

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2008**

08-206 REGULAR MEETING

The Alpine Township Board met on Monday, December 15, 2008 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.

08-207 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

May offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2008, Approval of Vouchers/Bills, Approval of Township Calendar for 2009, Receipt and Approval of Fiscal Year 2008 Audit, and Receipt of Correspondence. Motion carried 7-0.

Public comment was received from K.C. Community Policing Officer Ertle reporting on the Shop With a Sheriff program that was held at the Alpine Wal-Mart store and assisted 51 children.

08-208 COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission – May: November 20, 2008 – The Commission continued to discuss proposed wind energy and wind turbine regulations.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Wallace: November 25, 2008 – The Board denied a front yard setback appeal from Wal-Mart for the outlot created during the recent construction of the new store.

Historical Commission – Cordes: The Historical Commission held their annual Christmas party at the historic stage coach house located on Fruit Ridge Avenue and 14 people attended.

Sewer & Water – Arends: The NKSA met on December 4, 2008 and discussed the type of waste that is being accepted by Wolverine Worldwide and the potential for an agreement to handle the imported waste. The Plainfield Charter Township Water Department will be working on water system improvements in the Westgate subdivision during the Summer of 2009. The initial letter to residents explaining the project has been mailed to Alpine residents

08-209 OUTDOOR FUNACE GENERAL ORDINANCE AND REGULATONS

Supervisor Arends stated that the proposed ordinance was discussed at the last meeting and recommended by the Planning Commission. Outdoor furnaces would be allowed in the Agricultural and RA zoning districts and public notice is not required for this general ordinance.

Board members discussed the need to have the outdoor furnace regulations in place due to the need for alternative heating sources and the high cost of energy. The status of existing outdoor furnaces was discussed and the clarification of the proposed regulation regarding existing or grandfathered outdoor furnaces.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Cordes, to approve the general Township Ordinance No. 08-06 to Regulate the Installation and Use of Outdoor Furnaces. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0 in a roll call vote.

08-210 DISCUSSION OF CAFETERIA PLAN VACATON OPTION (Tabled 11/17/08)

Supervisor Arends explained that at the last meeting the Board discussed the cafeteria plan option to allow employees to purchase additional vacation time. He noted that this proposal had been discussed with employees at a recent Staff meeting with one employee interested in this option and a few employees interested in exploring other alternatives. Board members received and reviewed a written analysis of the purchase of additional paid time off (PTO) option from the Township attorney.

Treasurer Townsend provided information on his discussion with two employees and handed out an option for allowing employees to take up to 40 hours of time off without pay for the Board to discuss.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Wallace, to refer the issue of a change to the employee policy which would allow employees to take time off without pay to the Personnel Committee and to make a recommendation to the Board. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

08-211 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #08-39 – SET FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2009

The Board reviewed Attachment “A” and Resolution #08-39 to set the fees and charges for 2009. The quarterly sewer rate has been proposed to increase to \$63.00 per quarter and the NSKA sewer connection fee to increase by 3% per contract. In response to a question from the Treasurer, the mileage reimbursement rate is approved at the published IRS rate which at this time is .55¢ per mile.

A motion was offered by Schweitzer, with support from May, to approve Resolution #08-39 – Set Fees and Charges for 2009 as presented. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

08-212 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #08-40 – APPOINTMENTS AND DESPOSITORIES FOR 2009

Supervisor Arends reviewed his recommendations for appointments to the various Township Boards, Commissions and Committees. Township Board members were in receipt of Attachment “A” which listed the names of the individuals recommended and also includes a list of depositories to be approved for 2009. He explained that interviews had been conducted with each applicant and Treasurer Townsend and Planning Director Thomas participated in the interview process. Arends explained that appointments to the Parks and Recreation will be delayed as he would like to further consult with Planner Thomas in anticipation of the Township Park and Recreation plan update process.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Schweitzer, to approve Resolution #08-40 - Approving Appointments to the Township Boards and Depositories. The motion carried 7-0 with no further discussion.

08-213 SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR KENT COUNTY CDBG PROGRAM

Supervisor Arends stated that the Township is eligible for a consideration amount due to the payback of funds to CDBG related to the McConnell house project. In the past the Township has assigned funds to the GO! Bus and North County Teen Parenting Services. He noted that input and suggestions from the public are needed and welcomed.

A motion was offered by May and supported by Wallace, to set the public hearing for the annual CDBG Program on Monday, January 19, 2009. The motion carried 7-0.

08-214 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Arends expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the residents and the Township. He noted that he has attended many meetings and met with Township staff as well as residents, consultants, county officials, and representatives from neighboring municipalities.

Treasurer Townsend commented that he was impressed with the candidates interviewed for the various Boards and Committees. He presented a brief Treasurers report and noted that a report will be supplied to Board members every month. Townsend provided information on a **the jeopardy lien process** for taxes owed by **closeding, moving, and/or** bankrupt businesses which is presented by the Treasurer at the time of closure.

Trustees offered Holiday wishes to those present.

08-215 PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

Harold Thome, 2137 Seven Mile Road, explained that the property owner to the south had moved and discarded two junk mobile homes onto the West Central property without permission. He requested any assistance the Township could offer with this problem.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was offered by May and supported by Schweitzer to adjourn this meeting at 8:15 p.m. and the motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

Alex Arends, Supervisor