

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2007**

07-15 REGULAR MEETING

The Alpine Township Board met on Monday, February 19, 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 Jim May, Sharon Steffens, and Ted Wallace. Trustee Ron Cordes was absent.

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 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

07-16 CONSENT AGENDA

Steffens offered a correction to the January 15, 2007 Minutes on Page 4, third paragraph, first line: the word “administrator” should be changed to “**administrate.**”

J. Brechting offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Approval of January 15, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended, Consideration of Vouchers/Bills, Receipt of Alpine Historical Commission – 2006 Summary of Activities, Receipt of 2006 Alpine Township Planning Commission – Synopsis of Activity, Receipt of 2006 Annual Permit Summary, Budget Amendments and Receipt of Correspondence. Motion carried 6-0.

07-17 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this time.

07-18 COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission – May: The Commission met on January 18, 2007. New Planning Commission officers are Jim Townsend, Chairperson and Greg Madura, Vice Chair. Townsend and Rosenzweig (former Chairperson) will attend the March Township Board meeting to explain how the Commission arrived at the proposed sign ordinance amendments. The Planning Commission will be scheduling special meetings to complete the Master Plan as soon as possible with a target deadline of mid summer.

Zoning Board of Appeals-Wallace: No meeting held in January.

Historical – Cordes: No report (Cordes absent).

Sewer & Water – M. Brechting: The NKSA met in February. Triangle Construction has a web-cam on site with the link eventually placed on Alpine Township’s website. Alpine will realize a \$65,000 savings after the Prein & Newhof view of the billing from the City of Grand Rapids. Discussions are ongoing with the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County DPW regarding rates and facilities transfer. M. Brechting noted that NKSA is currently \$1,000,000 under the original budget for the new

wastewater plant. J. Brechting noted that the water tower located behind the Family Fare store will be painted this summer.

07-19 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #07-04: INSPECTION FEES

Supervisor Brechting stated that the proposed resolution is a follow-up to the January Board discussion and decision to terminate the contract between Alpine and Cascade Townships. Alpine Township wishes to proceed with handling the entire inspection process of electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspections through our Building Department.

Supervisor Brechting noted that the resolution requires the inspectors whose services will be utilized by the Township to provide the necessary insurance certificates and documentation to support their eligibility. The per-inspection fee of \$30 will allow the Township to realize additional benefits in the savings as the inspections are completed.

A letter has been sent to Cascade Township outlining Alpine's intentions of terminating their inspection services as of March 1, 2007 as the contract between Alpine and Cascade required 45 days written termination notice which would be March 3. It was noted that Cascade has not responded.

In a motion offered by May, supported by J. Brechting, to approve Resolution #07-04: Inspection Fees. Motion approved 6-0.

**07-20 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS -
CHAPTER 20**

Both the current and former Planning Commission Chairpersons had planned to attend this meeting. A family emergency took precedence and this discussion will be postponed until the March meeting. It was noted that the Planning Commission members received a list of Board concerns stated at the January meeting.

**07-21 APPROVAL OF KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION WORK ORDER FOR
HENZE STREET EXTENSION**

Supervisor Brechting explained that as part of the Conditional Rezoning Agreement between Wal-Mart and the Township, Wal-Mart will be paying for the extension of Henze Street to Cordes Avenue. The Kent County Road Commission will be responsible for the engineering and construction of this extended road from Cordes Avenue to 1,000 feet east and Cordes Avenue 450 feet north and south of Henze Street. The Supervisor noted that the road extension will be more reasonable in cost, completed in a timely manner, and the engineering costs will be reduced if the work is done by Road Commission. The County has submitted a work order for \$370,000 to cover the cost of the work.

Steffens offered a motion, supported by May, to approve the Kent County Road Commission Local Road Construction Authorization dated 01/19/07 for the construction of Henze extended from Cordes Avenue to 1,000 feet east and Cordes Avenue 450 feet north and south of Henze Street for a total of \$370,000 and for the Supervisor to sign the authorization. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 6-0 with Cordes absent.

**07-22 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FOR REPAIR OF SPORTS COMPLEX
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Supervisor Brechting stated that she had received only one proposal for the Sports Complex playground improvement which was from Parks-N-Motion. The proposal included reinstalling the spring-like animals, constructing an ADA walk and ramp to the play area, and the restoration, seeding and mulch to the area. The total quote for the work is \$11,530 with the possibility of obtaining a 3% discount.

Trustee Wallace stated that he would prefer that the Board consider more than one proposal. Supervisor Brechting will provide follow-up at the March meeting.

**07-23 RATIFY EXECUTION OF LETTER OF AGREEMENT TO MODIFY THE
WAL-MART SITE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

Supervisor Brechting explained that Wal-Mart has requested permission to pay in cash rather than having a draw made from the letter of credit for their water main improvements. The documentation outlining this request has been reviewed by the Township attorney. Due to the time frame of the February meeting and the need for Wal-Mart to move ahead, the Supervisor signed the Agreement and it is now before the entire Board for ratification of the Supervisor's executing this document.

May offered a motion, supported by J. Brechting, to ratify Supervisor Brechting's execution of Wal-Mart's Site Development Agreement between Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust and Alpine Township dated January 29, 2007. Motion carried 6-0.

07-24 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Brechting noted the following items:

The Planning Commission recommended a rezoning of 3780 Walker NW from AG to RA. The First Reading will be placed on the March Township Board agenda.

The Metro Council requested that Planner Sue Thomas be a representative for the Lower Grand River Watershed Initiatives Project. The request would be a commitment of approximately 20 hours of the Planner's time.

The Metro Council has provided a copy of the 4-Mile Corridor Study and our Board has two weeks to review the study and make comments. Supervisor Brechting expressed a concern that Alpine Township was not been consulted as to the location of intersection improvements or the number of lanes that would eventually be added to 4-Mile. A copy of the study has been forwarded to Bob VanderMale.

In response to Supervisor Brechting's question, it was the consensus of the Board to not participate in blood drives as several nearby churches sponsor this type of activity

May commented that the MTA conference was very educational. A brief discussion was held regarding the quality of road resurfacing on 10 Mile from Alpine Avenue to Fruit Ridge.

Wahlfield informed the Board that a copy of the Road Commission budget is available for review.

In response to Steffens' question, Supervisor Brechting noted that REGIS is trying to become more user friendly and some form of the mapping will be available on the web site very soon.

07-25 PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT

The Supervisor noted for the audience that "REGIS" is an acronym for Regional Geographical Information System, which consists of aerial photos and several data layers for parcels in a municipality or in Kent County.

Steffens commented that former trustee Alex Arends is looking for a senior-citizen volunteer for the Transit Authority.

With no further business, May offered a motion, supported by Wallace, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield
Clerk

Marta Brechting
Supervisor

Beth Alt
Recording Secretary