

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

**MAY 12, 2008**  
7:00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Approximately 10 interested persons

Supervisor Vlietstra called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Clerk Sportel-Bogard gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MINUTES**

Trustee Potter-Williams reported Onalee Potter's comment under Citizen's Comment referred to repairing not expanding the water line in the Alamo Cemetery.

**MOTION** by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the work group minutes of May 5, 2008, with the correction, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Vlietstra researched the racetrack question posed at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The track began as a flat dirt track in 1946 prior to any zoning rules. Attorney Soltis noted that he had checked available records and because the track pre-dated zoning rules, it was treated under the non-conforming use principles (can continue the present use but not expand). Written documents governing practice sessions have not been located to date; various recollections shared. It was noted that working with the owner of the track has previously been a successful way of addressing issues or concerns.

Supervisor Vlietstra extended an Alamo Township welcome to the new tenants at the (former) TDA Buddy location. The new business is international and assembles electrical harnesses. The business expects to be running later in the summer. Supervisor Vlietstra noted that bringing water into the Township surfaced during this meeting.

The effects of large farm equipment surfaced at a recent supervisors' meeting. Weight of the equipment is not as much an issue as the width which wreaks havoc on the road edges.

### **ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

No report was received.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Clerk Sportel-Bogard presented the written report prepared by Building Inspector Henderson. Four building inspections and 3 electrical inspections occurred in April.

Clerk Sportel-Bogard expressed a desire to resolve the outstanding issues listed in the Henderson's April 2008 letter concerning reimbursement. The outcome of the Township's research of the items was reviewed.

**MOTION** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to reimburse Mrs. Henderson \$272 for her January 2008 hours (less \$45 for an invoiced plan review that the parties agreed was not a valid charge) and that none of the other requests for reimbursement be granted, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner.

Discussion included a query from Trustee Potter-Williams regarding payment for January. Clerk Sportel-Bogard responded that Mrs. Henderson was not alerted prior to the cessation of funding in January. Notice was provided in February.

Trustee Potter-Williams – no; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes. Carried.

Deputy Supervisor Fisher inquired about discontinuing the land line located at the Henderson's. The Board provided direction that the line be disconnected with a letter to follow.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Supervisor Vlietstra presented the written report prepared by Chief Moore. The Department responded to 22 incidents in April. Training for the month included continuing education EMS credits as well as annual competency drills on hose streams, ladders and pump operations. In April two firefighters attended the Michigan EMS Expo in Grand Rapids and brought back useful information to enhance the department's skills and efficiencies.

### **ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Clerk Sportel-Bogard presented the written report prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. Eight and one-quarter hours of service were delivered for April.

### **PARKS BOARD REPORT**

Chair Covault asked for a letter from the Township to Aggregate Industries formally requesting a donation of gravel he requested for the east parking lot at the DE Avenue Park. Concern was expressed regarding a request being premature and having the appearance of having our hand out. Attorney Soltis noted with the recent request to use G Avenue and anticipation of site preparation being completed promptly, he believes the operation will commence in the immediate future thus putting into the action the terms of the Consent Judgment. Chair Covault noted many factors need to be coordinated and delivery may be delayed as a result of this.

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to have the Township send a letter to Aggregate Industries for gravel for the parking lot, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Supervisor Vlietstra – no, Trustee Feniger – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – no; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

### **ZONING BOARD REPORT**

Supervisor Vlietstra and Attorney Soltis reported that a public hearing will be held on June 3 at 8:00 p.m. for three Ordinances: 1) Campground regulations and special exception use permits, 2) Zoning Permits and 3) Vehicle Wash.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Paid as of May 12, 2008:	\$19,836.73
Received:	\$44,746.29
General Account:	\$21,408.41
General Maxsaver:	\$467,059.49
Fire Truck LUG Account:	\$18,002.97

Treasurer Stoneburner reports total collections for summer taxes of \$1,237,225.37. Twenty-nine dog licenses were sold for a total of \$430.00 and the total of summer and winter taxes was \$3,432,332.42.

## CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reports April liabilities of \$50,857.85.

The water has been turned on in the Alamo Cemetery; bids have been requested for the drive and a water line; less than 10% of registered voters voted in the May 6<sup>th</sup> election. The precincts were combined for this election and all went smoothly. Records are being readied for the annual audit.

## NEW/OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Resolution: Fees Recovery for Fire Department

The Resolution was reviewed in terms of overall intent.

**MOTION** by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the resolution to adopt the schedule of fees, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard; Trustee Feniger – yes. Carried.

### 2. Bid Awards: Tree Work in Alamo and Liberty Cemeteries

Two additional bids were received: Spiderman Tree Service and J & B. Supervisor Vlietstra noted all bids exceeded the J & S bid in terms of cost. Trustee Potter-Williams inquired about the extent of felling trees and whether the unbiased expert's guidance was taken into account (who had walked through the Alamo Cemetery with Board members following the workgroup meeting). Queries on whether tree work was common amongst all bidders. Clerk Sportel-Bogard clarified that each bidder responded to a revised request: Liberty work did not change. Following the walk through, the west tree line remained the same in the Alamo Cemetery and 4 trees were identified for removal (a hollow tree along the north drive, a tall pine in the center of the cemetery as well as two trees along the west drive). All bidders were contacted and had the opportunity to revise their bid. The J & S bid did not change. The J & B and Spiderman bids were based on the revised criteria; Hanley requested his bid stand as written.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to accept the J & S bid for tree removal, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Treasurer Stoneburner – no; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – no. Carried.

### 3. Dust Control: Township Roads and Park

Costs were reviewed. The Parks Board recommended that any costs above \$500 in the Park be picked up by the Township. All of FG is slated for dust control and spot spraying for other dirt roads. Dust control would not be necessary on the Park's east drive if the gravel is delivered prior to the treatment. Clerk Sportel-Bogard inquired if a contract had been received. Supervisor Vlietstra noted it had.

**MOTION** by Trustee Feniger to authorize dust control for FG and spot application for the remainder of the Township roads plus the Park, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

### 4. Moratorium: Extension

The moratorium put into place in November 2007 to permit the township to revise its SEUP process for gravel mining expires this month.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to extend the moratorium on gravel mining pending completion of the ordinance revision for 6 months or until the Zoning Board completes its work, whichever comes first, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes.

5. Truck Route: G Avenue

Attorney Soltis explained that the Township received a letter from counsel for Aggregate Industries requesting temporary use of G Avenue to 6<sup>th</sup> Street as the primary haul route to West Main pending resolution of the lawsuit addressing Oshtemo's truck route and/or resolution of the amendment to the Oshtemo truck ordinance to add G Avenue as a primary truck route. In the meantime, Oshtemo will not interfere with truck traffic on G Avenue. Local deliveries would be permitted to use a route other than G Avenue in Alamo Township. Attorney Soltis went on to say that the Consent Judgment contains language regarding alternate truck routes and that the Township's granting of such alternatives may not be subject to unreasonable conditions or delays. It is universally agreed that G Avenue is an inferior truck route. Attorney Soltis recommended that the temporary nature of this proposed agreement be noted with a date. A. Sweitzer recommended that the date reflect the end of the mining season.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to permit unloaded gravel trucks to enter onto G Avenue from 6<sup>th</sup> Street heading north only then travel east bound on G Avenue to the Aggregate Industries location. Loaded gravel trucks may travel westbound on G Avenue to 6<sup>th</sup> Street southbound only, except for deliveries in Alamo Township, until either trucks are allowed on 10<sup>th</sup> Street or until November 15, 2008, whichever occurs first, at which time this temporary approval shall expire unless renewed by the Township Board, **support** Trustee Potter-Williams. Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

#### **AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES**

**MOTION** by Trustee Feniger to pay the liabilities and any others that may need consideration prior to the next Board meeting, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENT**

Newt Covault (Suggested that potential bidders be provided with a written set of criteria)

Roger Flath (Inquired if the walkabout in the Alamo Cemetery constituted a meeting) Attorney Soltis noted that it was informational rather than established to deliberate.

Dick Bennett (Inquired about the labor-intensive job of picking up chips following grinding of the stumps in the Cemetery)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard  
Alamo Township Clerk