

ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

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

January 11, 2010

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

Also Present: 3 interested others

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

Supervisor Vlietstra modified the agenda to place Lt. Baker and Attorney Soltis' agenda items at the beginning of the agenda.

MINUTES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the minutes of January 4, 2010, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

Lt. Baker noted the 2009 incident reports should be completed and distributed shortly. The County received the membership fee for the Hazardous Materials Incidents Response Agreement, further noting the Agreement's purpose. Lt. Baker inquired about a Michigan Emergency Compact Agreement. In the absence of Board member knowledge of the Agreement, Lt. Baker explained it is an overarching mutual aid agreement for the state. Under the Agreement Alamo Township would be liable for costs; however, he notes federal disaster aid should commence to mitigate these costs.

Supervisor Vlietstra asked Attorney Soltis to update the Board on two of Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman's cases. Attorney Soltis reports that in order to obtain a contempt charge, the cases must be heard by a judge, rather than the magistrate, and judicial hearings have been sought. Fines and/or jail time may result from failure(s) to remedy the problem(s).

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)

Attorney Soltis reviewed the known factors of the NFIP Program (No flood plain in Alamo, NFIP is not a private insurer but a FEMA program requiring participation in order to benefit). Current costs to Alamo are limited to attorney costs for applicable Ordinance development and noticing. Questions outstanding from several meetings remain unanswered. Treasurer Stoneburner consulted with Pavilion Township as they have no flood plain. Supervisor White stated Pavilion is not pursuing participation feeling it unnecessary. Treasurer Stoneburner also provided information concerning the flooding experience of a resident in Cooper Township. Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted Building Official Cardiff provided contact information for an expert at the Department of Environmental Quality. The set of questions was posed; however, a response had not been received as yet.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to wait for the Department of Environmental Quality's input before taking action, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Trustee Feniger – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Potter Williams – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – no. Carried.

ASSESSOR'S STATUS (EMPLOYEE/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR)

Attorney Soltis reviewed the IRS ruling, the Michigan Township Association's response to this ruling and Cooper Township's proposed solution. The Board reviewed its previous discussions on the matter and its leaning toward making the Assessor an employee rather than splitting functions between that of an employee (signing the roll) and independent contractor (remaining functions). Attorney Soltis noted that Alamo Township does not have to follow Cooper's lead by splitting the functions. Discussion related to establishing an employee contract or relying on policy to govern working conditions/benefits led to a recommendation that Attorney Soltis research this area ; this recommendation to impact other Township employees. Trustee Potter-Williams inquired if the Township plans to consider looking at personnel options; it was decided it was in the best interests of the Township to understand what options were available. Supervisor Vlietstra stated he selects the Assessor.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

No report was received.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported December permits of 0 electrical, 1 mechanical and 1 building. (\$112.50).

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra reports Chief Moore is seeking approval for up to \$500.00 from the Department training budget to send a volunteer for Firefighter 1 & 2 training. Board members made special note of the excellent report that accompanied Chief Moore's request.

MOTION by Trustee Potter-Williams to approve up to \$500.00 for Paul Runcie to complete Firefighter 1 & 2 training, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra noted Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman did not have sufficient activity to generate an invoice or report for December.

PARKS BOARD REPORT

Parks Board Secretary Fisher reported the Board did not meet in December due to the holidays. The joint Planning Commission/Parks Board subcommittee has met for the purpose of formulating a definition of "park".

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ex-officio member Feniger reported that the Planning Commission has new officers: Helen Goyings (Chair); Paula Baker (Vice-Chair) and Belden Smith (Secretary). Al Sweitzer was kind enough to agree to be the Planning Commission representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals. A review of the Zoning Ordinance for possible changes will be completed as well as discussion regarding the development of new ordinances.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(through December 31, 2009)

General Account:	\$(statement has not been received)
Parks Fund	\$ 8,544.92
Fire Truck Account:	\$ 18,270.31

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reported \$37,108.70 in liabilities for the month of December.

Clerk Sportel-Bogard noted the Township may need to make cuts of 15%. Revenue sharing was down approximately \$5,000 for the period.

Clerk Sportel-Bogard stated she is seeking estimates for cubicles; thus far nothing affordable has been located. An audience member suggested contacting Dynamet.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

1. Road Management/Museum Committee/Census Report

Deputy Supervisor Fisher provided a replacement page for the Township Roads Chart and asked if there were any questions to research prior to February. None were presented. Board members expressed their appreciation for a thorough presentation.

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported Lou Conti would like to be appointed to the Museum Committee.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to appoint Lou Conti to the Museum Committee, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

Deputy Supervisor Fisher provided a report on the Township's participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses Program. Corrections and/or additions to the federal database (#263) were made to the original files sent by the Census Bureau. All but 21 were accepted without comment. Of the 21, many had been corrected despite being listed as not accepted; ultimately the Township requested 2 addresses be restored to the final file. Other than a report recently received to collect new housing starts, pre-census work has been completed.

Deputy Supervisor Fisher provided a 2010 meeting schedule for all major Boards in the Township.

2. Training (Board of Review)

Dick Bennett, newly appointed to the Board of Review, would like to attend an MTA sponsored training.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to approve Dick Bennett's attendance at the Board of Review training, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

3. Collection of School Taxes

Treasurer Stoneburner alerted the Board to a request from Plainwell schools regarding the collection of summer taxes. Surrounding municipalities are trying to develop a uniform response. Treasurer Stoneburner has completed an analysis and the Township would lose revenue (collection fees) under the Plainwell proposal. Additional work in this regard continues.

AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES

MOTION by Trustee Potter-Williams for the Clerk and Treasurer to pay the liabilities, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Supervisor Vlietstra noted he thought the supplemental 12th Street expansion project was a lock; however this project was rated second in terms of funding. .

CITIZEN COMMENT

A. Sweitzer (Inquired if the Plainwell school district elects to collect its own taxes could a citizen lose their home by not paying the school tax.)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to adjourn, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard, Alamo Township Clerk