisor Haga.

**Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to have Clerk Burton conduct the meeting. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Clerk Burton stated there were a couple changes to the Agenda: addition of Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2011; and under New Business E. Ada Drive Forcemain Easements. **Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Agenda as amended. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

September 12, 2011 Regular Board Meeting, September 6, 2011 Special Board Meeting  
Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Fire Call Reports-8/11; 2. Planning Commission Minutes-8/18/11; 3. Building Permit Report-8/11; 4. Investment Report-6/11, 7/11; 5. Open Space Preservation Minutes-8/11/11; 6. Downtown Development Authority Minutes-9/6/11, 8/1/11. **Motion by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

Clerk Burton noted one change in the Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2011: it states there were five candidate finalists for the trustee position present at the meeting, and actually there were four present as one was a phone interview. **Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to amend the Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2011 to reflect four candidate finalists were present. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

**ADA TOWNSHIP GENERAL WARRANTS**

Treasurer Rhoades reported the general township warrants, with receipts in the following amounts: Hand Checks: #101 \$6,018.52; #205 \$1,608.31; #208 \$449.71; #590 \$10.50; #591 \$10.50; #592 \$2.33; Total all Hand Checks: \$8,099.87; Warrants: #101 \$37,061.99; #205 \$2,677.73; #208 \$2,382.93; #590 \$182,560.66; #591 \$194,963.47; #592 \$3,098.65; Total Warrants: \$434,194.73. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$442,294.60. **Moved by Proos, supported by Smith, to approve the Warrant Report for September 26, 2011, in the total amount of \$442,294.60. Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Smith, Rhoades, LeBlanc, Proos, and Burton; No – 0; Absent – Haga. Motion carried.**

**PAYMENT #4, ADA DRIVE SANITARY SEWER FORCEMAIN PROJECT**

Steve Groenenboom, Engineer, presented Payment No. 4 for Georgetown Construction for \$722,715.32, which makes the project completed to date at about 83%; the job is going well, and traffic is moving better. He stated some of the estimated items have come in a little higher and some a little lower than estimated, but it looks like the project will come in a little under what was bid. **Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve Payment #4 to Georgetown Construction in the amount of \$722,715.32. Roll call: Yes – Westra, Smith, LeBlanc, Proos, Rhoades, Burton; No – 0; Absent – Haga. Motion carried.**

The Board asked about and discussed liquidated damages, completion dates and hydro testing.

Groenenboom stated yes, section by section, about every 2,000 feet.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**BOARD COMMENT**

Trustee Westra commented on the festival coming up at Roselle Park and asked if there was anything we could do to help that be successful.

Trustee Rhoades stated the last email from Mark Fitzgerald stated he still needed volunteers.

Trustee Westra commented on the political arena and how much discussion has evolved around consolidation and collaboration, and suggested a board session be held to discuss this subject.

Trustee Proos stated he observed the mountains of gravel at the Reith Riley storage are higher than he has ever seen, and asked if they are trying to accelerate the excavation.

Planning Director Jim Ferro stated he was not sure if the accelerated excavation was on the mining end and stock piling end, or whether it's actually slow on the asphalt production end. He stated there are no limits on the quantities they can stock pile on their site.

Trustee Proos asked if everything is still on time.

Ferro stated he has had no contact with Reith Riley recently. He stated there is a request before the Planning Commission from Pettis & Associates for an extension of the deadline that is in the settlement agreement for completion of the mining operation on the Pettis property on Conservation Street. Ferro stated the original settlement states the mining and processing was to be completed by December 31, 2011, and there is language in the settlement that allows the owner to apply for one extension not to exceed ten years, subject to review and recommendation by the Planning Commission and final approval by the Township board.

Treasurer Rhoades stated most everybody has paid their taxes, and continue to get late payments with penalties. He will give a report at the next meeting on how much was collected and the number of parcels that are left.

## NEW BUSINESS

### BRONSON STREET IMPROVEMENTS-LANDSCAPE REVISION

Planning Director Jim Ferro stated this is a minor revision to the streetscape treatment on Ada Drive and Bronson Street. He stated the proposed revision would replace a couple bike racks with a new "Bike Petal" bike stand, which holds up to eight bicycles. **Motion by Westra, supported by Proos, to approve the Bronson Street Improvements-Landscape Revision request with the project increase of \$1,129.00 to be paid by Jim Ippel as offered. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

Discussion followed regarding the cost of benches, and that they would be an addition that the DDA would provide through budgeting and fundraising, along with other streetscape installations around the village.

### TEEPLE STREET IMPROVEMENTS-RESURFACING

Steve Groenenboom presented the estimate for pavement removal and resurfacing of Teeple Street between Thornapple River Drive and Bronson Street at a cost of \$15,916. He stated the Kent County Road Commission has agreed to fund one-half of the cost, so the Township would fund about \$8,000. **Motion by Westra, supported by LeBlanc, to approve the estimate for Teeple Street Improvements-Resurfacing, in the amount of \$15,916, with the Township paying one-half and the Kent County Road Commission paying one-half. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

### ADA DRIVE SIDEWALK

Jim Ferro stated as a result of the reconstruction of Ada Drive between the old school house and Rix Street, the intense rainstorms caused severe erosion under the existing sidewalk, which caused parts of it to collapse. He stated because it couldn't be salvaged the Road Commission removed about 400 feet of sidewalk and needs to replace it with a new five foot sidewalk. Ferro stated the Road Commission is willing to replace the sidewalk if the Township will pay for regrading of the slope and restoration of the regraded slope at a cost of \$27,700. He stated the new owners of the old school house are agreeable to funding part of the cost of the retaining wall and some sidewalk in front of their property. Ferro also stated they anticipate the other property owner will install a portion of their frontage with a retaining wall. **Motion by Westra, supported by Proos, to postpone any action on the Ada Drive Sidewalk until such time as there is a concrete proposal for specific costs relating to the potential partnership between the property owner and the Township with respect to improvements in this section of sidewalk, and slope regarding and retaining wall. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

Trustee Westra stated his concern in terms of primary and secondary beneficiaries of the project. He stated this is a situation where the property owner allowed their property to encroach on a public sidewalk, and they need to step up with specific dollars and show they are willing to invest in this.

Trustee Proos questioned whether it would hold up progress of putting in the sidewalk properly if we postpone until the next meeting.

Ferro stated concrete can be poured in November if necessary. He stated they are asking for the property owner to take care of the cost of the retaining wall, but he does not yet have a firm commitment on their participation.

**CROSSWALK TREATMENT PROPOSAL-ADA DRIVE AT BRONSON AND THORNAPPLE**

Steve Groenenboom commented on different methods for building crosswalks, stating the stamping method is least expensive but involves repainting once a year. He also stated the Kent County Road Commission will resurface the Ada Drive/Thornapple River Drive intersection some time this fall, and if the resurfacing can be coordinated they will incorporate crosswalk treatments into the Bronson Street contract if the Township Board wishes. Groenenboom stated there could be as many as four crosswalk treatments at the Ada Drive and Thornapple River intersection with four legs of 1,600 square feet at an approximate cost of \$16,000, and if three legs were done at Bronson Street and Ada Drive it would be an additional \$12,000. He stated it is about \$4,000 per crossing, with a maximum of seven, so the cost would be \$28,000.

**Motion by Westra, supported by Smith, to approve the Crosswalk Stamping projects, Ada Drive at Bronson Street and Thornapple River Drive with seven crosswalks at a cost of approximately \$4,000 a piece, and budget not to exceed \$30,000.**

The life expectancy of the crossings was discussed, that they can be restamped in the future when they start to wear out, and that they will probably need repainting next spring.

The Board also discussed the fact that the crossings are part of the Charrette plan, that the stamped surfaces will not be a problem with any bike races in the village, funding will come from the general fund, the bidding of the project, and the fact that the DDA has endorsed the project.

**Motion amended by Westra, supported by Smith, that the Crosswalk Stamping project be placed out for bid, pursuant to the purchasing policy. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

**Original motion. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried as amended.**

**ADA DRIVE FORCEMAIN EASEMENTS**

Steve Groenenboom stated the work for easements was budgeted at \$50,000. He stated they negotiated this and believe some of the easements will be donated, so the total estimated cost for all the easements is \$27,543.37. Groenenboom stated on the tax rolls there is the assessed value of the house, the taxable value of the residence or building, and the land value, which is the complete real value of the land without a structure on it, and what the land would sell for. He stated when they negotiated with the property owners they agreed on giving them half of the true land value.

**Motion by LeBlanc, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Ada Drive Forcemain Easements in the amount of \$27,543.37. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

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Susan Burton  
Ada Township Clerk

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Date

RS/dr