

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2006**

06-21 REGULAR MEETING

The Alpine Township Board met on Monday, February 20, 2006, 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, Sharon Steffens and Ted Wallace.

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

May offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

06-22 CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Brechting commented that she made an addition to the January 16, 2006 Minutes in Item 06-06, Commission Reports, Library: Paragraph 2, the first sentence should include that the new Branch Manager will split her working hours between the Tyrone Branch Library and the Alpine Branch.

Cordes commented that the Planning Commission minutes incorrectly reflect the addresses of the Doorenbos property on Bristol Avenue. *(Note: It was later discovered that the Planning Commission minutes and addresses were correct.)*

Steffens offered a motion, supported by May to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 16, 2006 as amended, Consideration of Vouchers/Bills, Receipt of Building Department 2005 Permit Report, Planning Commission 2005-2006 Work Plans and 2005 Synopsis of Activity, Zoning Board of Appeals 2005 Synopsis of Activity, Code Enforcement Report (September through December 2005) and Receipt of Correspondence. Motion carried 7-0.

06-23 PUBLIC COMMENT

James Koetje, former House of Representatives legislator (86th District), informed the Board that he is a Republican candidate for the 28th Senatorial District seat which will be vacated by Ken Sikkema. Koetje's focus will be on jobs and job creation for Michigan. He stated that he plans to keep in touch with local officials and be accessible. Koetje remarked that he previously served on the Grandville City Council and felt it was very important to keep Revenue Sharing intact for the local municipalities.

County Commissioner Wahlfield expressed his gratitude to the Township Board and support of the Alpine citizens in the fruition of Wahlfield Park located at the corner of 8-Mile and Alpine Avenue. He acknowledged the hard work of Sharon Steffens as a Rotary Member and as an unyielding volunteer. He wished to express a "big thank you" to everyone. The park will be open for reservations by mid-summer and the dedication is tentatively scheduled for June 1. More information will be forthcoming.

06-24 COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission - May; At the January 19th meeting Officers were elected for the Commission. The Commission recommended the Jasper rezoning to the Township Board for approval. The Wal-Mart and Doorenbos rezoning requests were tabled. On February 2nd, the Township Attorney provided a training session for Planning Commissioners. The February 16th meeting was postponed until the 23rd due to the weather.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Wallace; The ZBA met in January for the purpose of electing officers.

Historical - Cordes; New grid panels for displays have been installed at the Historical museum.

Sewer & Water - M. Brechting; Surveying is taking place in the Hayes and Division Avenues area as part of the Plainfield Township Water Department water system upgrade which calls for the looping of water lines. On February 9th the North Kent Sewer Authority Board met and an update was presented on the wastewater plant site. Seventy percent of the second stage site preparation work has been completed by Dykema Excavating. The NKSA will purchase the last piece of property needed for the flood plain without the need for condemnation. Future NKSA sewer cost-sharing allocations were distributed. The Supervisor stated that she found discrepancies in the allocations for Alpine and voted no on the proposed percentages. It was noted that the meter near the Fifth-Third Park was not working properly and affected the allocation percentages. The NKSA will be using the current percentage numbers for the coming year and will investigate Supervisor Brechting concerns. A final copy of allocation percentages is not available at this time.

06-25 KENT COUNTY POLICING OFFICER WHITING - PRESENTATION OF 2005 STATISTICS

Officer Bill Whiting, Alpine's Community Policing Officer, gave an overview of his 2005 statistics. Whiting informed the Board that his goals for 2006 were to continue to work with block captains from Neighborhood Watch and the newly organized Business Watch for those businesses along Alpine Avenue from Lamoreaux north to Ten Mile. Additional goals will be working more closely with the apartment complexes and the mobile home parks. Whiting also participates in the Comstock Park Business Association and continues to offer help with a finger-printing project.

Whiting noted that there are several long term problems which may appear to be resolved only to return again at a later time. He noted that these types of problems tend to run on a cycle in neighborhoods. He further explained some of the neighborhood problems in which he has been involved. Whiting stated that he continues to work with the management of York Creek Apartments and has also involved the Zoning Administrator Bob Devereaux in order to resolve problems and work together.

Most of the statistics for Alpine remained consistent in 2005. His Community Service numbers increased due to Shop with the Sheriff program which consists of three months of planning. He has provided crime prevention education to such individuals as gas station managers and bank employees giving them direction on how to prevent gas drive offs and keep themselves safe. He has provided policing visibility in parks to head off inappropriate activity. Better known community services which he provides are Hunter, Boating, and Snowmobile Safety.

In response to the Board's questions, Whiting explained that he will be expanding the Business Watch to include West River Drive. If any business along Alpine Avenue south of Lamoreaux expresses an interest, he will include them on the fax list. Child Watch is now part of the Neighborhood Watch program. Boater safety will be scheduled for late April, early May and will be held at the Alpine Township offices. Whiting's goal is to target his services for Alpine residents. In response to a question Whiting noted that Officers have been instructed to ticket any door to door solicitor.

06-26 FIRST READING - JASPER REZONING - 4719 Peach Ridge A to RA

It was noted that the Planning Commission recommended the rezoning to the Township Board for approval. Minutes and maps were included in the Board packet and the first reading of the Jasper rezoning was accepted by the Board.

06-27 STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION INITIATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Supervisor Brechting asked the Board to consider prioritizing the options that they would like to commit to for the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative. The Township and Board are required to submit and meet the goals and objectives of the Watershed Management Plan as part of the requirements of our permit. This initiative is due in April.

Board discussion ensued regarding our current ordinances and that it would be helpful to get some sample ordinances from other communities. The Board preferred to stay in the area of the watershed district. Several other issues need to be considered some of which included the potential for a county wide septic tank pumping regulation and Fire Department policies on the clean up of a gas or oil spill following an auto accident. Steffens suggested that the Board concentrate on the flood plain because FEMA is planning to map Alpine Township. It may be helpful when M. Brechting attends a Supervisor's meeting to see if the other communities would be interested in working together to share legal expenses and information. M. Brechting will check with each Board member after her Wednesday NPDES meeting to gather ideas and input.

06-28 WATER/SEWER ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Supervisor Brechting indicated that one of the duties of the former zoning administrator was to determine water and sewer fees as well as work on other administrative issues. At the time of his departure the job was assigned temporarily to those employees in the Building Department with the understanding that this arrangement would be reviewed in six-months time. This review never occurred and Building Department Clerk Pat Kolkman has been calculating the fees and most recently Building Inspector Mark Fleet has been handling it. This is an additional responsibility and a pay increase has been requested for Kolkman.

Both Wahlfield and J. Brechting did not feel that an increase was necessary. J. Brechting commented that before Kolkman determines the fees, she provides the information from the Treasurer's Department. It was noted that calculation tables are in place to determine how much to charge for water or sewer depending on square-footage, number of bathrooms, etc. Both J. Brechting and Wahlfield felt this particular duty could be handled differently and did not warrant an increase in wages. It was determined that the Treasurer's Department will be taking calculation duty.

06-29 DISCUSSION ON LIBRARY ISSUES & CONCERNS

Supervisor Brechting received a list of concerns from Clerk Wahlfield regarding the library renovations and the list was provided to Board members. It was noted that some of the items shown have been resolved. The Library is aware that they must be ADA accessible to patrons. The Safety Director and/or Electrical Inspector will inspect the potential fire hazards. Supervisor Brechting will review the maintenance personnel wages paid out of the Township budget for the renovation work. Steffens suggested that all three officials talk with the librarian to discuss the future plans. It was the general consensus of the Board to let the library run the library.

06-30 DISCUSSION ON WAHLFIELD PARK FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Supervisor Brechting explained that the budget indicates a \$20,000 payment in the FY 2005/2006 for Wahlfield Park grant. The Township has received a bill from Kent County for \$25,000 which is the last payment for the agreed upon contribution to the park land acquisition. This last payment was to be paid in FY 2006/2007 following discussions with Park Director Sabine. Clerk Wahlfield noted that after speaking with Roger Sabine he has no preference which payment is made to the County first. She suggested that the Township make the larger payment during the Township's current budget year as the additional \$5,000 is available and that next year's budget may be even tighter. May felt that the Township should stay within the planned budget amounts and pay the last land acquisition payment next year.

May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to pay \$20,000 grant amount due to Kent County in the current budget year and make the last payment of \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2007. Motion carried 5-2, with Wahlfield and Cordes dissenting.

06-31 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Brechting informed the Board that Mark Fleet has been working as a Building Inspector for Vergennes Township since the first January 2006. In his conversation with the Supervisor, Fleet explained that this was a nice opportunity because it was close to his home and he is excited to help set up the new computer system for Vergennes. Supervisor Brechting stated that Fleet will be closely monitored and if there are any problems affecting his work at Alpine to let her know.

The Employee Handbook will be ready for review at the March meeting.

The Supervisor provided information on Parks/Recreation noting that Sue Alt continues to check on soccer fees. The north field will be repaired this spring.

The Supervisor stated that the **Harvester** newsletter will be ready to go out within the next couple of days.

Steffens advised the Board that budget time is coming up and requested a budget workshop schedule. The first budget workshop meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Center. Steffens felt it would be a good idea for the entire board to meet with the department heads.

May asked if the Fire Department would be interested in working with a gentleman that teaches rescue techniques involving farm machinery. Deputy Chief Lasko was very interested and will work the details out with May. May also expressed appreciation in being able to attend the MTA conference.

Cordes stated that he enjoyed attending the MTA conference.

Wahlfield stated that there was ice damage to the trees at the Alpine Center and Englishville cemeteries.

Wallace expressed concern regarding the upcoming Wal-Mart rezoning noting that in his opinion that the SuperCenter would be good for the Township.

Steffens reminded the officials to check on Westgate Park and the stream for any damage from the ice-storm.

06-32 PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fritz Wahlfield stated since he is a member of the Fire Commission, along with the Clerk being

Vice-Chair of the Fire Commission, he would like to see the rescue program mentioned by May (above) offered for the entire county. May offered his farm as a location for the class.

John Frey, Frey's Landcare, offered to do ice-damage clean ups. He explained that his business has added a horticulturist, soil scientist, and a certified landscaper in an effort to expand his business expertise. He wanted to know if the Township Agendas and Minutes are on the Township's internet website. He would like to offer "to do a little more for a little less" for Alpine. He would like to sit in on a meeting and asked to be considered in the bid process for Sports Complex lawnmowing and soccer field repairs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield
Clerk

Marta Brechting
Supervisor

Beth Alt
Recording Secretary