

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

09-152 REGULAR MEETING

The Alpine Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, November 16, 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 with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed a Calvin High School student in the audience.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Wallace, to accept the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

09-153 CONSENT AGENDA

Board members reviewed the Consent Agenda. Treasurer Townsend offered one correction to the October 19, 2009 Minutes by stating that the apostrophe s ('s) be deleted from the word Township in the last sentence of the second paragraph on Page 5.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the Minutes of October 19, 2009 with change. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

Townsend reviewed his Treasurers Report dated November 2009. He noted that the pay off amount for the Township Center is \$153,113 and a new supplier will be providing the card stock used to print the quarterly sewer bills.

Schweitzer offered a motion, with support from Townsend, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the motion carried 7-0.

09-154 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Rangel presented a \$600 check to the Township from the Sunday Hispanic and Migrant Soccer League. The check is broken down as a \$450 donation from the League to offset the costs of the new water heater installed at the Sports Complex concession stand and a \$150 personal donation from Mary and Geno Rangel. The donation is in addition to the user fees paid by League. Ms. Rangel appreciated the good working relationship with the Township and the excellent maintenance of the fields and grounds.

Supervisor Arends thanked the League for their donation noting that the use the soccer fields by the League is anticipated to continue due to the success of the recently completed season.

09-155 COMMISSION REPOTS

Planning Commission – Cordes: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19. A special land use request and site plan review for property located at 4000 Alpine for Trinklein Auto and a site plan review for an addition at 7777 Venture Drive for RiverRidge Produce is on the agenda.

Zoning Board of Appeals – May: No meeting was held in October. A variance request for Mark Chase at 3135 7-Mile Road NW will be heard on November 23.

Historical Commission – Schweitzer: Eleven people attended the November 15 program with was led by Ed Darling and Pat Cederholm. They reviewed the history of Ed’s great-grandfather Erastus Fox. The Christmas luncheon is scheduled for December 7.

Sewer and Waters – Arends: The NKSA budget was approved at the meeting held on November 5, 2009 and the purchase of equipment for the 4-Mile Lift Station. The G.R. Press has recently run articles on sewer rates in neighboring communities.

Park and Recreation – Wallace: The Commission continues to work on pulling together all the old outdated By-Laws to create an updated set which will be presented to the Board for review and approval. Work continues on the park and recreation Master Plan update. The tennis courts at the Sports Complex are in need of repair. A discussion took place regarding the benefits and costs involved with the Township internally handling fertilization and weed spraying at the Sports Complex. Wallace thanked the Hispanic League for their donation to the Township.

**09-156 FIRST READING – ZONING ORDINANCE #09-07
REVISE PROVISIONS FOR YARD ENCROACHMENS AND
PORTABLE SIGNS**

Supervisor Arends explained that the Planning Commission has reviewed and recommended revisions to portions of the Township Zoning Ordinance for barrier free access and portable signs. Township Planner Thomas provided information in her memo dated November 6, 2009. The specific sections of the Zoning Ordinance which would be amended are Section 2.39 – Permitted Yard Encroachments and Section 20.08(k)(1) - Portable Signs. The Planner notes that the revisions are minor in nature and will smooth out some “rough spots” in the day to day administration related to these two particular sections of the Ordinance.

Trustee Cordes noted that the proposed modifications will provide additional flexibility by allowing barrier free entrances to encroach into setbacks. He recommends that the Board also approve the decrease in the sign permit fees as outlined in the Planner’s memo.

Treasurer Townsend stated that he was on the Planning Commission at the time the sign ordinance was totally updated and adopted. He is in agreement with the changes presented.

Supervisor Arends noted that the final reading for the proposed revision will be held at the December 21 meeting.

09-157 FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE – GENERATOR

Supervisor Arends stated that Trustees Cordes, May and Wallace met with the Fire Chief and two Spencer Manufacturing representatives to address the concerns raised by the Township Board regarding the proposed generator on the new fire pumper vehicles. He requested that the Fire Chief present his information.

Fire Chief Ron Christians outlined the results of the meeting in his memo dated November 13, 2009. He explained that the recommendation is a PTO driven hydraulic generator rated at an 8,000 watt output by Smart Power. The generator includes a 5-year/1,000 hour warranty and the increase cost is \$9,259.00.

Trustee Wallace commented that the meeting was very informative. The increased cost for the right generator now is the best option to meet future needs. Trustee May noted that more power will be needed in the future to not only operate the “jaws of life” but will provide power for future electronic equipment such as on board computers.

May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve the additional cost of \$9,259.00 for a PTO driven hydraulic generator rated at an 8,000 watt output by Smart Power for the new fire department pumper truck. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

09-158 SUPERVISOR’S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Arends provided copies of the Harvester newsletter to Board members and stated that residents will receive the Harvester in the mail before Thanksgiving. He noted that the Leadership Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 5 and the speaker will be Greg Northrup from the W.M. Strategic Alliance.

Trustees noted that resident Phil Brunger passed away on November 9, 2009 and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

09-159 PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

County Commission Tom Antor provided comments regarding the County budget process and reported on a community outreach program at a local church

A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by May, with support from Townsend and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. in a motion that carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Arends, Supervisor

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk