

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

MARCH 24, 2008

Supervisor Vlietstra called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Supervisor Vlietstra, Clerk Sportel-Bogard, Treasurer Stoneburner, Trustee Feniger (6:05), Trustee Potter-Williams and Deputy Supervisor Fisher.

Also Present: Approximately 5 interested persons

MINUTES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the Board of Trustee minutes of March 10, 2008, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried (4-0).

CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

BUDGET HEARING

Supervisor Vlietstra led the Board through the draft budget account by account. No questions/discussion on numerous accounts.

Supervisor: The Deputy Supervisor position (as currently funded) does not have an end-date.

Election: Previously the Board approved wages for election inspectors. An Absentee Counting Board has been requested by the County Clerk. Contingent upon the Michigan legislature, additional costs may need to be incorporated to provide staffing for an "early election".

Cemetery: Improvements include the road and expansion in the Alamo and tree work in Liberty and Alamo. Mowing costs have increased. A new grounds provider needs to be identified for Liberty and Green Bower.

Township Hall & Grounds: Minimal anticipated improvements to accommodate an increasing contingent of personnel working out of the hall.

Treasurer: Clarification that the additional compensation for Summer taxes is due to salary being based on one cycle of taxes; the institution of summer taxes doubled the tax work each year.

Building Inspector: D. Henderson received confirmation that the \$7,000 salary includes all line items in the category (excluding mechanical/electrical inspector fees). Mrs. Henderson provided her calculations of building permit fees going back to April 1, 1999; yielding an annual average of nearly \$28,000. She feels that \$45,000 should remain in the building account and pointed out improvements that have been authorized to other departments in the past couple of years. She affirmed that 16 hours of coverage by the Building Inspector per month is feasible but the provision of office hours cannot be continued. Persons needing to make application for a permit will still be able to pick up permits from their porch as is currently the custom. Several logistical items will need further conversation. The Board recommended that the proposal be adopted as is and evaluation of the implementation occur. A relatively minor adjustment will need to be made to electrical/mechical permits and payment for the inspections. Mrs. Henderson received confirmation that she could bring outgoing mail to the Hall to be posted.

Street Lighting: Treasurer Stoneburner noted that one of the lights is not working; Deputy Supervisor to follow up.

Roads: Supervisor Vlietstra provided the following information based on the Board survey done following the March 10 Board meeting: Effecting repairs to the B Avenue culvert is \$9,100 (Township share) and grinding and double seal chipping one additional road (C Avenue between 12th and US 131 \$37,000 or E Avenue between 12th and US 131 \$33,000) is possible with the funds budgeted. The Township must match the Road Commission's \$34,000. The Road Commission will permit the Township to carry a portion of the cost to next year; using a minimal amount from contingency is also possible. Estimates from the Road Commission were generous and are likely to be slightly lower. Designation of roads to occur at the April meeting; budgeted amount to stand as written; contract with Road Commission to be drafted for the culvert and both roads pending action by the Board in April.

Grounds & Parks: The Parks Board will continue its best to do more with less.

Planning Commission: Increases in meetings line due to the Planning Commission having 7 members rather than the current 5 plus anticipating special meetings for various ordinance hearings. Legal consultation as a result of ordinance revisions. The Land Use Plan should be reviewed this year.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the 2008-09 budget, with appropriate modification for the mechanical/electrical inspections, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – no; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes. Carried.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to adjourn, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard
Alamo Township Clerk