

**MINUTES  
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 2006**

**06-153 REGULAR MEETING**

The Alpine Township Board met on Monday, August 21, 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.

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

**06-154 CONSENT AGENDA**

In response to a question from Steffens' it was noted that groundskeeper Linda Dunneback is paid mileage when she purchases gas and/or supplies from Menard's. In response to Cordes' question, it was noted that concrete fuel container has been located at the Rec Complex and fuel will be ordered soon.

**J. Brechting offered a motion, supported by Wahlfield, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Approval of Minutes - Workshop Meeting and Regular Meeting of July 17, 2006, Consideration of Vouchers/Bills and Receipt of Correspondence. Motion carried 7-0.**

**06-155 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steven Kauffman introduced himself as a candidate for the 74<sup>th</sup> State House District Representative and provided comments.

**06-156 COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Planning Commission - May:** The Planning Commission met on August 17, 2006. The Westgate/Piccard Special Land Use Request (sandmine) was approved. May offered a brief overview of the conditions placed upon the approval. He explained that one of the conditions, the Restoration Bond requires approval from the Township Board.

**May offered a motion, supported by Cordes, to approve the Restoration Bond amount at \$20,000 as recommended by the Planning Commission on 08/17/06 for the Westgate/Piccard Sandmine Special Land Use Permit for property located at 4195 5-Mile Road NW (41-09-30-451-007), which will be transferred to subsequent phases as each phase is successfully completed. Motion carried 7-0.**

May added that the Planning Commission came to a consensus regarding the new Wal-Mart Super Store's

parking and aesthetics. A special meeting was scheduled for August 31, 2006.

**Zoning Board of Appeals - Wallace:** No meeting.

**Historical - Cordes:** A reunion for Ballard School will be held on September 17, 2006 at the Historical Museum. Invitations have been sent out.

**Sewer & Water - M. Brechting:** The water looping project is starting on the water main today and depending upon the weather, that aspect should be completed within two weeks. The NKSA met at the beginning in August. One contract with Prein & Newhof for the wastewater treatment plant was approved.

The second contract for services to NKSA continues to be in discussion. The NKSA reviewed the budget and schedule for the treatment plant, the budget remains stable overall, with connection fees slightly down and interest for bonded monies higher than anticipated. Bids for the design of the plant are underway.

**Library-DeMeester:** The Summer Reading Club for kids was very successful with 230 enrollees. In July the circulation increased dramatically and Alpine is the busiest of all the small libraries. The new computer stations are always filled. KDL completed the summer with a recognition day at the White Caps game. The new computer tables will be arriving shortly. DeMeester stated that we were lucky to obtain a circulation desk from the East Grand Rapids Branch. The new circulation desk will be installed when the computer tables arrive. J. Brechting expressed concern replacing the circulation desk, and DeMeester assured the Board that this is not the final decision.

#### **06-157 APPROVAL OF BID - ALPINE AVENUE/ALPENHORN INTERSECTION SAD**

Bob VanderMale, Township Engineer from Prein & Newhof, explained that the bid opening was last Thursday with six bidders total. The engineers reviewed the three lowest bids to determine that they were comparable. The expensive portions of the bids were the asphalt due to higher petroleum prices and restrictive working hours imposed by M-DOT. The lowest bid was received from Diversco at \$619,955.45.

In response to board questions, VanderMale pointed out that when the bid is approved the bond will need to be sold with the assistance of the Township bonding attorney. The contractor will have his bid documents available within a week for signatures. The outstanding issues are obtaining the ROW and the high voltage power pole relocation costs which need to be finalized with Consumers.

**Steffens offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to accept the low bid from Diversco at \$619,955.45 for the work on the Alpine Avenue/Alpenhorn intersection SAD scope of work. Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **06-158 FIRST READING - REZONING FROM O-S TO C-2 FOR 4280 ALPINE AVENUE (CULVERS)**

Supervisor Brechting stated that on August 17, 2006, the Planning Commission recommended to the Township Board approval of the Culvers Walker Investors, LLC request that approximately 1.62 acres of property located at 4280 Alpine Avenue NW be rezoned from O-S Office Service to C-2 Commercial.

Todd Olin, representative for the project, responded to the various questions from the Board. Culvers Restaurant is similar to Steak-n-Shake. The property owners are trying to "iron out" a sewer easement

agreement with the adjacent property owner. The property is located in the York Creek watershed area and will be paying a \$3,500 per acre fee and locating a 25-year flood detention storage area on site.

In response to Cordes' question on how the \$3,500 per acre fee was set, VanderMale explained that the precedent and amount was set when the Menard's redevelopment was unable to retain a 100-year storm event on site. The funds are secured in the Township stormwater fund for future improvements to the York Creek drainage district. Olin commended the Township Planner and Engineer that the pre-construction meeting went very well and was helpful to all involved.

**06-159            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #06-21 - OPPOSING THE "STOP OVERSPENDING (S0S) NOVEMBER BALLOT PROPOSAL**

Supervisor Brechting requested that the Board consider a resolution opposing the "Stop Over Spending" proposal that is planned to be on the ballot in November. Several articles were attached in the Board packets so that members become aware of the initiative and the possible consequences.

It was the consensus of the Board that this proposal would be detrimental for local government.

**Steffens moved, supported by J. Brechting, to approve Resolution #06-21 which opposes the "Stop Overspending" November ballot proposal and that the Resolution be forwarded to the Michigan Township Association. ( A copy is attached to the original Minutes.) Motion carried 7-0.**

**06-160            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #06-22 - NOTICE OF INTENT FOR SOUTH ALFOUR POND IMPROVEMENTS**

Supervisor Brechting stated that Attorney Sluggett has forwarded copies of the Notice of Intent and Notice to Set Public Hearing to the Kent County Drain Commission to verify that everything is fitting in with the schedule and requirements.

**May offered a motion, supported by Cordes, to approve Resolution #06-22 - Notice of Intent for South Alfour Pond Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.**

**06-161            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #06-23 - SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOUTH ALFOUR POND.**

**May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve Resolution #06-23 - A resolution to schedule a public hearing on September 18, 2006 for the proposed improvements to the Alfour Pond, located within the York Creek Drainage District. Motion carried 7-0.**

Wahlfield suggested that newspaper notices be on August 31 and September 7 which will include a map of the proposed district.

## **06-162 DISCUSSION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PAYROLL FROM QUARTERLY TO MONTHLY**

Fire Chief Christians explained to the Board that the Fire Department feels that a monthly payroll check for the hourly fire runs and Sunday sits would be beneficial to the firefighters:

- Record Keeping - Payroll would be more timely and up to date. Any questions regarding time and attendance could be handled easily.
- Boost Morale - It is the belief that a monthly paycheck will serve as a quick reminder as an incentive for being an active member on the department. The Fire Department is trying to maintain incentive to register for the night-shift EMS roster.

After some discussion it was the consensus of both the Board and Fire Chief that a monthly payroll for hourly fire-runs and Sunday sits will begin in January 2007 for a time period of 90 days and will be paid in the second payroll of the month. Christians was advised to take a poll of the fire-fighters regarding the monthly payroll. Christians was also advised to sign and date every time sheet from the Fire Department.

## **06-163 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM FIREFIGHTER (TABLED 7/16/06)**

The Board discussed various personnel changes within the Fire Department.

**Steffens offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to accept the resignation of Jeff Hapner and Darwin Scheidel and to send a letter to each thanking them for their years of service to Alpine Township. Motion carried.**

The Board advised Wahlfield to pay the firefighters who resigned for all Tuesday night practices, fire-runs and Sunday sits.

The Board and Fire Chief discussed that increased and improved communication would benefit the Board and Fire Department.

**J. Brechting offered a motion, supported by May, to approve the promotion of Tim Schweitzer as Rescue Captain and Dave Klomparens as Rescue Lieutenant. Motion carried 7-0.**

Chief Christians explained to the Board that Chad Host has moved approximately two miles outside the Township boundaries. Christians requested that Host be retained as an Alpine firefighter because of his excellent abilities and qualifications.

Board members agreed that a precedent has been set because currently Alpine has two non-residents on the department. J. Brechting noted that questions should be raised, such as: How far away from the Township will they be living and how long will the probation period be? Board members discussed whether or not a mileage radius or a time factor should be used in the recommendation for non-resident firefighters. Other Board members felt it should be decided on a case by case.

Deputy Chief Lasko requested the Board give the Fire Department some guidelines. Steffens commented that the guidelines should be in the SOG's. (Standard Operating Guidelines). It was noted that these

guidelines should be reviewed each year. The Township Board acts upon the recommendation of the Fire Department to approve them.

Supervisor Brechting stated that in a letter dated August 18, 2006, Chief Christians noted that Josh Afton requested to re-activate his application for becoming a Station 2 member on the Fire Department. He was originally a probationary member of the Fire Department and was going through firefighter training at Plainfield Township. Afton submitted a letter of resignation on 10/05/05 citing health issues. Afton has submitted a doctor's letter stating that he is medically stable to pursue further training as a fireman.

Chief Christians stated that Afton is currently working full-time for an EMS company. In his discussion with Afton, Chief Christians indicated that a physical from Spectrum Occupational Services may be required as well as the reactivation approval from the Township Board.

**Wallace offered a motion, supported by May, that Joshua Afton proceed with the physical at Spectrum Health, and the Board members will make a decision after that time. It was noted that Christians will verify that Education funds are available. Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **06-164 UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THREE DEPARTMENT HEAD JOB VACANCIES**

Supervisor Brechting stated that the Personnel Committee met to discuss job descriptions and she also met with former Zoning Administrator, Rick Sprague who is Planner at Grand Rapids Township. Supervisor Brechting stated that a decision needs to be addressed how different responsibilities will be divided for the entire building, planning and zoning departments. The Personnel Committee is planning on meeting again soon to discuss these issues.

The Personnel Committee decided to keep the Assessor's job description as is. It will be noticed in the newspaper and Supervisor Brechting will meet with Doane for additional ideas where to advertise.

Supervisor Brechting stated that she has contacted MTA regarding the exit interviews. Steffens indicated that she spoke with several persons who may be available to perform the interviews. Supervisor Brechting suggested that perhaps an exit interview for the firemen leaving the Fire Department may be beneficial. Supervisor Brechting asked the Board to review the exit interview questions and get suggestions back to her.

J. Brechting wanted to move quickly and get the ad for the Building Inspector in the newspaper. Steffens requested that draft ads be circulated for the Clerk, Treasurer and Personnel Committee to review and get the ads in the paper as soon as possible.

#### **06-165 CONSIDERATION OF PAYMENT OF CDBG MCCONNELL HOUSE FUNDS**

Supervisor Brechting suggested that the \$45,000 of the CDBG funds that were allocated in the budget be paid. Supervisor Brechting's concern was that if the Township waits until next year, funds may not be available for the allocation process in January.

Wahlfield indicated that if the funds were paid before December, the Township would have re-paid \$90,000 to CDBG within the calendar year. Wahlfield suggested that as there is no interest accumulating on the amount owed CDBG, that the Township hold off paying the \$45,000 at this time. In addition there are several budget unknowns as this time which include the hiring and training of three new people, proposed park upgrades and other unforeseeable circumstances.

It was the consensus of the Board to table the discussion on the \$45,000 repayment to CDBG until October 2006 and make a decision at that time.

## **06-166 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR SERVICES**

Supervisor Brechting indicated that projects from last year were delayed to pay off funds for Wahlfield Park. She is waiting for additional information on repair of the catch-basin at the Township Center. It was noted that another bid has been received for this work which seems in line with the bid from Katerburg-VerHage who is aware that the grounds do have underground sprinkling.

J. Brechting informed the Board that the Township Center parking lot needs to be refinished and the hole at the Six Mile entrance has re-appeared. Steffens added that stripping is also necessary.

### Painting the Community Building

Three bids were received for painting the Community Center building at 2015 Seven Mile Road. Tim Corner doing business as West Michigan Flag Pole submitted the lowest bid. It was noted that all three bidders have Worker's Comp Insurance.

In discussion regarding the Community Center's new roof, Cordes noted that the soffit was not finished very well. Supervisor Brechting will check into that.

**May offered a motion, supported by Steffens, that approval be given to Tim Corner, West Michigan Flag Pole to paint the Community Building for \$1,510 which states that the building and trim shall be painted the same color as previously painted and the Board stipulated that the project be done as soon as possible. Motion carried 7-0.**

### Sprinkling for the Soccer Field

Three bids were received to install sprinkling for an additional soccer field. Supervisor Brechting questioned if the Board would also like to see underground sprinkling installed at the north softball field. Supervisor Brechting also noted that when obtaining the bids, Constantine Irrigation questioned if the Board would want to use mid-grade vs. top grade sprinkling heads. Supervisor will be contacting all the bidders to see if the bids are for the same type of system. Supervisor Brechting stated this topic will be on next month's agenda.

### Trees

It was noted the trees on the south side cannot be moved. Other trees will have to be removed. Cordes suggested that they all be removed. J. Brechting stated she would like the trees to remain that are in the middle. It was Board consensus to go ahead with the project.

**06-167 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Supervisor Brechting provided additional comments on the SOS Proposal which would be detrimental to local governments. She will keep the Board informed on further developments as they occur.

Wallace expressed his concern for the Board by asked that everyone bury the hatchet and focus on representing the people.

J. Brechting stated the auditors will be coming tomorrow for the annual requirement financial audit.

Wahlfield stated that the AutoMark (voter assist terminal) will be set up for display and use at for the October meeting.

J. May stated that the farm safety seminar was very successful and commended the Alpine Township Fire Department for doing such a good job.

**06-168 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Wahlfield stated that the SOS proposal is much bigger than one realizes. He suggested that the SOS Proposal would be a very good topic for the Harvester.

**Wahlfield offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Wahlfield  
Clerk

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Marta Brechting  
Supervisor

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Beth Alt  
Recording Secretary