

**MINUTES  
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 26, 2009**

**09-98            SPECIAL MEETING**

The Alpine Township Board held a special meeting on Friday, June 26, 2009 at 7:30 a.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 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Arends amended the agenda to include discussion on Fire Department truck Medic #7 repairs and Budget Amendments after public comment.

**May offered a motion, supported by Townsend to approve the amended Agenda. Motion carried 7-0.**

No public comment was offered at this time.

**09-99            FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION: NEW MOTOR FOR MEDIC 7**

Chief Christians informed the Board that the discussion of bids on June 22, 2009 compared new motors vs. remanufactured motors. Christians presented new bid amounts followed by Board discussion. It was Board consensus that Christians obtain bids from each business indicating prices for a new motor and a remanufactured motor.

**09-100          BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Arends requested a formal motion to reaffirm the previously approved budget amendments. The proof list was provided in the Board packets and the adjustments will assure the end of the 2008/2009 budget will maintain a positive balance in all cost centers.

**Schweitzer offered a motion, supported by Wahlfield, to reaffirm and approve the budget amendments as shown on the proof list dated 06/19/09 with \$1,500 remaining in the Contingency Fund for the 2008/2009 Budget. Motion carried 7-0.**

## **09-101            BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**

Two letters addressed to the Township Board to be attached to the record of this meeting have been received by resident Grace DiBenedetto, 5427 North Division Avenue and Patricia Kolkman, Building Department Administrative Assistant.

The current 2009/2010 proposed budget has been developed by the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer. The Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer have discussed and agreed to a \$2,000 decrease in salary. An additional cut to the budget will be decreasing Building and Grounds Contracted Services by \$6,000.

These decreases will increase revenue to retain the Building Department Administrative Assistant for 32 hours. The officials feel Pat Kolkman is a valuable asset to the Township.

The FY 2010 budget will retain the Zoning Administrator for 8 hours per week. Board members came to a consensus to keep this position for one day per week, noting that it is a 50 percent cut from the previous year, which is one of the largest cuts in the budget.

Board members discussed the employee pensions and the consensus was to cut the employee pension contribution by three percent. There were some Board members wanting to cut the employee pension by five percent. The rationale for keeping the employee pension at seven percent was that the budget will remain balanced with the three percent decrease and this will give a “cushion” for a future cut. Previous salary studies indicated Alpine Township employee salaries were on the low end however the pension plan compensated for this.

A brief discussion ensued regarding police and fire protection along with possible special assessment districts to pay for the same. Arends reminded the Board that they represent all residents of Alpine Township.

Wallace questioned the employee benefits in lieu of health insurance and sick pay. The Board will be reconsidering employee benefits in the future. Wahlfield noted that health care benefits have been reduced in the past from full payment of benefits to a capped amount. Arends recommended the Personnel Committee review employee benefits annually. Board members discussed that the Budget will need to be reviewed more often within the upcoming year due to the economy. Arends would like to have a budget comparison at the monthly Board meetings as a separate item instead of being combined in the Consent Agenda.

**Schweitzer offered a motion, supported by Townsend, to approve the proposed budget of \$2,416,321.00 with the changes as noted. Motion carried in a roll call vote 5-2, with Cordes and Wallace dissenting.**

It was noted that the dates of the following resolutions will be changed to reflect the current date and the pension amount shall be state at seven percent of employees wages.

**Wahlfield offered a motion, supported by Cordes, to approve Resolution #09-10 To Set Salaries and Wages for all Non-Elected Employees and Staff of Alpine Township with the aforementioned changes. Motion carried 7-0.**

**May offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve Resolution #09-11 To Set the Salary for the Alpine Township Supervisor at \$52,002 and with changes noted. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Wahlfield offered a motion, supported by Schweitzer, to approve Resolution #09-12 To Set the Salary for the Alpine Township Treasurer at \$52,002 and with the changes noted. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Schweitzer offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve Resolution #09-13 To Set the Salary for the Alpine Township Clerk at \$52,002 and with the changes noted. Motion carried 7-0.**

The Board discussed that the Trustee Per Diems will remain the same. Paying Trustees to attend Park & Recreation and Historical meetings will be discussed at a future date.

**Schweitzer offered a motion, supported by Townsend, to approve Resolution #09-14 A Resolution to Set the Per Diem for the Alpine Township Trustees. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Schweitzer offered a motion, supported the General Appropriations Act, Resolution #09-15 – 2009-2010 Fiscal Year. Motion carried 7-0 in a roll-call vote.**

Budget changes will be delivered to the Board and Arends thanked everyone for their comments.

Treasurer Townsend added that he has not given up on his desire to eliminate the Administration Fee.

## **09-102 SUPERVISOR AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Wallace thanked the three officials for reducing their salaries and that there will be budget and some other related issues to review in the future.

May added the Board worked diligently on the budget.

Supervisor Arends explained that everyone's input was valuable and it can be helpful to have a difference of opinion to look at all sides of an issue.

Treasurer Townsend is considering looking at the televised sewer main footage from the DPW. He has invited any Board member to participate. The meeting will be posted to comply with the Open Meetings Act.

**09-103 PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT**

Linda Dunneback, 3241 Six Mile Road NW, thanked the three officials for their salary cuts and requested that the Board follow up with the review of employee benefits. She indicated that in the past the police have been slow to respond at the Sports Complex when she has called.

Supervisor Arends requested to alert him in the future regarding slow police response time at the Sports Complex.

**Townsend offered a motion, supported by May to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m.  
Motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Jean Wahlfield  
Clerk

---

Alex Arends  
Supervisor

---

Beth Alt  
Recording Secretary