

**MINUTES  
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 2009**

**09-16           REGULAR MEETING**

The Alpine Township Board met on Monday, February 16, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine Township Hall, 5255 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, Michigan. Board members present were Supervisor Alex Arends, Clerk Jean Wahlfield, Treasurer Jim Townsend, Trustees Ron Cordes, Jim May, Bill Schweitzer, and Ted Wallace.

Supervisor Arends called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.**

**09-17           CONSENT AGENDA**

**May offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2009 as presented, Consideration of Vouchers/Bills, Receipt of 2008 Historical Commission Year End Report, and Receipt of Correspondence. Motion carried 7-0.**

**09-18           PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phil Brunger, 4647 Fruit Ridge Avenue NW, thanked the Board for the courtesies extended during his surgery and complimented Arends on the Harvester Newsletter. Cordes added his complimentary comments on the Newsletter.

**09-19           COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Planning Commission – Cordes:** The next meeting will be held on February 19, 2009.

**Zoning Board of Appeals – May:** The next meeting will be held February 23, 2009.

**Historical – Schweitzer:** January 26, 2009 - The Commission reviewed projects for 2009. Doors at both the Historical Museum and former Station 3 need to be addressed for possible repairs. The Commission inquired whether there is adequate insurance on the historical items. The Open House held on February 15, 2009 featured Kevin Alt's presentation on Scotland. Cordes stated that he had two contractors providing cost estimates for a new custom door at the Historical Museum.

**Sewer/Water – Arends:** Monies may be available for "shovel ready" projects as a result of the federal government's stimulus package. Arends explained that he approached Prein & Newhof regarding past sewer projects that were not completed due to lack of funds. A report from 2001 referencing the Strawberry Creek and York Creek's trunk sewer I & I may be a "shovel ready" project. This project involves placing meters into lines to determine how much storm water is infiltrating into the sewer system. The stimulus money may be awarded through the SRF (State Revolving Fund). More information will be forthcoming.

**Parks & Recreation – Wallace:** February 12, 2009 - Members of the Committee have requested that rules and regulations be posted at the entrance of the Sports Complex as well as on the building.

Members discussed soliciting for softball teams to use the fields on all weekdays excluding Wednesdays. The committee is working on short and long range goals and Planner Thomas will be assisting with the updated to the 5-year Parks and Recreation master plan.

**09-20 FIRST READING: ORDINANCE NO. 09-01 WIND ENERGY SYSTEM**

Supervisor Arends briefly reviewed the proposed Wind Energy Ordinance. Treasurer Townsend commented that the Planning Commission did a fine job in preparing the new ordinance and noted that it may require some tinkering in the future as more is learned about tapping into the emerging resource.

**09-21 CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TWO DEPOSITORIES**

Townsend distributed the Treasurer's Report for February 2009. Two additional depositories were requested to be added to the Townships approved list of depositories for 2009.

**Schweitzer offered a motion, supported by May, to approve Bank of Holland and Founders Bank and Trust as two additional depositories for use. Motion carried 7-0.**

**09-22 FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF WASHER AND DRYER**

The Fire Chief prepared a list of the bids and it has been distributed to the Board. He recommended that the Board approve the Whirlpool washer and dryer bid from Gerrit's Appliance. Board members reviewed and discussed the submitted request and information.

**May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve \$1,782 for the purchase of a washer and dryer from Gerrit's Appliance to be installed at Fire Station #3. Motion carried 7-0.**

**09-23 FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE PROPOSAL**

Chief Christians explained that the Kent County Airport has a 2001 Ford Expedition that will be available for sale. Christians stated that the fire department is interested in purchasing the vehicle which is in excellent condition, is set up as an emergency vehicle and has some of the necessary medical equipment (less radios and heart start machine) that Alpine would require. The vehicle would give the Fire Department an additional three or four years of use before a new vehicle would need to be purchased.

**May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve the negotiations with the Kent County Purchasing Department to the purchase the 2001 Ford Expedition in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Motion carried 7-0.**

**09-24 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ALPINE FIRE DEPARTMENT SOG'S**

The second phase of the Alpine Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG'S) to be updated for the risk management insurance and the Township are as follows::

SOG Review, Phase II

Section	18	Blood borne, Airborne Pathogens
	22B	Hazard(s) communications, MSDS Sheets, Employee Training
	24	Response Hazardous Material
	29	Multi-Casualty Incidents
	31	Hearing conservation
	32	Medical Control Board
	33	Respond to Gas Leak
	34	Known Clandestine Drug Labs HazMat, w/d-con
	35	Response to CO Alarm
	36	Response to Explosive devices
	37	Response to Vehicle Fires
	38	Response to Wildfires
	39	P.P.E. Clothing and Equipment
	41	Firefighter Rehab and Safety
	44	Initial Response
	48	Scene Safety (Highway, etc)

**Wallace offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve the SOG's as presented at the February 16, 2009 Township Board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.**

**09-25 REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF DESIGN STUDY FOR PROPERTY ADJACENT TO TOWNSHIP CENTER**

Supervisor Arends requested approval to proceed with a conceptual design study of the Township Center property and to include the adjacent Metzgar property. The cost of the study has been outlined in the proposal dated 02/13/09 and submitted by Township Engineer Progressive AE. The cost of the design study is not to exceed \$1,800 in addition to reimbursable expenses. Ten copies of the final study document will be submitted to the Board by Progressive AE. In response to Board questions Arends stated the study is totally independent of locating a fire station on the Township Center property. The study will inform the Board of such items as potential township building footprints, uses, driveway locations and expansions.

**Wallace offered a motion, supported by May, to approve the Progressive AE proposal as outlined in the letter dated 02/13/09 for the Township Hall Site Design Study of the Township property and adjacent Metzgar property not to exceed \$1,900. Motion carried 7-0.**

**09-26 RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

A letter from Historical Commission President Ruth Post dated 01/29/09 recommends the appointment of Donald Doyle to the Alpine Historical Commission. Mr. Doyle is a Sparta Township resident and is active on the Sparta Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and an alternate on the Private Road Commission. Doyle was present and stated that he is excited to become part of the Alpine Historical Commission.

**May offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve Don Doyle as a member of the Alpine Township Historical Commission. Motion carried 7-0.**

## **09-27 SUPERVISOR'S AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Supervisor Arends informed the Board that the Township owns a used generator which had been used at the Fruit Ridge sewer lift station and is currently stored at the Kent County Road Commission. Cummins Bridgeway has placed a value on the generator at approximately \$6,000. A local Township has expressed an interest in purchasing the used generator. Board members requested that more information be obtained on the generator such as hours of use, capacity and to also see whether or not the Township would have a use for this generator. The information will be discussed at the next meeting.

Fire Chief Christians stated that in 2010 Alpine becomes eligible for a country pumper fire truck. Preliminary plans for the truck were displayed on the wall. The outdoor warning sirens have been checked and will be ready for spring tests.

Supervisor Arends stated work on the budget will begin soon. It was noted that state-shared revenues are anticipated to remain the same as last year.

May thanked the Township for allowing him to attend the MTA Conference.

Cordes referenced a letter that went out to commercial and industrial business owners regarding the implementation of the International Property Maintenance Code from the Building Department. He has received calls from unhappy individuals. It was his interpretation that when the Board approved the Property Maintenance Code it was to be used as a tool to address maintenance concerns of apartment buildings and vacant commercial buildings. Supervisor Arends stated that Cordes was correct and the point was well-taken. All future correspondence will be approved by the Supervisor.

Cordes commented briefly on the yearly K.C. Sheriff report that the Board received. Arends added that Alpine Township has a very good working relationship with the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Wallace questioned references to Prein and Newhof engineers instead of the Township engineers Progressive AE. Supervisor Arends explained that Prein and Newhof originally developed the sewer plans for the Township and they are the engineers for the NKSA and the Plainfield Charter Township water department which supplies public water to Township residents. Arends assured Wallace that Progressive AE will be used for new projects noting they are currently working on the sand mining renewal projects as well as the Township property design study approved at this meeting.

Wallace questioned the need for full-time employees during the tough economic times. Supervisor suggested that this will be good thing to review at budget time.

Schweitzer stated that he was glad to see that businesses are cleaning off their sidewalks of snow.

**09-28 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Doyle remarked that in addition to sidewalks needing to be cleaned off, that bus stops should be also be cleared of snow banks.

Jeremy Kelly, 4440 Westgate Avenue NW, questioned if the new water line improvements will help the water pressure in the Westgate subdivision.

**09-29 ADJOURNMENT**

**May offered a motion, supported by Wallace to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Wahlfield  
Clerk

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Alex Arends,  
Supervisor

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Beth Alt  
Recording Secretary