

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010
7:30 A.M.**

10-63 SPECIAL MEETING

The Alpine Township Board held a special meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. at the Alpine Township Hall Conference Room, 5255 Alpine Avenue NW, Comstock Park, Michigan, 49321. Board members present were Supervisor Alex Arends, Treasurer Jim Townsend, Clerk Jean Wahlfield, and Trustees Ron Cordes, Jim May, and Ted Wallace. Also present were Planner Sue Thomas, Fire Chief Ron Christians, and Township Engineer Mike Oezer. Proper notice for this meeting has taken place.

Supervisor Arends called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

10-64 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SIDEWALK BIDS TO UTILIZE CDBG FUNDS

Engineer Oezer distributed and reviewed his letter of Recommendations for Award dated May 25, 2010 for the Alpine Avenue and the York Creek Drive Sidewalk Improvements projects. He explained that the two sidewalks projects identified by the Township were bid separately per Community Development Block Fund specifications. A tabulation sheet for each project has been attached to his letter showing the bid information from the four contractors.

The exact locations and plans for the sidewalk installations were reviewed. The Alpine Avenue sidewalk is intended to connect the sidewalk on the west side of the road near Art Van (approximately 4273 Alpine Avenue), run to the north, and end at the southern property line of the Mike's Cycle Station property (approximately 4381 Alpine Avenue). The York Creek sidewalk is located on the east side of Alpenhorn Drive and extends approximately 640 feet to the main office building and includes the extension of a 42" culvert.

The Engineer and Board reviewed the bids submitted from four contractors which were opened on May 24, 2010. Engineer Oezer recommended the low bid from DeYoung Concrete for both of the sidewalk projects. He stated that he is confident that DeYoung can do the work noting that they have recently completed a sidewalk project on Plainfield Avenue for the Plainfield Charter Township. Board members discussed the range of bid numbers and had several questions for the Engineer. In response to a question from Cordes, it was noted that no wire or fiberglass will be added and these items were not included in the bid. It was verified that the project will be paid for entirely with CDBG funds and no matching funds will be required to be paid by the Township. The time constraint of utilizing the CDBG funds by the end of June 30, 2010 was noted.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Wallace, to approve the bid received from DeYoung Concrete for the Alpine Avenue sidewalk project in the amount of \$12,698.00 and the bid for the York Creek Drive sidewalk project in the amount of \$37,506.00 in order to utilize CBDG funds for both projects, There was no further discussion and the motion carried 6-0 with Schweitzer absent.

The Supervisor thanked Planner Thomas and Engineer Oezer for all work done in preparation for this meeting.

10-65 FISCAL YEAR 2010 – REVIEW BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Supervisor Arends noted that budget adjustments are requested in two main areas of the FY 2010 budget. The first request is for the maintenance cost of the KDL located at West River Drive in Plainfield Township. Under the provisions of the 425 Agreement, Alpine Township shared one-half of the building maintenance costs. Arends stated that this will be the last time that Alpine will be paying these maintenance costs as the 425 Agreement between the two municipalities has been dissolved. An adjustment of \$4,000 from contingency into the Library cost center is requested.

The Supervisor discussed capital outlay requests and projects which had been completed in the current fiscal year. The projects include the installation of the new phone system in the Township offices, the relocation of the post office mail boxes on the north side of our building, a small parking lot paving project and the installation of new carpeting in the rental rooms at two fire stations.

Board members discussed the poor appearance of old Fire Station # 3 located at 7609 Alpine Avenue. Supervisor Arends stated that he requests the Board provide \$5,000 from contingency to improve the exterior of the building with paint, window repair, and other maintenance items. He explained that firemen would be doing the repairs and supplying the labor at the firefighter hourly wage. The Board discussed the request with Wallace stating that it would be good to clean up the outside appearance of the building. Arends is requesting an amount of \$25,000 be transferred from contingency to capital outlay to fund the projects which have been completed and for the work at old Fire Station #3.

Trustee Schweitzer arrives at approximately 8:00 a.m.

The parking lot at Fire Station #1 needs to be improved and was cited as a hazard during an inspection last summer by the Township's liability insurance carrier. Arends noted that he has received one estimate of \$35,000 to repave as well as information on the costs of sealing the parking lot in the range of \$4,000 to \$6,000. Board members discussed the feasibility of completing the parking lot project before the end of the current fiscal year, discussed if funds would be available in FY 2011, and the high costs for repaving. The consensus of Board members was to inspect the parking lot and make a recommendation for the repairs of the parking lot at a later time.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Schweitzer, to move \$29,000 from contingency and place \$4,000 in the Library "790" cost center and place \$25,000 in the capital improvement "901" cost center. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

10-66 BOARD COMMENTS

Treasurer Townsend provided comments on reinstating his salary to \$54,002. He stated that he would propose a similar reduction in 2011 of \$2,000 if that amount would be used to reduce the Township 1% administration fee. He would like to cut the \$140,000 administration fee by 10% in FY 2011.

10-67 PUBLIC COMMENT

Fire Chief Ron Christians provided copies of his memo dated May 25, 2010. He reviewed the information which requests a change in the method used to pay firefighters. All Alpine Township firefighters are paid the same rate of \$13.25 per hour. The requested change would be that probationary firefighter are paid \$11.00 per hour, fully trained firefighters paid at \$14.00 per hour, and officers paid at \$15.00 per hour. The Chief explained that the proposed change will not exceed the amounts indicated in the proposed FY 2011 budget but would result in the fire hourly run pay being reduced by \$5,000. The new line item amount would be \$65,000. The memo also provided a list of hourly rates for several area fire departments.

Board members discussed the hourly pay information with Wallace stating he would make a motion to approve the change. It was pointed out that the topic had not been part of the agenda and that it should be placed on the agenda for the next regular Board meeting. Treasurer Townsend suggested that additional information be submitted and/or graphics provided on the proposed change to the fire department budget over a three year period. He is concerned about the impact on future budgets as the current probationary firefighters become fully trained firefighters. ~~and the timeline.~~

Treasurer Townsend provided a corrected copy of his cash report for the period ending April 2010. He also discussed the recent article in the GR Press about dissolving Township government. Board members discussed this topic and the apparent efforts of the County and Cities to eliminate Townships.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m. in a motion offered by May, with support from Wallace. The motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Arends, Supervisor

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk