

**MINUTES  
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2010**

**10-63           REGULAR MEETING**

The Alpine Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, June 21, 2010 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

**A motion was made by May, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0**

**10-64           CONSENT AGENDA**

The members of the Board reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Treasurer Townsend offered several corrections to the minutes of the May 17, 2010 regular Township Board Meeting. He wanted to make clear on the first page under the heading Consent Agenda, with regards to the corrections that were offered for the April 19, 2010 meeting, only one set of the words **“within the”** to be stricken.

The second correction was on the third page under the heading Public Comment in the fourth paragraph, third line. The word **“feels”** should be stricken and replaced with the words **“is not sure.”**

The third correction was on the third page under the heading Public Comment in the fourth paragraph, third line. The word **“not”** should be stricken from the sentence.

The fourth correction was on the fourth page under the heading Review Demolition Bids - 4975 Westshire Drive NW, second paragraph, fourth line. The words **“of utilities disconnects that could total \$700-\$1000”** should be added after the word **“inclusive.”**

The fifth correction was on the seventh page under the heading Discussion and Review of Town Hall meeting of April 26, 2010 –Potential York Creek Special Assessment District, twenty third paragraph, second line. The word **“council”** should be replaced by the word **“counsel.”**

The sixth correction was on the seventh page under the heading Discussion and Review of Town Hall meeting of April 26, 2010-Potential York Creek Special Assessment District, twenty-third paragraph, third line. The word **“finds”** should be replaced by the word **“finding.”**

**A motion was made by Townsend, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of May 17, 2010 with corrections and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 26, 2010 with corrections. Motion carried 7-0.**

Townsend reviewed the June 2010 Treasurer's Report and commented on winter tax disbursement that has not been made as he is working with BS&A on the problem. The Treasurer stated that he has moved another \$250,000 into the CDARS Program. Information was provided on the probability that the Alpine Township will be approved as a passport acceptance facility.

The Treasurer discussed his FY 2011 salary of \$54,002 and his proposal that \$2,000 be used for the purchase of a camera to take passport pictures (approximately \$1,200) and for the construction of a heavy duty rack/stand (\$800) to raise the safe in his office up from the floor. Board members discussed the treasurer's proposal.

Supervisor Arends provided information on the current year FY 2010 budget. He reviewed the information on the budget adjustments that will be needed to balance the various cost centers and noted that this is not uncommon at the end of a fiscal year. The Supervisor stated that funds would be transferred from one account to another to insure that every cost center is in the positive at the year's end.

In response to a question, it was explained that the wages for Deputy Treasurer/Receptionist Beth Alt and any associated benefits/costs are divided evenly. 50% of the costs are applied to the treasurer's budget and the other 50% of costs applied to the general office budget. This includes the recent pension contribution.

Supervisor Arends stated that the new fire department pumper truck that the Township budgeted for will not be delivered until August. The Board had anticipated making the \$180,000 payment for the truck in the 2010 budget. The FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets will be adjusted to reflect this change.

**A motion was made by Cordes, with support from May, to approve FY 2010 budget adjustments in the amount of \$67,000 in order to have all the department totals in the positive. Motion carried 7-0.**

Arends review the Bow Tie Tavern application requesting a temporary outdoor liquor license. He stated that the Tavern plans to hold three benefit events this year and serve alcohol outdoors.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the request for a Temporary Liquor License for the Bow Tie Tavern for three benefit events. Motion carried 7-0.**

The Board reviewed the Annual Audit Agreement from Siegfried Crandall CPA.

**A motion was made by Schweitzer, with support from Townsend, to approve the Annual Audit Agreement with Siegfried Crandall CPA. Motion carried 7-0.**

**A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.**

## **10-65 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Arends explained the process for the public comment portion of the meeting. He stated that applicant Mr. Jerry Williams is in the audience to speak about the outdoor motocross/recreational vehicle tracks and will be allowed up to 15 minutes to speak.

Mike O'Malley, 700 Strawberry Valley Ave NW, commented on the Planning Commission decision to deny the request for the dirt bike practice track. He is concerned about the amount of noise, dirt, and dust the track would create.

Grace DiBenedetto, 5427 Division Ave NW, commented on her personal experiences with dirt bike racing and urged the Board to get first hand experience before making a decision.

Tim Allspach, 4040 Tallman Creek Drive NW, stated that he is the architect for applicant Jerry Williams. He provided several comments and noted that he has talked with the Fremont officials about a similar operation in their jurisdiction. He encouraged Alpine board members to do a site visit.

Andrew Kaplanowski, 335 Bertha Street, stated that he drives up to the Big Air track in Fremont. It would be nice to have somewhere local to ride dirt bikes, it would bring the Township more business and it would be a great place that involves kids.

## **10-66 COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Planning Commission- Cordes:** The Planning Commission denied the request for a zoning ordinance text amendment made by Jerry Williams. The Commission talked about the Special Land Use for Outdoor Motocross/Recreational Vehicle Tracks. Two Planning Commissioners suggested a site visit to the track in Fremont but the suggestion was not approved.

**Zoning Board of Appeals-May:** There was no meeting for the month of May and a meeting is scheduled in June.

**Historical Committee- Schweitzer:** There was no program this month due to Father's Day. The July date will be an open house for research on the third Sunday of the month.

**Sewer & Water- Arends:** The Township received a letter from the Kent County DPW suggesting sewer relining of the Mill Creek trunk between Six Mile and Lamoreaux at a cost of \$250,000. Progressive AE, the Township engineer, will be reviewing the project proposal.

**Parks & Recreation-Wallace:** No meeting this month. Work continues to fine tune the rules and regulations for the Park and Recreation Committee. Supervisor Arends commented on migrant soccer leagues and their desire to start a youth league. Cordes stated that there are kids coming from Sparta, Grand Rapids, Walker, and Comstock Park to play with the migrant league.

## **10-67 PENDING AND NEW BUSINESS - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-12- ANNUAL MEIJER/WENDY SERVICE DRIVE SAD**

Treasurer Townsend stated that the Township maintains the service drive and the associated costs are assessed to the property owners that benefit from the drive. The costs are broken down by business as indicated on Exhibit A

**A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to accept and approve Resolution 10-12-Annual Meijer/Wendy Service Drive SAD in amount of \$2,315.51. Motion carried 7-0.**

**10-68 FIRST READING-TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 12.03 IN THE C-2, COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO ALLOW OUTDOOR MOTOCROSS/RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TRACKS AS A SPECIAL LAND USE (RECOMMENDATION BY PLANNING COMMISSION TO DENY)**

As stated earlier applicant Jerry Williams would be allowed to make his comments at this time.

Williams passed out information pertaining to noise noting that the EPA regulates dirt bikes so they can not be over 96 decibels. He reviewed and explained the information in his handouts drawing attention to the comparisons between everyday noise and a dirt bike. He described his plans for the proposed building and track layout. Mr. Williams stated that the purpose of a practice track is to teach riders and give them a safe place to practice in the area.

The Board discussed the information presented. Supervisor Arends suggested that the Board take a trip to visit a motocross practice track. Cordes agreed that the Board should take a trip to get the full affect of the practice track.

**A motion was made by May, with support by Cordes, to plan a special field trip meeting on a date to be determined to the practice track in Fremont and notice of the special meeting will be posted as required. Motion carried 7-0.**

A letter was added to the record for this meeting and received on June 18, 2010 from Kathy Bush opposing the zoning ordinance amendment change in the C-2, Commercial zoning district for motocross tracks.

**10-69 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET 2010-2011 - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #10-13 - EMPLOYEE SALARIES AND WAGES**

Supervisor Arends reviewed the wages for hourly staff and salaried employees covered under the resolution as well as the different levels of fire department personnel hourly wages and per diems. At the last Board meeting, the Fire Chief was requested to supply additional information on the fire department proposal to make changes to firefighter pay. The Fire Chief was directed to review the proposed changes in terms of paying firefighters based on Probationary, Regular Firefighter, and Officer status.

Chief Christians explained that the process followed by a probationary firefighter is approximately two years long before an individual reaches fully active firefighter status. The department proposes that probationary firefighters should not be paid the same hourly rate as firefighters with more experience or who have an officer title. The department proposes an hourly pay rate of \$11.00 for probationary, \$14.00 for firefighters, and \$15.00 for officers. The current hourly rate is \$13.25 per hour for all members of the fire department. Christians stated that based on the proposed hourly rates there would be a decrease of \$3,809.00 in the total yearly amount paid to the firefighters.

The Board discussed the proposed changes to firefighter pay. Arends explained that firefighter pay is based on the number of calls that are generated which is difficult to predict. Townsend stated that he has worked with firefighter Gary Potter on this issue and presented other alternative options that may work.

Trustee May suggested that the Personnel Committee look into the firefighter pay increase proposal.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to move the proposed fire department wages to the Personnel Committee for further investigation and discussion. Motion carried 7-0.**

**A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to accept and approve Resolution #10-13- Employee Salaries and Wages for FY 2011 which includes Exhibit "A". Motion carried 7-0.**

**10-70            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #10-14 - SET SUPERVISOR SALARY**

Arends noted that the Supervisor's salary has not changed since last year and he would like it to stay the same at \$52,002.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Wahlfield, to approve Resolution #10-14 to set the Alpine Township Supervisor Salary for FY 2011 at \$52,002. Motion carried 7-0.**

**10-71            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #10-15 - SET TREASURER SALARY**

Supervisor Arends explained that the Treasurer's salary was \$54,002 and went down to \$52,002 last year in FY 2010. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the Treasurer has requested that \$2,000 of his salary be used to purchase a camera to take passport pictures and to construction a heavy duty rack/stand to raise the safe in his office up from the floor.

Township Board members discussed the Treasurer's request. Townsend stated that it is his money and he should be able to decide where that money goes. Arends noted that the he and the Clerk have not specified where the \$2,000 cut from the salaries should be used.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to approve Resolution #10-15-Set Treasurer Salary for FY 2010 with the \$2,000.00 earmarked for the passport camera and safe stand for the Treasurer's office. Motion carried 6-1 with Arends opposing.**

**10-72            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #10-16 - SET CLERK SALARY**

Arends noted that the Clerk salary is indicated at \$52,002 and is the same as FY 2010.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Schweitzer, to accept Resolution #10-16-Set Clerk Salary at \$52,002 for FY 2011. Motion carried 7-0.**

**10-73            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #10-17 - SET TRUSTEE PER DIEM**

**A motion was made by May, with support from Schweitzer, to accept Resolution #10-17-Set Trustee Per Diem for FY 2011 which is the same rate as last fiscal year. Motion carried 7-0.**

**10-74            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #10-18 - GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT**

Arends explained that he gave the Board two different worksheets, one showing the breakdown of each department and the other showing the requested adjustments for the budget.

The Board discussed the changes to the budget including the \$180,000 for the fire truck, the \$800.00 for the safe stand for the Treasurer's Department, and the \$1,200.00 for the passport facility. The Board also discussed the Deputy Treasurer's salary and the \$2,000.00 that was over the budgeted amount.

**A motion was made by Wallace, with support from Cordes, to approve Resolution #10-18-General Appropriation Act for FY2011 with three budget changes which are for the fire pumper truck payment, the safe stand, and the passport camera. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.**

**10-75            LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS**

Supervisor Arends explained that some citizens of the Township came forward and expressed interest to be a part of the advisory committee and he provided a list of the names. The advisory committee will need direction on exactly what they would be studying. He stated that no one is assigned to the Precinct 3 area and that there is still an opportunity for someone to come forward.

Trustee Cordes commented on the Minutes of May 17, 2010 meeting regarding the committee appointments and wanted to clarify that one person from York Creek would serve on the committee. He questioned if that person would be a member of the York Creek management organization or an actual resident.

***The Board determined that the Minutes of May 17, 2010 are interpreted that a member of the York Creek management organization will be a member of the advisory committee and one person from Precinct 6 which encompasses the York Creek apartments.***

**10-76            FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Christians discussed the bids received for asphalt resurfacing for the parking lot located at Fire Station #1. Board members have received copies of the bids and reviewed the information.

Cordes recommended the bid from General Asphalt. Supervisor Arends explained that the General Asphalt bid is not going to repair the whole parking lot, but just those areas that need to be repaired and resurfaced.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Cordes, to accept and approve the bid from General Asphalt Paving Inc. of \$8,850.00 to resurface portions of the parking lot at Fire Station #1. Motion carried 7-0.**

Christians provided information on a medical services program for the firefighters which would include physical fitness testing as well as tracking and administering the required inoculations that are needed by the firefighters. The Chief explained that the newly hired personnel have already had the necessary shots and estimates that 25 firefighters need to participate in the program. The total bid is \$4,000.00 for the fitness program and the shots.

The Board discussed the information presented and Supervisor Arends stated that the money for this program would come out of the Fire Department equipment line item in the budget.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to approve the bid received for the firefighter fitness program and shots in the amount \$4,000 with the funds coming out of the fire department equipment line item. Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **10-77 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Clerk Wahlfield stated that she has a request in her office from the Daughters of American Civil War to pour two footings at the Englishville Cemetery for unmarked graves. The request is for the Township to pay for the footings.

Treasurer Townsend stated that he received a call from a Westgate resident concerned about vehicles parked on the side of the road and about enforcing the noise ordinance during the holiday weekend. A resident has suggested that the names of veterans buried at the Holy Trinity cemetery be read during the annual Alpine Township Memorial Day Service.

Supervisor Arends commented on the LZ Michigan Veterans Program to be held at the Fifth Third Ball Park on July 3. A daytime education program is being conducted at the York Creek Apartments by the Comstock Park Schools. A KaBoom playground will be built in York Creek Apartments. Arends reported that the Alpine Library will be holding their fiesta at the Alpine Sports Complex this year instead of at the library. He thanked the Board for their cooperation with the budget this year.

Cordes commented on the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer pay cut to help the budget.

#### **10-78 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Fritz Wahlfield, 730 Marlene NW, encouraged the Board to check out the infrastructure of the building if the plan to allow the motocross track is approved. He also commented on the fire that occurred near his house and commended the Alpine Township Fire Department for the fine job they did.

**A motion was made by May, with support from Townsend, to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.**

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Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

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Alex Arends, Supervisor

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Erin Randall, Recording Secretary