

ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD

Alamo Township Hall
7901 North 6th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

January 10, 2011

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

Also Present: 10 interested others

Supervisor Vlietstra called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the minutes of January 3, 2011, as written, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

ASSESSING REPORT

Action items will be addressed later in the agenda.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported December permits of 1 building and 1 electrical. (\$147.50) She advised a citation will be issued to a property owner regarding building code violations. Supervisor Vlietstra stated the Board may need to take action on a littering issue on an unrelated property.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Kizer reviewed his written December report. The Department responded to 18 incidents including 2 structure fires. The Department held the 2nd part of their holiday food drive allowing five hot meals to be delivered for Christmas Day and delivery of additional staples for the winter. All told 12 families benefitted from the two drives. Chief Kizer is seeking \$720 to send five officers and Firefighter Dunn to the Firehouse to Fire Floor Seminar. Additionally he requests approval to purchase a dry erase board for the station meeting room at a cost not to exceed \$375; funds are contained in the budget.

MOTION by Trustee Feniger to send the 5 officers and Firefighter Dunn to the training, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

Chief Kizer noted the training will assist Firefighter Dunn in reaching his fire inspection certification.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the purchase of a dry erase board for the station, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

Chief Kizer reports a 20 year warranty on the truck tank that is corroding. It is unclear whether the warranty covers the welds which appear to be at issue. Depending on the outcome of Chief Kizer's research, someone may need to manually clean the welds; this could be done via hiring someone or using one of the firefighters.

Supervisor Vlietstra referenced a structure fire and an insurance payment for clean up. Chief Kizer will investigate and advise.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard provided the report prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. Services totaling 2.0 hours were delivered in December.

PARKS BOARD REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported the Park Board met in special session to review the park related complaint filed with the Township Board as well as to address the number of members on the Park Board. The response to the complaint was provided to the Township Board in advance of the workgroup and the Park Board was split 3-3 on Board size.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ex-officio member Feniger referenced the January 4 meeting minutes reporting the Commission elected officers for the upcoming year (H. Goyings and P. Baker remaining as chair and vice-chair, respectfully and David Veenstra as secretary). The site plan for the midget track at the Kalamazoo Speedway was approved. A report was provided on portions of the zoning ordinance that require cleanup and/or attention. Various subcommittees continue to meet and goals were set for the upcoming year; leading the list of tasks is review of the sign ordinance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(through December 31, 2010)

General Account: \$153,727.46
Fire Truck Account: \$ 18,304.16

Treasurer Stoneburner reported she reinvested the Certificate of Deposit for 9 months at a higher rate of interest.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reported \$42,147.18 in liabilities for the month of December.

She requested approval to appoint Michelle Forrest as Deputy Clerk and Gary Sportel as Sexton.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to approve Michelle Forrest as Deputy Clerk, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to appoint Gary Sportel as Sexton, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

Discussion: Clerk Sportel-Bogard states the pay is \$10 per hour for the Sexton and verified that it is her understanding that the Clerk typically serves as Sexton but the Board may appoint someone other than the Clerk.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

1. Assistance for the Assessor

Supervisor Vlietstra concurred with the suggestion made at the workgroup to discuss the issues with Assessor Burd at the February workgroup.

2. Board of Review

Deputy Supervisor Fisher stated Assessor Burd is not able to commence the Alamo Board of Review on the second Monday as required. The governing board of a township may authorize an alternative date and Assessor Burd is requesting the date be Wednesday, March 17.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to begin the Board of Review on Wednesday, March 17, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner.

3. Park Board Size

Trustee Feniger noted the Park Board's split decision and referenced the Township Board and the Zoning Board has or had 5 members. He noted Board member responsibilities are to seek volunteers not to perform all of the work necessary; he felt the quantity of members on the Board to be not relevant. All parties agreed that volunteers are the lifeblood of the Township.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to establish a 5 member Park Board, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

4. Complaint Filed Against Park Board

Trustee Potter-Williams expressed her concerns about Attorney Soltis accepting a complaint from a citizen and felt the Township should not be liable for the resulting \$200 charge; Supervisor Vlietstra concurred and will follow up. Supervisor Vlietstra noted \$1,360 has been billed to the Township for all the hoopla concerning the pavilion.

Following clarification, Supervisor Vlietstra stated he believed the citizen filing the complaint should receive the Park Board response. Treasurer Stoneburner felt some of the issues should be addressed as representing a liability to the Township, specifically noting the Park Board should have sought approval from the Township Board prior to opening the gates and removing a portion of the berm along the west side of 5th Street, the Township having paid to have the berm erected. She expressed concern related to creating a one-way road

which now requires citizens to exit the wrong way. It was suggested the sign be covered during low attendance months. Supervisor Vlietstra felt snowmobiles will not use the new trails given the turns are not conducive to running full out: park rule signs have been posted as a deterrent. Trustee Potter-Williams does not wish to micro-manage the Park Board. Deputy Supervisor Fisher suggested perhaps the Park Board could err on the side of caution in terms of seeking approval while this works out.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to send the complaint response letter from the Park Board, as written, to the citizen who filed the complaint, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. 4-1 (Stoneburner) Carried.

The response will be conveyed in the same fashion in which it was received (e-mail).

5. Sunday Liquor Sales

Under the new law, Sunday morning and Christmas afternoon sales are permitted in the absence of objection by the governing board and upon purchase by the property owner of a permit from the State. The Township advised the State that no permits should be issued pending the Board having an opportunity to consider the matter. Mention was made of the two establishments currently closed and/or for sale and the transfer of licenses.

MOTION by Trustee Potter-Williams to not adopt a resolution to opt out of Sunday liquor sales, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner.

Discussion: Treasurer Stoneburner noted her support superseded her personal feelings, allows choice and allows Township establishments the option of remaining competitive with surrounding areas.

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

6. Carpet for Township Hall

Deputy Supervisor Fisher provided various samples and pricing of approximately \$1,200 for the carpet and \$800 for the pad, if padding is recommended. Various installation techniques are available. A 10% discount is possible with options for additional discounts. Supervisor Vlietstra noted the carpet would reduce the echo and improve acoustics during elections. He noted favorable experience in similar community areas. If carpeting is desirable, coordination with the Eagle Scout project is recommended. Citizens inquired if the tile was asbestos based. Trustee Potter-Williams felt it was easier to sweep the tile rather than vacuum and didn't recommend spending the funds to install carpet. Hearing no compelling support to proceed, the topic will not be pursued at this time.

7. Lawn Service 2011

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to retain Even Cut for the Township lawn service at the same costs as last year (excepting a gas charge if gas reaches \$4/gallon), **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES

MOTION by Trustee Potter-Williams to pay the liabilities, except charges listed on the Ford Kreikard invoice tied to the park complaint, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Clerk Sportel-Bogard stated recommended changes to the budget are due January 24. She expected the budget to be complete by the end of February. Trustee Potter-Williams requested a schedule of any special meetings.

CITIZEN COMMENT

L. Conti (Concern trees mandated by the Township had been removed by the Speedway, noise levels in general and requested noise monitoring). Board members noted there was no mandate to plant trees or monitor noise levels. Supervisor Vlietstra, in response to a question, noted citizens could file a complaint but it would be incumbent on them to demonstrate the Township was wrong. A. Sweitzer noted the Speedway website contains rules for decibel levels and driver warnings. Residents believed berms and trees were planted for purposes other than noise. A suggestion was made to identify which events are most problematic.

J. Endres (Inquired whether changes to ordinances would result in grandfathering for pre-existing situations). Supervisor Vlietstra stated no. Trustee Feniger noted that, excepting the sign ordinance, the proposed ordinance review was thought to be housekeeping in nature.

N. Covault (Stated records he turned over to the Township when he resigned from the Park Board are reportedly missing). Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted the box has been present for years only to be found missing when an inquiry was made regarding its whereabouts.

T. Eddy (Thanked the Board for its favorable vote on liquor sales and asked to be notified when the Board notifies the State of its decision)

R. and J. Moerman. (Referenced the fire at their kennel and read an article that appeared in the Kalamazoo Gazette. They felt a public official should exercise greater care in reporting finding the information attributed to a Township official to be incorrect.)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Trustee Potter-Williams to adjourn, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard
Alamo Township Clerk