

**MINUTES  
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2007**

**07-01           REGULAR MEETING**

The Alpine Township Board met on Monday, January 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine Township Hall, 5255 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, Michigan. Board members present were 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.

Supervisor Brechting added item: **6G** to the Agenda: "A Resolution to Amend the Membership of the Planning Commission".

**May offered a motion, supported by Cordes to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 7-0.**

**07-02           CONSENT AGENDA**

**Steffens offered a motion, supported by May, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Approval of December 18, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes, Consideration of Vouchers/Bills, Receipt of 2006 Cemetery Report, Receipt of 2006 Year-End Report of Code Enforcement Officer, Receipt of Alpine Fire Department 2006 Annual Report, Strike 2001 Delinquent Personal Property Taxes, and Receipt of Correspondence. Motion carried 7-0.**

**07-03           PUBLIC HEARING & CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #07-01: KENT COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**

**May offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to open the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.**

There was no public comment offered at this time.

**May offered a motion, supported by Steffens, to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.**

Supervisor Brechting indicated that Arbor Circle was the only formal written request received. At the December meeting monies to be allocated to a senior meal project was discussed by the Board, but no information had been received on this specific program prior to the meeting. It was noted 90 township residents receive meals. Steffens added there are volunteers from our Township delivering meals. J. Brechting wanted to know if the senior millage provides some form of support for the Senior Meals program. Supervisor Brechting stated next year there may be other programs to pursue such as partnering with the Fire Department to distribute free smoke alarms and she will continue to look into these other types of programs.

**Supervisor Brechting requested the record reflect that the monies paid back to the Kent County Community Development Department from the McConnell project are being saved and set aside for use by Alpine Township for future qualified projects.**

Included in the Board packets was the history of CDBG including examples of different projects that are eligible for the federal funds. Supervisor Brechting informed the Board that the program's Administrator is pursuing other funds for future years. It was noted the CDBG application is due January 22, 2007 with the projected amount allotted for use in 2007/2008 to be approximately \$24,511.

**J. Brechting offered a motion, supported by May, to approve Resolution #07-01 designating the 2007-2008 Community Development Block Grant Funds as \$1,000 to the Arbor Circle Corporation North County Teen Parenting Service, and the balance of the 2007-2008 funding for the ITP GO!Bus Service. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Steffens offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, for the record when the Board has more information and when a potential project becomes available that the monies be used from the saved monies toward sidewalks, curb cuts, bike trails, etc. Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **07-04 PUBLIC COMMENT**

JoAnn Thome, 2137 7-Mile Road, expressed several concerns over the proposed sign ordinance amendments. She felt the amendments allowing portable and inflatable signs would not promote safety along Alpine Avenue, which is a state highway. Her opinion was that portable signs are not attractive and allowing inflatable signs would look like a circus. She felt this amendment would degrade our community. She added that it was an advertising ordinance, not a sign ordinance.

Mary Alt, 1232 Cleveland, Marne and member of the Alpine Historical Society, has written a photographic history book of Alpine Township. The book will be published by Arcadia Publishing and will be available in April of 2007. Alt stated the book will feature over 335 family names from the Township. Alt requested that the Township market the book from the office. Both Supervisor Brechting and Steffens complimented Alt on the cover photo and are anxious to see the entire book.

#### **07-05 COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Planning Commission – May:** The Commission met December 21, 2006, and was very impressed with the new Planner, Sue Thomas. The Commission worked on the amendments for the sign ordinance and looking forward to completing the Master Plan next year. The next meeting will be January 18, 2007.

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

**Historical – Cordes:** This Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Community Room, there will be a film “Barn Red” which is a story of a farmer refusing to sell his land to a developer and the community comes together on his behalf. The Commission is also preparing for the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Sewer & Water – M. Brechting:** NKSA is currently negotiating with Consumers Power. J. Brechting commended Prein & Newhof on saving substantial monies for the Township as well as the NKSA authority.

**07-06            FIRST READING: AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE  
                    CHAPTER 20: SIGNS**

Supervisor Brechting stated that the sign ordinance and its enforcement have been very troublesome over the last couple years and needed to be addressed to bring some of the requirements and restrictions up to date.

Steffens stated that the summary was appreciated, but has concerns about portable signs and feels that she needs additional information on reader board signs. Another concern from board members was the wording for signs indicating home occupations. A list of questions was to be compiled and forwarded to Planner Thomas and the proposed amendments were referred back to the Planning Commission

**07-07            AMEND POLICY #06-01: STORMWATER TO ADD EXHIBIT “A”  
                    ZONING DISTRICT FEES**

Township Engineer, Bob VanderMale distributed a hand-out to board members indicating the proposed per acre fees for each zoning district within the York Creek Drain District. Documentation has been included to support each classification and the corresponding fee amount.

**Steffens offered a motion, supported by Cordes, to approve the Amendment to Policy #06-01 as presented to add Exhibit A dated January 15, 2007 for the individual zoning districts. Motion carried 7-0.**

**07-08            CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #07-02: ALFOUR POND SAD**

Supervisor Brechting explained this proposed resolution will proceed with the maintenance and improvement of the York Creek Drain, a Chapter 20 IntraCounty Drain and levy a special assessment. The resolution also sets the next public hearing date for the project.

**J. Brechting offered a motion, supported by May, set the public hearing for March 19, 2007 to approve Resolution #07-02:ALFOUR POND SAD. Motion carried 7-0.**

**07-09            UPDATE ON FEMA GRANT – FOUR MILE EAST OF ALPINE  
                    AVENUE**

Supervisor Brechting stated the Township has obtained the grant funding which was requested about two years ago. This application was to solicit funds for purchasing three properties along Four Mile Road in an area in the flood plain. The homes would be demolished and the area opened up for additional drainage/storage during significant rainfall and flooding events.

Township Engineer VanderMale explained the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will not allow the stream channel to be rerouted, therefore the Drain Commission applied for the grant. The grant will cover approximately 75% of the cost and Alpine Township’s share is estimated at \$91,015.

Cordes inquired if one homeowner did not wish to sell his property, could the monies be used for another home. VanderMale stated that the home would have to comply with FEMA criteria.

**07-10 REVIEW OF FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGETED EQUIPMENT REQUEST**

The Board received a letter dated January 3, 2007 from the Fire Chief requesting hose and two Motorola pagers. Chief Christians noted that monies were available in the Fire Department budget and the total cost for both requests would be \$2,700.

**May offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to authorize the purchase of fire hose and pagers as outlined in the letter from Chief Christians dated January 3, 2007. Motion carried 7-0.**

**07-11 DISCUSSION OF CONTRACTED INSPECTION SERVICES-  
ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL & PLUMBING**

Building Official Gary Campbell recommended to the Board that Alpine administratø e their own inspections and the inspectors would be paid on a per inspection basis, rather than continue contracting with Cascade Township. Currently electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspectors are paid 80% of the permit fees collected to complete the inspections and Campbell is recommending a \$30.00 per inspection amount.

A copy of a comparison was included in the Board packets based upon 2006 inspections. The calculations revealed if the Township manages their own inspections there would be a \$17,984.25 savings for the year. Campbell informed the Board that this would cut his inspection budget in half. Campbell indicated that the inspectors (Mileski and Cooley) have done a good job in the past, and he hopes they would remain as the inspectors. Their status would be that of contracted services, and all inspections would be logged in through Alpine.

Steffens noted that a written contract exists between Cascade Township and Alpine and that it has not been addressed or updated for several years.

It was the consensus of the Board that changing the way inspectors are paid will boost efficiency and benefit the budget. Wahlfield recommended that a resolution be approved at the February meeting.

Wahlfield also complimented Campbell on his performance as Building Inspector.

**07-12 RESOLUTION #07-03: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF  
THE PLANNING COMMISSION (9 members to 7 members)**

**May offered approval of Resolution #07-03: Amend the Planning Commission membership from nine to seven members. Motion supported by Wallace and carried 7-0.**

**07-13 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Supervisor Brechting informed the Board that both Township Board agendas and minutes dating back from 2005 are available on the website. She is working on providing the Planning Commission agendas and minutes, zoning map and the future master plan map. The Building Department has building permits that can be typed and submitted and are currently working on inspection forms for the web site.

Supervisor Brechting stated that the new personnel (Campbell, Keeling, and Thomas) are working out very well. The Assessing Department is busy scanning in new parcel information beginning January 1, 2007. Keeling has requested that in lieu of printing out a card for each parcel, if policy could be changed and cards printed out on a request basis. Keeling is willing to train others to print out the cards and suggested that the office try this new approach for a year. Board members expressed the following concerns: Who will be responsible for this, if the entire Assessing Department is away? Will the computers be overloaded with assessing information? Will a policy be set-up to delegate who shall be responsible? Steffens suggested that Board members inquire at the Convention how it is done at other townships. Supervisor Brechting noted that this will be brought back in February.

Supervisor Brechting informed the Board that her budget revisions will be ready in February. Supervisor Brechting encouraged Board attendance at the 4-Mile Corridor study meeting. She stated that although this is an initial study, it is a good opportunity for input.

May reported Planner Sue Thomas is doing an excellent job with the Planning Commission.

Wahlfield suggested since the Township will be celebrating its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as a commemorative token, the Township consider covering the cost for a township road map for the residents. Plainfield Township recently had REGIS configure and print out their township on a map and it was very well received. Wahlfield also noted that we have received many requests from the public for a township map. It was the Board consensus that this was a very good idea.

Wallace provided changes for his e-mail address and phone number for the revised listing.

Steffens requested Personnel Committee minutes from their meetings. She also noted that the manhole on Comstock Park Drive needs to be repaired.

#### **07-14 PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT**

Phil Brunger, 4647 Fruit Ridge Avenue, stated that he was pleasantly surprised to see information on the Township website. He now would like to see the Harvester.

**With no further business, May offered motion, supported by Wallace to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Wahlfield  
Clerk

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Marta Brechting  
Supervisor

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Beth Alt  
Recording Secretary