

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

APRIL 14, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Vlietstra, Clerk Sportel-Bogard, Treasurer Stoneburner, Trustee Feniger (6:56) Trustee Potter-Williams and Deputy Supervisor Fisher

Also Present: Approximately 14 interested persons

6:00 – 6:40 p.m. Joint meeting between representatives from the Road Commission (Joanna Johnson, Dan Moyle and Dennis Berkebile) and the Township Board.

The Board was provided with a summary of the Kalamazoo County primary road preservation and improvement projects for 2008 and a summary of the Alamo Township road projects in 2005-2007. Funding challenges facing the Commission and the Township were reviewed. The importance of participating funds was referenced by both parties. Economic development funds had been mentioned last year as a potential source of revenue to upgrade 12th Street north of D Avenue; this is currently on hold. Potential commercial development in this immediate area as well as west on D was referenced in terms of upgrades. Both parties commented on their appreciation for ongoing communication and responsiveness. Appreciation was expressed for the work of Travis Bartholomew.

Supervisor Vlietstra called the regular meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the work group minutes of April 7, 2008, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried (2 yes, 2 abstain and 1 absent).

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra noted that he attended a meeting in Lansing on March 11th and learned that MTA is reviewing their options regarding recall reform. The Township Board of Review met in March. Taxable values are catching up to SEVs; he estimates that 35% of the properties in the Township have the same taxable and state equalized values. Lastly, in addressing a question posed at a previous meeting, the Township is current on personal property taxes in terms of both identification and collection.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

No report was received.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Building Inspector Henderson reported he had provided an activity report to the Township. He returned his payroll check noting the May check should reflect the change in compensation. Building Inspector Henderson reported that he tried to disconnect the phone and fax at his home (stating that everyone uses his cell phone) but was unable to do so as the account is in the Township's name. He reports the bill was redirected to the Township. Inspector Henderson

asked for questions; there were none at this time. Supervisor Vlietstra updated the Board and the Hendersons that Attorney Soltis, Deputy Supervisor Fisher and he would be meeting on the requests received from the Hendersons and that a meeting would be scheduled with the Hendersons in approximately 2 weeks. A recommendation for resolution would then be made to the Board.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher provided the report for Chief Moore who was unable to attend the meeting. Due to the notice received, Chief Moore was unable to recommend fees for the Resolution. This will be completed in time for discussion at the May workgroup. During the month of March, the Department applied for a FEMA grant to upgrade air packs to meet standards. On March 22nd, the Alamo Fire Department assisted Oshtemo by covering Firehouse #1 while Oshtemo battled the fire at the Nottingham apartments. While providing coverage, Oshtemo experienced another structure fire. Alamo responded to this fire with Lt. Wilson providing an excellent job coordinating firefighting efforts with crews from Alamo, Texas and Oshtemo Townships. A letter was received from Oshtemo commending Alamo and its firefighters for their professionalism and dedication.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman responded to an Alamo 9-1-1 call prior to being able to deliver her report.

PARKS BOARD REPORT

Chair Covault reported meeting minutes were distributed to the Board and there were no items requiring Board action. There were no questions or further discussion.

ZONING BOARD REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra reported the minutes of the Zoning Board had been distributed and no actions required action apart from authorization to attend a training. Attorney Soltis inquired if the Board desired to have the Township purchase the NFPA 1194 Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks & Campgrounds. Supervisor Vlietstra noted the manual is likely more technical than would be helpful. Zoning members may review it online if they desire.

Attorney Soltis noted the Zoning Enabling Act replaced the Rural Township Zoning Act. In the fall of 2008, minor changes will take effect in the Planning Act. These are 2 different acts and Alamo could establish 2 different boards. Attorney Soltis will advise the Board on whether its recently enacted the Planning Commission with Zoning Authority.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to authorize payment of tuition (\$100.00) for 6 persons to attend an MSU training on June 10th, **support** by Trustee Feniger. The count was then revised to 7 prior to Supervisor Vlietstra withdrawing the motion and Trustee Feniger withdrawing the support.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to authorize payment of tuition (\$100.00) for anyone who wishes to attend the training on June 10th, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paid as of April 14, 2008:	\$ 8,740.48
Received:	\$ 1,530.38
General Account:	\$ 4,108.25
General Maxsaver:	\$501,662.34
Fire Truck LUG Account:	\$17,965.34

Treasurer Stoneburner reports her settlement was accepted by the County; however, she had not received this in writing. Follow up was initiated and documentation will be forthcoming. Treasurer Stoneburner will provide a report in May. Approval was granted for the Treasurer to work with Attorney Soltis on a tax matter.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reports March liabilities of \$37,040.68.

Last week Clerk Sportel-Bogard and Deputy Clerk Sportel attended a state election class and this week will be attending a class on QVF. The Township laptop will be loaded with the QVF software which will eliminate the need to dial into the County for record access.

The May 6th election contains school board elections for Otsego and Plainwell and a ballot proposal for Plainwell.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

1. Lawn Bids

J. Wilson submitted a bid to mow the museum, Township Hall and Fire Station at a cost of \$80 per cut for the 3 sites. Clerk Sportel-Bogard noted she contacted a Township resident who had expressed interest in submitting a bid; however, she has not heard back from him. Earthworks provided a bid for cemetery upkeep and mowing plus submitted an addendum (as requested) when Mr. Wilson dropped services contained in last year's contract.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to accept the bid outlined by Earthworks for the 3 cemeteries including the application of fertilizer, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Trustee Feniger – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to accept the bid submitted by Jeremy Wilson to mow the museum, Township Hall and Fire Station plus complete the outlined clean up, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

2. Cemetery Bids

Treasurer Stoneburner called the Board's attention to the suggestion that one of the maples be trimmed rather than removed at a substantial savings. Additionally, the Handley bid referenced taking the surplus wood to a resident's home. Richard Allen offered \$50 per tree and he will do the clean up. It was noted this should reduce the bids. Updates to the bids will be requested.

3. Ordinance Amendment (56-M)

Attorney Soltis noted that this amendment modifies an existing Ordinance to permit the capture of fees for the provision of emergency fire services when requested by a utility or private or public entity. The accompanying Resolution (once recommended fees have been received) creates the schedule of rates. Clarification provided that as a non-zoning ordinance, no public hearing is necessary.

MOTION by Trustee Feniger to adopt Ordinance 56-M as written, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes, Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

4. Census Report

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported that the voluntary Local Update of Census Addresses has been completed and submitted according to deadline. A net gain of 27 residences was reported. Additionally, 160 records were updated in minor ways. Canvassing included a 100% review of all residential addresses in the Township. Deputy Supervisor Fisher offered her gratitude to Treasurer Stoneburner for her hours of assistance and to Supervisor Vlietstra for 2 trips around the Township to complete visual inspection of discrepancies. In addition to meeting the requirement for the census, this review identified a number of other issues (i.e., taxable values, homestead exemptions, etc.) A listing will be provided to Assessor Laws who will complete research on each item prior to a meeting between Supervisor Vlietstra, Treasurer Stoneburner, Assessor Laws and Deputy Supervisor Fisher.

5. Roads

Double chip sealing C and E Avenues this year will require a single seal in a year or two at a cost of approximately \$8,000.

MOTION by Trustee Feniger to proceed with the repair of the B Avenue culvert and double chip sealing E and C Avenues according to the estimates provided on the Road Commission, **support** Treasurer Stoneburner. Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – no; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes. Carried.

6. Wolverine Fireworks Display Permit

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to approve the fireworks displays as referenced on the proposed permit, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Potter –Williams – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to pay the liabilities and any others that may need consideration prior to the next Board meeting, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried.

Trustee Potter-Williams inquired about the larger than usual AT&T bill. Start up/installation for the new phone service resulted in one-time costs. Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted that ongoing service is the same as what the Board approved plus a less expensive high speed internet option was secured than what was approved. Web costs also represented a savings.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Richard Allen (Funds collected by the Building Inspector belong to the Township)
Roger Flath (Inquired about who has the authority to make decisions regarding bridge work in the Township and inquired why a particular trustee is consistently late to meetings)
Mary Jolliffe (Inquired about the practice of soliciting 2 bids as opposed to more)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to adjourn the meeting, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard
Alamo Township Clerk