

## ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD

Alamo Township Hall  
7901 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

April 11, 2011

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

Also Present: 12 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 March 14, 2011, as written, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

Lt. Paul Baker provided budgetary updates and the impact of these (e.g., meth lab clean up) plus a summary of 2010 calls for service. He highlighted the new airport terminal, Expo Center and progress related to last summer's oil spill. Supervisor Vlietstra noted the upcoming meeting of area leaders to discuss governmental cooperation.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to excuse Trustee Feniger from the meeting, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

### REPRESENTATIVE MARGARET O'BRIEN

Representative Margaret O'Brien noted she will be in attendance at the meeting of area leaders referenced earlier. She provided information about the current state budget process and her committee assignments. She shared she is a strong proponent of governmental transparency and was invited to the Pavilion Open House on September 11.

### ASSESSING REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra stated the Board of Review went well. R. Bennett (Board of Review member) noted that not many citizens came to the Board and added he thought Assessor Burd is a sharp lady.

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported March permits of 2 building, 3 electrical and 4 mechanical. (\$966.30) In response to a citizen query, Clerk Sportel-Bogard and Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted in months where permit revenue is low, fees do not cover expenses.

### CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reported \$22,351.45 in liabilities for the month of March.

She provided updates related to the May 3 school election. Deputy Clerk Forrest is cleaning the back storage area and Clerk Sportel-Bogard is trying to secure a site or sites that will accept historical books, otherwise they are destined for recycling. The eaves troughs are installed; a suitable guard is being sought with installation to follow.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Kizer summarized his March report stating it was a quiet month. The Department responded to 14 incidents with standard training activities taking place. Approval was sought to send Firefighter Hoffman to the Michigan EMS Expo at a cost of \$255.00. Chief Kizer to provide the dates and further information.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to send Fire Fighter Hoffman to the Expo for EMS training, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams.

Discussion: Treasurer Stoneburner inquired whether others are interested in attending and noted benefits to the firefighter's other employer without bearing any of the cost. Chief Kizer affirmed the other employer does not pay for this type of training and noted this training is covered in the Department budget.

Motion Carried.

Chief Kizer sought approval for Firefighter Dunn and him to become members of the Kalamazoo County Fire Inspection Team. There is no cost to the Township although liability remains with the Township.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to approve the use of the Township's liability policy for Chief Kizer and Firefighter Dunn's participation with the Fire Inspection Team, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

In response to an audience query, Chief Kizer provided an update on his seeking to lower ISO ratings. Depending on the outcome, residents' home insurance premiums could be reduced.

#### **ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Clerk Sportel-Bogard provided the report prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. March services totaled 3.75 hours (noise and litter violations).

#### **MUSEUM REPORT**

Deputy Supervisor Fisher stated the Curator will be opening the Museum the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the month (beginning in May) and holding special events to draw people to the Museum.

N. Covault felt the Deputy Supervisor should not speak at meetings.

#### **PARK BOARD REPORT**

Park Board Chair Landon sought approval to put a slate grey asphalt shingle roof on the pavilion. All materials and labor are being donated (\$1,500 -\$1,600).

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to allow the Park Board to proceed with the roof on the pavilion, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried.

Chair Landon and L. Conti reviewed the proposed pavilion reservation form, patterned after the Hall rental form.

The Park Board recommends the Township Board negotiate with Aggregate Industries to secure the 29 acres of land adjacent to the C Avenue park land. Further it is requested that Aggregate Industries donate a minimum of \$10,000 toward restoration and in turn the Township will release the \$90,000 bond. Deputy Supervisor Fisher clarified that the bond amount for the parcel is \$26,000.

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to have a conversation with Aggregate Industries with regard to the C Avenue property, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

Supervisor Vlietstra noted additional information will be sought prior to proceeding.

Chair Landon noted a recent inspection highlighted an unsuitable surface underneath the swing sets and a quote was presented to remedy this: surface materials \$700 and delivery \$139. Chair Landon noted there is no cost for labor. N. Covault stated the Park Board is advisory and labor to install is not included. Inquires were made about acceptable alternate materials and pricing. Written estimates will be provided by the Park Board.

Chair Landon sought approval to develop fundraising opportunities to be employed by either the Park Board or through another organization

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to authorize fundraising to obtain match funds for available grants, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

Chair Landon provided a proposed business card for the rangers. Chair Landon will print them.

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to make the business cards, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried.

D. Bennett asked if the swings should be removed pending resolution of the surface beneath the swings; Supervisor Vlietstra advised this was not necessary.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Member Sweitzer reported the Planning Commission is revisiting the Ordinance as requested and will complete a thorough review. Information was provided by a local expert and input was solicited from audience members. The Commission recommends suspension of enforcement for Section 4 (B.3.) (months of operation) while the Commission completes its review. Trustee Potter-Williams prefers the entire Ordinance be suspended.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to adopt the Planning Commission recommendation to suspend the prohibition to use Outdoor Furnaces during the summer months while the Commission reviews the Ordinance, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner.

Discussion:

- P. Schmitt (Concurred with N. Covault concerning the Deputy Supervisor speaking at meetings. Expressed displeasure concerning information gathering on the part of the Planning Commission and lack of support for the Ordinance.)
- E. Westra (Would like an ordinance similar to that of Gun Plains)
- A. Sweitzer (Planning Commission is considering all points brought before it and noted the Ordinance does not prohibit outdoor furnaces)
- R. Flath (Inquired why outdoor furnaces are being checked and fire places aren't)
- N. Covault (Requested clarification about the motion on the table)

Motion carried (3-1 [Potter-Williams])

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

(through March 31. 2011)

General Account:	\$227,589.25
Fire Truck Account:	\$ 18,306.42
Restricted Park Fund:	\$ 1,899.82
Brokerage	\$250,132.13

A total of \$3,590,366.83 was collected from all sources for summer and winter taxes (2010). She reports settling with the County more rapidly than has occurred in the past.

N. Covault asserted that policy was not being followed with regard to the proposed payment of an invoice concerning the printing of flyers for the car show. The Park Board has not reviewed the invoice. Though the Board did not necessarily agree with the assertion, the check will not be released.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Aggregate Industries Response to Compliance Report  
Deferred to permit a Board member to read the materials.
2. G Avenue Mining Compliance Reporting (2011)  
Deputy Supervisor Fisher summarized the request from Landes Consulting to perform the 2011 compliance review. Supervisor Vlietstra noted that Landes Consulting did a nice job with the 2010 reporting and recommends the Board renew the contract for 2011.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to renew the contract with Landes Consulting to perform the 2011 compliance review, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes. Carried.

N. Covault (Expressed displeasure that Deputy Supervisor was speaking for Landes Consulting). Supervisor Vlietstra noted the Board had a written request from Landes Consulting.

3. Approval of Wolverine Fireworks Contract for Kalamazoo Speedway  
Supervisor Vlietstra referenced the Wolverine Fireworks Display permit application offering his support.  
**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to approve the permit for fireworks at Kalamazoo Speedway for the dates requested, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

4. Township Building Improvements

Clerk Sportel-Bogard referenced an estimate provided by a local builder to build 3 offices (\$4,800). Clerk Sportel-Bogard queried whether the Board wishes to proceed with this endeavor prior to expending additional time/effort. Discussion included the use of partitions, building to ensure lighting and heating/cooling integrity.

N. Covault (Noted this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and people should work out of the Township Hall)

P. Schmitt (Supports offices for privacy sake)

Supervisor Vlietstra stated the subject should be reviewed at the next workgroup meeting.

5. Other

Supervisor Vlietstra stated the Board approved budget includes an amount for assistance for the Assessor and he was advising the Board he is proceeding given all parties are aware of the issues in need of addressing.

**AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES**

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to pay liabilities that have been approved, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried. The check for the printer will not be paid.

**BOARD MEMBER TIME**

Supervisor Vlietstra stated recycling went well and highlighted May is junk day. He encouraged persons to be on the lookout for meth trash and to contact the appropriate authorities. The Township will be in Court related to the truck route lawsuit on Monday, April 18. He encourages tours of the G Avenue mine and states the 12<sup>th</sup> Street road project will commence in May.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

P. Schmitt (Expressed that the meeting went well and supported the Invocation, putting God back in government)

N. Covault (Repeated his statements concerning the Deputy Supervision and listed off perceived offenses.)

E. Westra (Offered his thanks)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to adjourn, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard  
Alamo Township Clerk