

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2009**

09-104 REGULAR MEETING

The Alpine Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, July 26, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine Township Hall, 5255 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, Michigan, 49321. 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. He welcomed Boy Scouts Nathan Slocum and Nick Brouwer and requested that they lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

09-105 CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Arends requested that the Meeting Minutes be approved in separate motions:

Townsend offered one correction to the June 15, 2009 Minutes: Page 4, Paragraph 5, in the last sentence the word “thee” corrected to “the”.

May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve the June 15, 2009 Minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

Townsend offered three corrections to the June 22, 2009 Minutes: Page 1, Paragraph 5, Fourth sentence, the word “areas” should be “area.” Townsend stated that the last sentence in Paragraph 5 needs to be corrected to show that Supervisor Arends made the statement, and on Page 4, under Public Comment, Liz Christensen’s remarks in the last sentence should read: “not have a job”.

May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve the June 22, 2009 Minutes with change. Motion carried 7-0.

May offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve the June 26, 2009 Minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Townsend reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and stated that the Township has received \$2,699.35 in interest on investments. He explained that the earned CIP interest is rolled into the General Fund at this time and noted that the interest could be assigned to each separate account. It was the consensus of Board members to continue to show CIP interest earned in the General Fund.

Schweitzer offered a motion, supported by Cordes, to approve the Consideration of Vouchers/Bills and Receipt of Correspondence. Motion approved 7-0.

09-106 PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Brouwer, 4715 Westgate NW, asked the Board to consider adopting a noise ordinance. Teenagers driving by his home are sharing loud music. It happens occasionally during the day and more often in the evenings. Arends stated that the Sheriff has previously dealt this issue in Westgate area and contacted the guilty teenagers to “tone it down.” He stated that it is expensive to buy the equipment to enforce a noise ordinance. If the situation becomes more problematic, the Board may reconsider establishing a noise ordinance.

09-107 COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission – Cordes: July 16, 2009. Sparta Farm and Garden proposed two rezoning requests and both were denied. A Special Use Permit may be an alternative.

Zoning Board of Appeals – May: The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2009.

Historical – Schweitzer: An open house is planned for July 27, 2009. The Commission is planning a reunion for alumni of Englishville School in September.

Water & Sewer – Arends: Alpine and Plainfield have jointly filed for special low interest funds for water improvement projects. The DEQ has requested additional information regarding contaminated sites (gas stations located on Westshire Drive and Alpine Avenue). Work continues toward obtaining SRV for sewer system improvements. Arends stated that he has requested a quote and has been in discussion with Mark Beauchamp to conduct a wastewater cost and rate study. Board members received a copy of the letter that contained a cost of \$4,900.

Parks & Recreation – Wallace: The committee would like to develop an updated fee schedule for the Board to approve. There are currently three sets of Park and Recreation Committee By-laws/Rules and the Committee would like to consolidate them all into one set for Board approval. The Committee would like additional night time lighting in the parks. Supervisor Arends noted that he met with the Kent County Health Department regarding the operation of the concession stand at the Sports Complex and the rules are being adhered to. A mop sink and a hot water heater will be necessary for the sale of hot food items.

Wallace offered a motion to fix the current hot water heater or replace it at a cost not to exceed \$350. The motion died from lack of support.

Board members discussed whether an on demand in-line hot water heater would be a better investment.

Wallace offered a motion, supported by May, to approve the Supervisor to investigate the cost of a hot water heater, preferably in-line, at a cost not to exceed \$600.

DISCUSSION: Townsend questioned if the money was available in the budget. Board members discussed that the operator may contribute \$250 for the use the concession stand and that money could be earmarked for the water heater. Board members discussed that next year the operator may be expected to pay a percentage of the concession stand proceeds to the Township. Arends noted the Township has tried to have a viable concession stand for many years and Mary Rangel is committed to making it work. It was recommended by the Health Department and our Township attorneys that anyone using the concession stand obtain the necessary permit and license from the Health Department and not the Township.

The motion was carried 7-0.

**09-108 FIRST READING: REZONING REQUESTS FROM “A” TO “C-2”
Request #1 – 1550 and 1566 10-Mile Road NW – Jerry, Dan and Mark
Neymeiyer for approximately 11.2 Acres from A, Agricultural to C-2,
Commercial.**

**Request #2 – 1566 10-Mile Road NW – Jerry Neymeiyer for approximately
29.49 acres from A, Agricultural to C-2.**

Supervisor Arends stated the Planning Commission voted unanimously in recommending that the Township Board deny both requests. Cordes who is the Board representative on the Planning Commission explained as zoning goes with the property, all other commercial use could be allowed if the property were to be rezoned and sold. The request was not in compliance with the Master Plan and public utilities are not available. The Planning Commission suggested that the Neymeiyer's apply for a Special Use Permit

A final reading will be held at the August 17, 2009 Township Board meeting.

**09-109 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-18: APPROVE NKSA SEWAGE
DISPOSAL IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT, PUBLISH NOTICE OF INTENT
AND AUTHORIZING ACTIONS WITH RESPECTS TO BONDS**

**May offered a motion, supported by Townsend, to table consideration of Resolution No. 09-18
until next month's meeting. Motion carried 7-0.**

Treasurer Townsend stated that he has requested a meeting with the K.C. Department of Public Works to view sewer video. He will inform Board members on the date of the meeting.

09-110 SUPERVISOR AND BOARD COMMENTS

Wallace stated that he appreciates the Board working with the Park and Recreation Committee.

Townsend noted that work on the Rusche/Comstock Park Drive extension looks very good. He distributed a step sheet for creating a special assessment district for police and fire protection. Townsend stated that he would like to recoup the Township attorney fees paid in order to review the Pulte Homes request to amend the Consent Judgment.

Cordes noted that it is standard practice to give construction projects a year extension. Although he wasn't necessarily in favor of granting Pulte Homes the extension, he felt it was the right thing to do.

May is pleased to have the new budget in place. ~~noting it was a unanimous decision.~~

Wahlfield informed the Board that beginning in 2011 Kent County will charge a fee (\$360) to program the Township's voting machines.

Supervisor Arends stated Grand Valley Metro Council is featuring a Legislative Meeting dealing with two issues which are the consolidation of public employee health care and the State's lack of understanding regarding the importance of shared revenues.

Supervisor Arends has salary comparisons from MTA that he will provide to the Personnel Committee.

Arends explained that the Fire Department is next in line for a new County pumper fire vehicle. Kent County will contribute approximately \$180,000 toward the purchase and the Township has planned for \$180,000. The bid process was handled by Kent County purchasing and two bids have been received which were Spencer Manufacturing at \$452,000 and Rosenbauer at \$435,000. The Fire Chief and Board members discussed that the EPA emission requirements will increase the price of the engine by approximately \$17,000 if the truck is ordered too late in the year. Arends remarked that some items could be removed from the bid specifications. If a bid can be lowered to the \$360,000 range, Arends stated that a special Township Board meeting may need to be held to approve a new bid amount.

Both Deputy Fire Chief Lasko and former Chief Fred Schweitzer provided comments on the importance of a truck that has foam capabilities. A discussion took place on whether the foam feature could be added at a later date.

In response to Wallace's question, All Points (Fairchild Tire) repaired the engine on the medic unit.

09-111 PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

Jerry Shuker, 6783 Fruit Ridge Avenue NW, explained the trade-offs of a fire truck with a smaller water capacity with foam capabilities versus a truck with a larger water volume without the foam.

Fred Schweitzer, 4259 Cordes Avenue NW, questioned whether or not funds were set aside each year in preparation for the new pumper truck. Supervisor Arends explained that the Township has earmarked \$150,000 for the truck and will use \$30,000 from reserves. Schweitzer suggested that the Township start putting money away next year for the next new fire truck.

Mike Lasko, 7970 Vinton Avenue NW, stated that frills can be cut, but the Department wants the truck to function the way the Fire Department needs it to function. The foam system is the biggest option that Lasko does not want to see cut.

Supervisor Arends thanked Boy Scouts Nathan and Nick for attending the meeting.

May offered a motion, supported by Townsend, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield
Clerk

Alex Arends
Supervisor

Beth Alt
Recording Secretary