

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 20, 2005**

05-78 REGULAR MEETING

The Alpine Township Board met on Monday, June 20, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine Township Hall, 5255 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, Michigan. Board members present: Supervisor Marta Brechting, Clerk Jean Wahlfield, Treasurer Jan Brechting, Trustees Ron Cordes, Jim May, and Ted Wallace. Trustee Sharon Steffens was absent.

Supervisor Brechting called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was amended by Supervisor Brechting to strike Budget Amendments from the Consent Agenda and to instead discuss this item during the New Business portion of the meeting.

05-79 CONSENT AGENDA

Wahlfield remarked that 2D: Approval for the Supervisor to Sign Amended CDBG Contract with Community Development should read: Approval for the Supervisor to Sign **Original** CDBG Contract with Community Development.

J. Brechting offered a motion, supported by May, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting May 16, 2005, Budget Workshops of April 27, 2005 and May 9, 2005, Consideration of Bills, Approval for Supervisor to Sign Original CDBG Contract with Community Development, remove Budget Amendments and receipt of correspondence. Motion carried 6-0.

05-80 PUBLIC COMMENT

Boy Scout T. J. Nieder, 4678 Westshire N.W., commented that he thinks it would be beneficial to have speed limit signs posted throughout the Westgate subdivision. He felt since there were no sidewalks this would help prevent accidents. He also suggested the use of speed bumps to slow down vehicle traffic.

Jeff Fox, 70 Lamoreaux, inquired about the future plans of the Sports Complex. The Supervisor stated more discussion on this topic would take place later in the meeting.

05-81 COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission - May: At the May 19th meeting a rezoning request was denied for property located at 1338 10-Mile Road. The property was not served by public utilities and did not comply with the current Master Plan. The Planning Commission held a special meeting on June 9 to discuss the Master Plan update. There was excellent discussion as the individuals from Beckett & Raeder were very prepared and the information was very thorough.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Wallace: A variance request was received from the property owners at 448 Stowell to create two equal sized lots of 80 feet wide by 106 feet deep. This property was originally platted for four lots each 40 feet wide and 106 feet deep. The variance met all four criteria and was approved.

Historical Committee - Cordes: The McConnell house has been removed.

Sewer & Water - Marta Brechting: There was a meeting held June 15th with a presentation of the independent study, however there are still questions on cost allocation. Written agreements regarding cost allocation to the individual Townships have been requested. A cost allocation study is being conducted and should be completed within 40 days.

Library - Clair: Clair stated that this evening's meeting was her last due to her retirement. Clair thanked the Board for their support and kindness. Clair introduced Cheryl Garrison, Assistant KDL Director and Michelle Boisvenue-Fox who will become Alpine's Acting Branch Manager. Boisvenue-Fox received her Library Degree from the University of Illinois and is originally from Kentwood. The Board thanked Clair, wishing her well and welcomed Boisvenue-Fox.

05-82 2005 - 2006 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET - GENERAL

Supervisor Brechting stated that with the current economic conditions and with the uncertainty of state-shared revenues, the Board decided to proceed cautiously and the employee raises were held at the cost of living. Fire Chief Ron Christians salary was increased more than the cost of living as it was brought up to the next step on the MML study. The Board discussed whether the Fire Chief should be paid for Sunday Duty and/or Tuesday practice meetings. It was noted that the Planner receives a per-diem for her ZBA meeting only as this was not part of new job description. The Board discussed this topic and obtained comments from the Fire Chief Christians who was in the audience. He stated that he no longer is scheduled for Sunday Fire Duty and that he would be willing to wait and look at the per diem issue again next year. It was the consensus of the Board that the Fire Chief would not be paid for Tuesday evening practices for FY 05/06 and discussion will resume again during preparation for next budget year.

05-83 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #05-09 EMPLOYEE SALARIES AND WAGES

In a motion offered by May, supported by J. Brechting, to approve Resolution #05-09 Setting Salaries and Wages for All Non-Elected Employees and Staff of Alpine Township including Attachment "A" for Fiscal Year 2006. Motion carried 6-0 in a roll call vote.

05-84 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #05-10 SETTING ALPINE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR SALARY

It was noted by M. Brechting that the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer salary for fiscal year 05/06 would remain at the current rate.

Motion offered by May, supported by Wallace, to approve Resolution #05-10: Supervisor Salary for Fiscal Year 2006. Motion carried 6-0 in a roll call vote.

**05-85 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #05-11
 SETTING ALPINE TOWNSHIP TREASURER SALARY**

Motion offered by May, supported by Cordes, to approve Resolution #05-11: Treasurer Salary for Fiscal Year 2006. Motion carried 6-0 in a roll call vote.

**05-86 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #05-12
 SETTING ALPINE TOWNSHIP CLERK SALARY**

Motion offered by May, supported by Cordes, to approve Resolution #05-12: Clerk Salary for Fiscal Year 2006. Motion carried 6-0 in a roll call vote.

**05-87 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #05-13
 SETTING ALPINE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE PER DIEM**

Motion offered by May, supported by Wallace, to approve Resolution #05-13: Trustee Per Diem for Fiscal Year 2006. Motion carried 6-0 in a roll call vote.

05-88 DISCUSSION OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Supervisor Brechting explained the proposed Budget Amendments and the Township will be paying a portion to Vitality Drain SAD. Expenditures will include resurfacing parking lots, doorway repair at both Fire Station #1 and the Township Center. The north soccer field will be redone and possibly re-seeding of the south field around the goals. Bids are being received on tennis court repair. There has been strong interest in the volleyball court this year and this will be observed next year. An evaluation of charges for the spring soccer season will take place. Future repairs include new roofing at Westgate Park and the Community Building, and expenditures for on drain issues. The Supervisor felt that the Township was in good shape for this FY 05/06 and 06/07. Funds were moved from Contingency to pay for bus service, sheriff patrol, and master plan expenses.

Health Benefits were discussed because there was confusion over when the Township would stop paying for dental benefits. Dental benefits were to be paid for by the Township through September 2004. A few employees were under the impression that the dental coverage was cancelled at that time. Monies were taken from the employee's individual health benefits to reimburse the cost of the premiums. There was no communication at that time regarding the status of the dental insurance. Employees are requesting reimbursement of their dental premiums as they can be added to pension accounts if the benefit is not used.

Wallace offered a motion that the Township and employees split the cost of the premiums. The motion had no support.

Cordes noted that this is a gray area and felt that the employees should have the premiums reimbursed for

the full amount. The positive aspect of this situation is all employees will sign a form regarding health and dental insurance and there will be no room for confusion in the future.

Wallace amended the prior motion, supported by May, to reimburse the dental premiums for all employees through September 2004 and reimburse the employees who did not request the dental insurance from October 2004 through June 2005 the full amount into their individual pension fund. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board briefly discussed other budget information noting that the 1% Administration Fee will remain, the grant received for the McConnell house will need to be repaid to insure that other grants will be available, and the funds from the FEMA fire grant have been received.

J. Brechting offered a motion, supported by Cordes, to approve the Budget Amendments with the corrections as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

**05-89 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #05-14
GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT & PROPOSED SEWER & WATER BUDGETS**

May offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting to approve Resolution #05-14: General Appropriation Act and Proposed Sewer and Water Budgets. Motion carried 6-0 in a roll call vote.

**05-90 UPDATE ON GENERAL ORDINANCE #05-01: SAND MINING &
MINERAL EXTRACTION (Tabled from 5-16-05)**

The public hearing and discussion were tabled from last month. A meeting is scheduled tomorrow with M. Brechting, Cordes, May, operator Rusche and property owner Crawford to resolve current issues. The Supervisor noted that the proposed ordinance was never intended to raise costs or put anyone out of business. This ordinance was considered for safety issues and she noted that an updated will be provided at the July meeting.

05-91 REZONING DENIAL - 1338 10-MILE ROAD

At the Planning Commission meeting of June 16, 2005 it was recommended that the rezoning of property located at 1338 10-Mile Road from R-1 to C-2 be denied. May remarked that there may be some wetlands on that property and no public utilities were available.

May offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to accept the rezoning denial of 1338 10-Mile Road from R-1 to C-2 as recommending by the Planning Commission. Motion carried 6-0.

05-92 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT & BOARD COMMENTS

Marta Brechting stated that the Harvester will be coming out next week as she wanted to get the budget information in this issue and that Master Plan update information will also be included. She plans to work on the website this week to get Township Board, Planning Commission and ZBA agendas available for the public.

Wallace stated that the NKSA has very good merits with the Clean Water Act and improving the waste that would be discarded in the river. He is uncomfortable spending \$50 million for a treatment plant and this issue should be put to a vote for the people. He stated that the residential sewer user will be charged between 60 and 80% on home usage. He equated asking for a special election with the school district requesting additional millage monies going above and beyond the budget. He felt this decision goes above and beyond the day to day decisions that Township officials make. May stated that he would support that motion.

Treasurer Brechting explained that the board previously passed a Resolution to bond for the plant and the Notice of Intent was published in the newspaper as required in April of 2002. This board has to honor that these facts. By law only sewer customers can be charged for sewer and general funds cannot be used.

Wahlfield noted that a special election cannot be initiated by the Board, only through the referendum process. In accordance with State law an election can only be held on four specific dates each year and would cost the taxpayers between \$6,000 - \$7,000.

Supervisor Brechting stated that after the July 7th meeting, there should be firm numbers to make a decision. There will be additional public meetings regarding NKSA. Cordes added that the Harvester should be an important part of this process noting that we need to have firm figures from Grand Rapids on their contract also. Wallace added that he felt that the "people should call the shot." The sewer rates will be going up whether we stay with Grand Rapids or go with NKSA.

Treasurer Brechting stated that the tax bills are in the process of being printed and will include a letter regarding the Master Plan progress and upcoming public meeting dates.

Supervisor Brechting stated that a new Planning Commission member will be appointed soon pending an answer from the proposed appointee. A letter to Mr. Visser regarding the Doorenbos property and conditional rezoning will be forth coming.

05-93 PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Fox, 70 Lamoreaux questioned if the Board considered asking the Soccer Association assist with field maintenance. Fox stated that the Association would be willing to take a Saturday to help defray the cost of field maintenance. Treasurer Brechting pointed out that last year volunteers were supposed to help and it did not work out. Fox questioned if any thought had been given to a concession stand for raising money. Supervisor Brechting stated that although there were problems in the past with concessions, the township is willing to look into generating more funds for the sports complex. Fox stated that he felt the sheriff (security guard) presence is an asset at the Complex. Treasurer Brechting assured Fox that the Township will continue to support the soccer program.

John Frey, Frey Landcare, questioned if the Board had made a decision on whether or not to purchase a mower. Supervisor Brechting stated that she is in the process of looking at bids. Frey questioned the procedure on whether or not small jobs should be completed by his employees. The Board consensus requested that Frey fax his request to the office. Frey commented about the corner of 4-Mile and Alpine Avenue and it was noted that the Kent County Road Commission is responsible for the corner. Frey requested permission to clean up the south end of Englishville Cemetery, Wahlfield will check the area and let Frey know. Frey reminded the Board that Station 1 could use some weed control and he suggested that AAA be called for an estimate.

Julie Gritter, 155 Meadowfield Lane, wished to echo Fox' statements. Gritter stated that Alpine has a wonderful soccer program and encouraged the board to make their decisions so that the soccer association knows how to proceed with setting up the future program and fees to cover their expenses. Gritter commented that possibly a smaller practice field could be built.

Al Beckstrom, 4891 Grettel, requested a copy of the minutes and requested that all facts and figures for the NKSA wastewater treatment plant be placed on the Township's website along with a calendar displaying upcoming meetings. Beckstrom presented several comments regarding the NKSA.

Ray Wcisel, 4891 Grettel, stated that there is not enough firm information for the Board to vote on the NKSA.

Phil Brunger, 4647 Fruit Ridge, gave his comments on the NKSA plant and questioned why can't Alpine Township be a retail customer and negotiate between the City and NKSA.

Jim Crawford, 2654 10-Mile, stated that although he is not in the sewer district he is in favor of the NKSA plant project.

Treasurer Brechting stated that the NKSA plant figures have risen due to the cost of steel and concrete.

Rene Whitaker, 3920 Walker, requested that the Harvester be published soon. Whitaker complimented May and Wallace for watching out for the taxpayers. Whitaker questioned whether or not some of the problems noted in a campaign brochure such as the soccer director, the McConnell house, and the cleaning personnel have been corrected. Supervisor Brechting noted that the soccer program is an independent program, the McConnell house has been removed and the cleaning personnel have resigned. Supervisor Brechting also explained that the McConnell grant will be repaid and then the township will be eligible to reuse the grant for another project.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield

Marta Brechting

Beth Alt

Clerk

Supervisor

Recording Secretary