

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Haga at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Supervisor Haga, Clerk Burton, Treasurer Rhoades, Trustee LeBlanc, Trustee Proos, and Trustee Westra. Absent: Trustee Smith. Also present: Recording Secretary Renegar, Planning Director Jim Ferro, Fire Chief Jim DuVall, and 5 community members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Agenda. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

November 28, 2011 Regular Board Meeting
Receive and File Various Reports/Communications

1. Fire Call Report-11/11; 2. Comcast Updates-11/18/11, 11/30/11; 3. MTA Legislative Update Fax-12/1/11. **Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to approve the Reports and Communications under the Consent Agenda. 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 \$6,697.02; #205 \$3,063.93; #208 \$772.35; #248 \$40.00; #590 \$3,364.47; #591 \$1,313.70; #592 \$335.18; Total all Hand Checks: \$15,586.65; Warrants: #101 \$14,881.63; #205 \$1,943.07; #208 \$1,230.03; #213 \$800.37; #248 \$235.06; #590 \$469.09; #591 \$2,600.96; #592 \$102.58; Total Warrants: \$22,262.79. Total All Checks and Warrants: \$37,849.44. **Moved by Proos, supported by LeBlanc, to approve the Warrant Report for December 12, 2011, in the total amount of \$37,849.44. Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Rhoades, LeBlanc, Proos, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – Smith. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron VanSingel, Merestone Group, representing Edith Pettis who has a mining extension that is currently being considered by the Planning Commission, stated they have been working with the Planning Commission for the last three months, and per the court order it will eventually be coming to the Township Board for a decision. He stated a public hearing has been scheduled by the Planning Commission for Thursday, December 15, 2011, at which time they will have another opportunity to explain the current and future plans for this property, and everyone is invited to this meeting.

Jim Saalfeld introduced himself as Kent County Commissioner for the 11th District, and stated that with redistricting Ada Township is becoming part of the 11th District. He stated that periodically he attends local government meetings to give them a county update.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee LeBlanc commended the Ada Township EMS service for their assistance recently, which was extremely responsive, very professional, and very calming in a time of stress.

Trustee Westra stated he will attend the public hearing on Thursday. He asked if there was an update on the Sheriff's presence at the Township Hall.

Clerk Burton stated there is an MTA conference in January and any board member not registered is encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-121211-1, TO EXEMPT ADA TOWNSHIP FROM PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011 FOR THE YEAR 2012

This comes as a recommendation from the Personnel Committee, to be exempt from the public act in view of the fact that no employee medical benefit renewal information will be received until after January. After reviewing this with Township legal counsel it was determined action on this is required prior to January 1, 2012. The estimated premium increases in April will be 18-20% for 2012, and the premium at an increase of 18% will be \$322,996. **Motion by Burton, supported by Rhoades, to approve Resolution R-121211-1, to exempt Ada Township from PA 152 of 2011 for the year 2012. Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Rhoades, LeBlanc, Proos, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – Smith. Motion carried.**

Clerk Burton stated Plainfield Township has passed this exemption and other townships in the State are doing the same.

Trustee Westra stated the intent of PA 152 should be talked about and why we would or would not want to opt out. He stated it is not unreasonable to ask employees to contribute 20% to their health care.

Supervisor Haga stated one of the reasons to opt out at this time is we do not have physical premium numbers for the renewal, and we won't receive those until January. He stated we do anticipate an increase of 18-20%, which would translate to \$3,110 for a family and \$1,432 for a single person at 18%.

Trustee Proos stated we have to be prepared to examine the insurance policy, and expect more from the employees.

Supervisor Haga stated that is exactly what the Personnel Committee plans to do, and will be looking at the insurance plan and other opportunities available.

Trustee LeBlanc stated total agreement with all the comments, and asked if the exemption has to be looked at each year.

Supervisor Haga stated it does have to be looked at each year. He stated if we don't approve exemption for this year, we would fall under the default section, Section 3, that specifies the maximum premium a public employer could pay, or Section 4 which is the 80/20 premium plan. Haga stated there are many options that we will be looking at.

BRONSON STREET PROJECT PARKING

This is in response to a memo and Resolution received from the DDA recommending that the seven parking spaces on Bronson Street that were eliminated be restored. These parking spaces were eliminated from the original plans for the improvement project in order to retain three trees. The cost for doing this would be \$21,759 for the seven parking spaces.

Steve Groenenboom, Moore & Bruggink, stated the original survey was done in 2004, and does not know why the three trees that were saved were not on the original plans.

Westra made a motion that was supported by Burton, to proceed with construction of seven additional parking spaces at a total cost of \$21,759.

Groenenboom stated if this had been done originally the cost would have been \$11,114, and he and his partners have agreed they would make up the difference of whatever the increased cost is at this time. He stated they would like to send it out for bid.

Westra then made an amendment to the original motion that was supported by Proos, to approve the additional seven parking spaces with a not to exceed cost of \$11,114 to the Township, and proceed to a competitive bid process.

Westra stated per the Chairs recommendation he was withdrawing the original motion and the amending motion would become the main motion.

Motion by Westra, supported by Proos, to reinstate the additional seven parking spaces to the Bronson Street project with the cost not to exceed \$11,114 to the Township, and proceed to a competitive bid process. Roll Call: Yes – Westra, Rhoades, LeBlanc, Proos, Burton, and Haga; No – 0; Absent – Smith. Motion as amended carried.

Motion by Westra, supported by Rhoades, to amend the main motion with: to purchase now the stone that is similar to what is in the current project and store it appropriately. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Amendment to the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION

The appointment is to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission which expires on October 1, 2012. Recommendation for the appointment is Catherine Jacobs, 865 Dogwood Meadows Dr. **Motion by Proos, supported by Westra, to approve Appointment of Catherine Jacobs to the Ada Township Planning Commission to fill the vacancy through October 2012. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 1. Motion carried.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Saalfeld stated a new committee was formed, made up of representatives of the County, City of Grand Rapids, Townships, small cities, Right Place, head of the Con Department at Grand Valley and the Chamber President. He stated the group will begin meeting in January with the goal of looking at collaborative efforts throughout the County regarding health insurance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk

RS/dr