

ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
7901 North 6th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 382-3366

FEBRUARY 11, 2008

Supervisor Vlietstra called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Supervisor Vlietstra, Clerk Sportel-Bogard, Treasurer Stoneburner, Trustee Feniger, Trustee Potter- Williams, Attorney Soltis and Deputy Supervisor Fisher.

Also Present: Approximately 15 interested persons

MINUTES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the workshop minutes of February 4, 2008, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra introduced Dan Moyle with the Road Commission. Mr. Moyle was recently appointed to the Road Commission and will be Alamo's Road Commissioner.

Supervisor Vlietstra illustrated the budget challenges before the Township (reduction in revenues while costs have risen) in noting revenues of \$315,000 in 2000 and \$262,000 in 2007; tax revenues were \$85,000 in 2000 and \$92,000 is projected to be received for 2008.

The Michigan Township Association has listed recall reform as one of its priorities. Supervisor Vlietstra will be actively working on this initiative and will be attending a legislative meeting in March. Senator Tom George has also expressed interest. Supervisor Vlietstra noted several components to consider: truth must be the centerpiece of petitions, institute a charge for each petition filed, prohibit recalls less than one year prior to the next scheduled election or from taking office, require a vote count of 1 more vote than the targeted individual received in the prior election, limit canvassing for signatures to the language approved by the petition approving body.

Supervisor Vlietstra and Deputy Supervisor Fisher (who runs the sponsoring non-profit agency) referenced a free conference designed to protect seniors. Attorney General Mike Cox will be the keynote speaker.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A representative from the Fire Department was not in attendance. Supervisor Vlietstra noted that Alamo plus other townships held a joint drill on ice water rescues. Current leadership was applauded for working with surrounding communities.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard read the Building Department report: 1 building inspection, 1 plan review, 1 mechanical and 1 electrical inspection. Building Inspector Henderson attended a 1 day conference for code officials. The Department will be closed from February 9-16. Kevin Cardiff will provide coverage.

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reviewed a schedule listing a 5-year salary average for the building department, an 11 month total for other expenses plus revenues (which included fees for mechanical and electrical permits and inspections) and factors to consider in determining whether to retain building department personnel as employees or change to independent contractors. Attorney Soltis noted that either method is acceptable and provides safeguards; the Board must determine its preference. Clerk Sportel-Bogard reports that the Township is overspending and suggested 2 potential options: an annual salary of \$15,000 as an independent contractor or \$14,000 as an employee (less because of the Township would maintain the liability insurance. Treasurer Stoneburner agreed. It was suggested that the Township consider partner with surrounding communities. No further information was requested and the subject will be forwarded to the March work group for discussion.

PARKS BOARD REPORT

Chair Covault reviewed the January 29th Parks Board meeting. Highlights included election of officers, ordering of the swing set and assignments to gather information to reach a recommendation to present to the Board on the permanent sustainability of the Parks.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard delivered Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman's reports: December (2.25 hours) and January (3 hours).

ZONING BOARD REPORT

Chair Smith referred to the February 5 Zoning Board minutes previously provided each Board member. The Vehicle Wash Ordinance will be held pending completion of other Ordinances. Hearings may then be held on all. Others in that series include a campground ordinance and one on zoning permits. Additionally the Board has begun work on Special Exception Use Permits, standards for gravel mining operations and invited Board input during this formative stage. Unrelated to the meeting, Chair Smith referenced some inconsistencies located in the current ordinances.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

No report was received.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to offer Assessor Laws a contract extension (same terms and conditions) to coordinate the contract effective dates to the Board's fiscal year, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried.

Attorney Soltis noted that a brief addendum, signed by both parties, may be prepared to extend the current agreement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paid as of February 12, 2008:	\$14,257.00
Received:	\$ 1,319.91
General Account:	\$22,414.34
General Maxsaver:	\$325,919.19
Fire Truck LUG Account:	\$17,865.42

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reports January liabilities as \$68,507.04.

Clerk Sportel-Bogard notes she placed a draft budget in each Board member's mailbox. Please review and provide commentary.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to purchase an update to the Peachtree software (\$260.00), **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to increase election workers' wages from \$7.47 to \$7.75 per hour and class attendance from \$15 to \$18 per class, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried. (Effective April 1, 2008)

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to increase fees for cemetery lots from \$150 to \$200, opening/closing graves from \$350 to \$400, burying cremains from \$100 to \$150 and infant burials from \$150 to \$200. Increase burials by an additional \$25 for weekends, holidays and Friday after 5 pm, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried (one opposed). (Effective April 1, 2008)

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

1. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment

One vacancy exists.

MOTION by Trustee Feniger to appoint Al Sweitzer to the Zoning Board of Appeals, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Trustee Potter-Williams – no; Trustee Feniger – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – no. Carried.

2. Environmental Health Report

Trustee Potter-Williams advised the Board that the meeting is held the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

3. Tire Grant

Trustee Feniger noted that the Township did not receive the grant. Trustee Potter-Williams inquired whether contact had been made with Van Buren County in doing a conjoint program. Tires may not be recycled at any of the Alamo Township recycling days.

AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to pay the liabilities and any others that may need consideration, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Roger Flath (Sought clarification that expenses exceed revenue in the Building Department)

Steve Hoogstraten (Noted temporary downturn in building expenses exceeding revenue)

Glen Ramsey (Read a prepared statement concerning his son, the impact he feels the gravel pit will have on his family and mining safeguards.)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to adjourn the meeting, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard
Alamo Township Clerk