

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 15, 2010**

A motion was made by May, with support from Townsend, to close the executive session of the Township Board and continue with the regular meeting. The motion carried 7-0 in a roll call vote. The purpose of the executive closed session meeting was to receive information from the Township Attorney pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

10-21 REGULAR MEETING

The Alpine Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, February 15, 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. Also present was Planner Sue Thomas.

Supervisor Arends called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

10-22 CONSENT AGENDA

Board members reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Treasurer Townsend offered one correction to the February 15, 2010 Minutes by stating 38% be changed to **37%** in the ninth sentence of the first paragraph under the heading Discussion-Potential York Creek Apartment Special Assessment District on Page 4.

Supervisor Arends stated that a Town Hall Meeting date has been set for Monday, April 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine Baptist Church Auditorium located at 692 Seven Mile Road NW to receive public comments on a potential York Creek Apartments SAD for police and fire protection topic.

Townsend discussed the CDARS Program. He stated that he would like to keep the Township money at Choice One Bank, but implement this program so more money would be protected under FDIC insurance. He would like to amend the list of depositories to include the Choice One CDARS Program.

A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace to amend the list of depositories to include the Choice One CDARS Program.

The Board reviewed the CDARS program information. Wahlfield wanted to know if other municipalities are implementing this program. Schweitzer questioned whether we have the option of choosing which banks Choice One can invest Township money into.

Townsend explained that the Township would go to Choice One and tell them what banks we want money going into and they would in turn put the money in CDs at the banks the Township selected.

The members of the Board suggested that Townsend check with other municipalities and generate a report with more details and information for next month.

A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to rescind the previous motion and to table the approval of the Choice One Bank CDARS program until the Board receives additional information and a report on the program from the Treasurer at the next regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Wahlfield stated that she has not reviewed the cash report handed out by the Treasurer tonight to verify that the balances agree with those in the general ledger.

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

10-23 PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Arends explained the process of public comment to the audience.

Jim McCullough, 8158 Alpine Ave, commented on the article that was in the Advance Newspaper regarding House Bill 5319. He expressed his concerns about his private well being regulated and taxed by the State. He wanted to know what the Board members knew about this issue and how they plan on protecting the residents from this happening.

Arends explained that he would like Mr. McCullough to call or stop into to his office to further discuss this issue with him directly.

10-24 COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission-Cordes: At last month's meeting the Commission approved the Gracewil Country Club rezoning request which is in accordance with the 2007 Master Plan. A site plan was approved for Joe and Bruce Rasch for an addition to their break room at Fruit Ridge Apple Company and the site plan for Alpine Funeral Home on Alpine Ave was also approved.

Zoning Board of Appeals-May: No meeting this month.

Historical Committee-Schweitzer: An Open House was held on February 21 and a DVD was viewed on the ice bridge to Mackinac Island. Next month the Open House will be held on March 21 and will feature a speaker on Lake Michigan ship wrecks in Ottawa County.

Sewer & Water-Arends: No report. Alpine will need to discuss with the Board the purchase of a new flow meter. Plainfield Township may help pay a portion of the meter cost.

Parks & Recreation-Wallace: At the last committee meeting a discussion took place on the new Spanish soccer league that will be playing this season.

10-25 FIRST READING-REZONING REQUEST BY GRACEWIL COUNTRY CLUB/JOHN WILSON 2597,2765, AND 2775 4 MILE ROAD NW AND 3801 PEACH RIDGE AVENUE NW AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL AGRICULTURAL TO R-1, LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Supervisor Arends explained that rezoning request for four parcels has been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on February 18, 2010.

Planner Thomas stated that Board members have received a copy of the Planning Commission staff report to review. She also confirmed that the public hearing was held by Planning Commission.

The Board reviewed the information on the rezoning request and agreed that it was a straight forward request in compliance with the Master Plan.

10-26 PROGRESSIVE AE-UPDATE FROM TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Supervisor Arends introduced Mike Oezer from Progressive AE as well as Cheryl Scales who was present in the audience.

Oezer explained that he wanted to let the Board know some of the things they had been working on in the Township. He stated that most of their service has been for site plan reviews and thirteen have been completed. Other services included the annual review of sand mines, flood evaluation, and general engineering consultation. Progressive provides other services that the Township may not know about some of which are traffic and access management, lift stations, master planning for park and recreation, and grant writing.

Oezer thanked the Board for allowing Progressive to the serve the Township.

10-27 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-06- A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON STATUTORY MANDATES

Arends explained that a commission was established a few years ago to look at mandates that have been placed on local government by the State. The Board has been asked to review Resolution No. 10-06 which responds to those finding and recommendations made by the House of Representatives. He explained that many other municipalities in the area have passed a similar resolution. He reviewed some of the recommendations that were presented in the report from the State.

A motion was made by May, with support from Schweitzer to accept the Resolution No. 10-06 - A Resolution in Support of the Findings and Recommendations of the Michigan Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates.

Townsend expressed some concern with the language of Resolution No.10-06. He stated that he thinks it is a good idea, but he would like more time to read over the findings from the State.

May rescinded his motion to approve Resolution 10-06 and was supported by Schweitzer.

The Board agreed to table the issue and wait for the April 19, 2010 meeting to vote on the resolution.

10-28 REVIEW OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Planner Thomas explained that the last time the Township had worked on this program was in 2004 and noted that the Township will be reinstating the annual preparation of a CIP in fiscal year 2010-2011. She stated that the Planning Commission is now required under the provisions of the Planning Enabling Act to prepare the CIP annually. The program will prioritize future improvements in the Township which are over and above annual operating expenses in order to plan for long-range objectives. Examples of such improvements could be future township buildings, parks, public water or sewer or major equipment purchases. She noted that in the past the program ran concurrently with the budget process. Three volunteers are requested from the Board to work with three members of the Planning Commission on updating the CIP. She stated that that a joint meeting between the Planning Commission and Township Board take place to present the final CIP document and a public hearing will be held.

The Board discussed the program and Supervisor Arends, Trustee May, and Trustee Cordes volunteered to work on the CIP with the Planning Commission.

10-29 FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS-SOG SECTIONS 49 AND 50 PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Firefighter Jeremy Kelly presented the SOG information and stated that the Fire Department does not have a formal probationary process for prospective firefighters. The Fire Department drafted a New Firefighter Probationary Program and Education Guideline for new firefighters. Kelly reviewed some of the new items included in the guidelines which include sending the applicants to MFR training before Fire Fighter training as half the calls in Alpine Township are medical. Another change is the Black Helmet test to make sure the applicants are familiar with every aspect of the Township and the Fire Department.

Kelly stated that the proposed process listed in SOG Section 49 will make sure that the applicants will be good representatives of the Township. He stated that after the probationary period, the current firefighters vote on the applicant, but the final decision is made by the Fire Department Officers. He made it clear that the voting process is only a recommendation made by the firefighters to the officers of the Fire Department to hire the individual.

The Board reviewed the proposed SOG Section 49. Townsend noted his concerns with the wording in part five of Section 49 and that the voting process may lead to a lawsuit against the Township. Supervisor Arends agreed with Townsend and stated that the Township Attorney needs to review Section 49. Kelly stated that he would make the wording changes suggested by Board members and re-submit the revised document for attorney review.

Kelly reviewed the Section 50-Education Guideline Report. He stated that major changes were made to the way firefighters are paid for classes and training. A cap has been placed on the number of

specialized training programs that each member is allowed, which could not exceed \$300 per fiscal year per member.

Townsend questioned the wording on Category I and suggested that the words “both of” be included to be more clear that both MFR and Firefighter I and II need to be taken.

Kelly stated that Category I is a requirement, but Category II is an option for firefighters after they have completed two years of service.

It was the consensus of the Board that after the changes are made to the proposed SOG’s that the Section 49 and 50 are reviewed by the Township attorney for approval and prior to implementation.

A motion was made by Townsend, with support from May, to approve SOG Sections 49 and 50 pending the suggested changes made by the Board and pending final review and approval of the Township Attorney. Motion carried 7-0.

Kelly recognized Fire Fighter Jason Bergsma for recently completing his National Register Testing and he is now a Certified EMT.

Assistant Chief Mike Lasko stated that the fire department personnel committee has been conducting interviews for new firefighters. The Department has recommended three candidates to the Township Board: Jon Jenkins to Station 1, Lisa Mayo to Station 2, and David Heinbeck to Station 3. Lasko commented that in the last year they have lost seven personnel.

The Board discussed the recommendations from the Fire Department to approve the three firefighters.

A motion was made by May, with support from Wallace, to approve Jon Jenkins, Lisa Mayo, and David Heinbeck as members and employees of the Alpine Township Fire Department. Motion carried 7-0.

Wahlfield noted that Jerry Roersma is retiring from the Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Lasko stated that Roersma retired as of March 4, 2010 and will be the Fire Department Chaplain. He noted that a plaque was given to Roersma for his 30 years of service.

The entire Board of Trustees expressed their thanks and gratitude to Jerry Roersma for his 30 years of service to the Fire Department and to the residents of Alpine Township.

10-30 SUPERVISOR’S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS

Arends stated that he received confirmation from Kent County Community Development approving the use of CDBG funds for the North Kent Teen Parenting service and the GO! Bus. He stated that the Township is still waiting for permission to use CDBG funds for the other requests made by the Township. He commented that it has been a busy month at the Township with Board of Review meetings.

Wahlfield stated that preparations are underway for the May 4th election.

May wanted information on the sprayer for the Sports Complex. He also commented on the wind generators that are being put up in the McBain area noting that he impressed with their foot print and efficiency.

Supervisor Arends stated that the Township will be purchasing the sprayer. He would like to use Township employees to do the work instead of contracting another company.

Treasurer Townsend stated that latest State Shared Revenue payment received was in the amount of \$156,860. He noted that last year's amount was \$165,868.

Wallace stated that he would like to see Progressive AE be our exclusive engineers and he would like to see more of their services utilized in the Township.

10-31 PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Kelly, 4440 Westgate Drive NW commented on some reading and research that he has done on the budget. He stated that things don't look that great and encouraged the Board to look into cost recovery for fire services. Kelly stated that other municipalities in the surrounding area implement some sort of cost recovery and he encouraged the Board to contact him to further discuss this option.

A motion was made by May, with support from Townsend to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

Alex Arends, Supervisor

Erin Randall, Recording Secretary