

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 22, 2009**

09-92 SPECIAL MEETING

The Alpine Township Board held a special meeting on Monday, June 22, 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.

09-93 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #09-17 – Adopt Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements and Designating An Authorized Project Representative

The proposed Resolution formally adopts the Project Plan which includes improvements to the existing York Creek and Strawberry Creek trunk sewers. The Project Plan is the first step in applying to the State of Michigan for a revolving fund loan. Supervisor Arends stated that the public hearing for the project was held on June 16, 2009 at the PARCC Side wastewater treatment plant and copies of the record from the public hearing were forwarded to the Board.

Board members discussed that Alpine Township will not be liable for any unlikely financial default from Plainfield Township. A modified contract will be considered in July addressing the liability issue (Paragraph 5). The repair issues had been identified in a 2001 sewer study and again in a 2009 study. The areas identified for improvement is the sewer which was constructed in the 1960/1970's and is reaching the end of its life. Treasurer Townsend noted that following his conversations with the engineers, the project plan for Alpine Township has been modified to exclude the Mill Creek trunk sewer. **Supervisor Arends stated** it would be beneficial to get the project through as the interest rate is very good.

May offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve Resolution #09-17 Adopting a Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements and Designating an Authorized Project Representative. Motion carried 7-0.

09-94 FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chief Christians reported that only one bid was received for the 1984 Ford Tanker #11 in the amount of \$1,500. This truck was advertised for sale through Kent County Purchasing for two months and it is

doubtful any additional bids would be forthcoming. The Chief noted that items specific to fire service and the department such as the sirens, radio, and certain lights would be removed from the truck.

May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to accept the bid of \$1,500 for the 1984 Ford Tanker #11. Motion carried 7-0.

Chief Christians informed the Board that the 1999 Suburban – Medic 7's engine went out. Fox Motors recommended replacing the entire engine because there are bad cylinders. Christians explained Medic 7 is a useful truck and recommends keeping it in service. A letter detailing three repair bids from separate repair shops with certified mechanics was distributed to Board members. Board members would like to see the repair job stay within the Township.

May offered a motion to go back to Bush Auto and determine whether he could meet the low Grapewood bid. Following a discussion of the Board, May retracted this motion.

May offered a new motion, supported by Townsend, to entrust Chief Christians to obtain the lowest bid, and to cap the total price at \$3,000 for Medic 7. Motion carried 7-0.

09-95 FISCAL YEAR BUDGE 2009-2010

Supervisor Arends introduced County Commissioner Antor and Planning Commission Madura in the audience.

Arends stated the budget process began in March 2009 and gave a brief history of the development of the proposed budget to date. It was noted on June 16, 2009, Arends proposed two options to the staff which were to cut pension contributions or to cut staff hours. Staff consensus was to cut the pension contribution as this would not have an impact on the amount of weekly take home pay. Based on the outcome of the discussions with Staff and with officials in the office, the budget indicates a decrease in the pension contribution of 3%. The Supervisor noted that the proposed budget is a guideline of anticipated expenditures and revenues for the coming year. The budget presented retains the part-time employees. The project revenue amount for FY 2010 is \$2,416,321 and contingency at \$102,746..

Board members went through the proposed FY 2010 budget dated 6/22/09 line item by line item and the following points were discussed:

- Treasurer Townsend questioned the proposed State Shared Revenue line item for accuracy.
- Should Trustee per diems be reduced from \$120 to \$100 and initiate a \$40 per diem for Board members attending Park and Recreation and/or Historical Commission meeting.
- Building and Grounds line items reflected that that lawn fertilizer and mowing will be reduced.
- There will be one less edition of the Township newsletter.
- The increase in computers/software line item reflects an upgrade to the BS&A system.

- Attorney Fees – Employees will be requested to contact Supervisor, Treasurer or Clerk before contacting the Township attorney.
- Deputy Treasurer wages reflect half of the amount that was previously designated in General Office – a change from one cost center to another.
- The Safety Director position has been eliminated.
- The Township groundskeeper position will remain, but with reduced hours.
- The line item for phones was increased due to a proposed upgrade of phones and hardware.
- It was noted that the Township provides an insurance policy for Township firefighters.
- The Fire Department budget increased due to the new County fire pumper truck to be purchased in 2010.
- The Building Department would eliminate the Administrative Assistant position and the amount noted indicates payment for unemployment.
- The Zoning Administrator position would be reduced from two days per week to one day per week. Board members suggested the Building Inspector take on that position but others felt that without an administrative assistant, the Zoning Administrator was necessary.
- Discussion ensued regarding resident fees vs. non-resident fees at the Sports Complex. Arends explained the Sports Complex is being managed with a different concept. Currently the complex is bringing in more money than in the past several years.

At 9:10 p.m. Supervisor Arends called for a five-minute break. The meeting resumed at 9:15 p.m.

Board discussed continued on the proposed budget. Townsend stated that he was not ready to approve the budget until he had more time to study it.

Wahlfield offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve the proposed 2009/2010 Fiscal Year Budget with the following changes:

**Increase Assessing Ortho Photography Project from \$2,100 to \$2,700,
Increase Leaf Recycling Program from \$2,500 to \$7,000,
Maintain the Zoning Administrator for one day per week, and
Make corrections on page five for FICA and Medicare amounts for Bldgs./Grounds**

DISCUSSION: Wahlfield stated that Board members will get a copy with all the corrections noted. Townsend stated that he still needed more time to study the budget.

Motion denied 3-4, with Cordes, May, Townsend Wallace dissenting.

May offered a motion to schedule a special meeting. Motion died due to lack of support.

The following reasons for opposing the proposed budget were given from the dissenting Board members:

- Concern about cutting the Trustee per diems amounts,
- Concerns about maintaining the Zoning Administrator position at 8 hours per week,
- That employee pensions should be reduced to five percent, and,
- A request for more time to study the proposed budget document.

May offered a motion, supported by Townsend to schedule a special meeting to be held on Friday, June 26, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

09-96 SUPERVISOR AND BOARD COMMENTS

No comments offered at this time.

09-97 PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

Liz Christensen, Deputy Treasurer, commented on changes and errors that should be addressed in the proposed budget. She explained that it is a terrible deal that the Building Department Assistant will not have a job and that is a shame.

Greg Madura, 4655 Westgate Drive NW, commented that it is important for the Board to communicate and work together.

Beth Alt, Deputy Clerk, provided comments on the elimination of the Building Department Administrative Assistant. She noted that comparing Alpine Township to City of Walker or Plainfield Charter Township is not a good comparison.

A motion was made by May and supported by Wallace to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield
Clerk

Alex Arends
Supervisor

Beth Alt
Recording Secretary