

## ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

November 8, 2010

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

Also Present: 14 interested others

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

### MINUTES

Supervisor Vlietstra requested a modification to the 55 mph speed limit discussion; the minutes reflected what was related.

**MOTION** by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the minutes of November 1, 2010, as written, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

### AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES REPORT

Randi Wille (Leon Belden, Aggregate Industries, was also in attendance) presented the 2010 Annual Report and used an aerial photograph to depict the mine footprint. There have been no changes to the footprint, only an increase in depth. Production for 2010 is slated to cease at the end of the week. In addition to reviewing the report, he highlighted issues surfacing earlier in the year. Demolition of a structure at the far west of the property occurred and noise measurements were taken. Based on the Township consultant's feedback, additional silt fencing was added to the east boundary. Aggregate Industries had submitted two letters for consideration: Renewal of the approval to use G Avenue as a haul route and reclamation of the mined out area on C Avenue.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to permit hauling on G Avenue until such time as 10<sup>th</sup> Street becomes available, **support** by Trustee Feniger.

Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted Attorney Soltis has previously recommended a time limit and the Board has typically approved the route on an annual basis (the current approval terminates November 9, 2010); Trustee Potter-Williams concurred. Supervisor Vlietstra amended the motion to include an end date of November 10, 2011, Trustee Feniger concurred.

Trustee Potter Williams – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried. Written confirmation will be provided.

Deputy Supervisor Fisher provided supplemental information regarding the C Avenue reclamation. The Township consultant determined 3.5 additional acres require reclamation. Due to sloping of the remaining acreage, the cost will run approximately \$26,000. Aggregate Industries has agreed to post a bond to cover this amount. The Michigan growing season having concluded, reclamation activities will not begin this year. The Township expects reclamation to be completed as early as possible in 2011.

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to extend the date to reclaim the C Avenue site until June 30, 2011 or, weather permitting, earlier, and to require a bond in the amount of \$26,000, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried. Written confirmation will be provided

### ASSESSOR'S REPORT

No report was received.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported October permits of 2 building, 1 electrical, 2 mechanical and one zoning. (\$652.00). She noted Kalamazoo Township is likely to request a contract for the building inspector’s services reflecting an alternate method of reimbursement. The building inspector does not believe this will have a material impact on the Township.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Kizer reviewed the written October report. The Department responded to 25 incidents. Chief Kizer has instituted a new category of response: inservice/community service (services for which there is no charge, e.g., responding to a farmer’s cows recently loose on a roadway). Training, public relations and a personnel change were highlighted. Chief Kizer seeks to discontinue all business with Mack’s Fire following the condemnation of all tanks left for inspection and permanently disabling the tanks without Township authorization. An alternate provider, Crossfire Composites Company did not find that the tanks should have been condemned, but for the holes drilled to permanently disable. Chief Kizer does not believe it to be cost effective to pursue legal action unless directed by the Board to do so. He concluded by updating the Board with an update on county wide dispatch; improvements are expected within the year.

**ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Clerk Sportel-Bogard provided the report prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. Services totalling 3.75 hours were delivered in October.

**PARKS BOARD REPORT**

Parks Board Secretary Fisher reported several people spoke (non-agenda item) regarding a citation issued to the remaining ranger. The WMU engineering project (5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge) has begun and their report will be completed by April. A preliminary draft of the master plan will be available at the November meeting; several agenda items were deferred to permit discussion as part of the overall planning process. Discussion commenced on the 2011 car show. The Board would like to have a “first gathering” at the Pavilion to coincide with the March 2011 recycling. The December meeting was cancelled. Two motions were passed for action by the Board: 1) A recommendation that the Alamo Township board seek and find a replacement for the open seat on the Park Board and 2) a recommendation that the Township Board approve Newt Covault as a Park Board member.

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to recommend Newt Covault’s appointment to the Parks Board, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Feniger – no; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – no. Carried.

The Board felt the Park Board could run with the pavilion gathering without a motion from the Board. Township funds may not be used to fund the planned refreshments.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Ex-officio member Feniger reported Gary Howe presented preliminary plans to build a quarter-midget track slated to run Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. The track would be for children and vehicle engines are about 5-7 horse power. The two subcommittees continue to meet to work on recommended definitions and zoning map changes for commercial/industrial. The Planning Commission requests that should the Township Board desire to change the Outdoor Furnace Ordinance that it first refer the issue(s) to the Planning Commission for its review. Supervisor Vlietstra agreed with Deputy Supervisor Fisher to gather additional applications/feedback and discuss findings/requests for amendment in December or January.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

(through October 29. 2010)

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| General Account: | \$137,264.60 |
| Parks Fund       | \$ 10,419.47 |

Fire Truck Account: \$ 18,302.58  
Brokerage Holdings: \$249,593.09

Treasurer Stoneburner reports receipt of a revenue sharing check for \$43,000; revenue sharing continues to climb.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reported \$22,377.38 in liabilities for the month of October.

Clerk Sportel-Bogard noted the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election went well. New chairpersons were trained and moving the smaller precinct 1 to the smaller side of the Hall was effective. She is working on securing monuments for \$100 per stone for persons with no family to assist. Currently quotes are running \$125 per stone.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

1. Assessor Resignation and Transition Plan

Supervisor Vlietstra reported he'd made some calls to other townships to hear how other areas handle the assessment function. Some companies provide assessing, ordinance enforcement and building inspection functions. Most assessors expect office space, desk and a computer. Treasurer Stoneburner suggested placing an ad in the newspaper. Supervisor Vlietstra reported assessing is the supervisor's bailiwick; he will complete checking options and the Board may need to hold an emergency meeting or two.

2. Speed Limit through Alamo Center

Supervisor Vlietstra noted though he feels a limit through Alamo Center of 55 mph is too high, the 25 mph signs are illegal and traffic can travel at 55 mph until a required review process can take place. The review must be requested by the Board. It was proposed to establish the parameters for the review as follows: D Avenue (1/3 mile east and west of 6<sup>th</sup> Street)  
6<sup>th</sup> Street (from Trustee Feniger's drive to Hart Drive)

**MOTION** by Trustee Feniger to make a review request to the Road Commission to establish a reasonable speed limit according to the parameters identified, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard.

Belden Smith suggested incorporating the Kal-Haven trail for the southern boundary on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The parties agreed to modify the motion to include this change.

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

3. Policies

The policies presented at the work group by Deputy Supervisor Fisher will be forwarded to the December work group. In view of the Assessor's resignation, Deputy Supervisor Fisher will complete the revisions to the Poverty Exemption Guidelines.

4. Gutters

Clerk Sportel-Bogard obtained two quotes; both of which include guards: \$1,215 and \$1,955. She would like to see the products in advance of making a decision. Both providers are in the Township. Trustee Feniger will provide the name of another provider.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to authorize up to \$2,000 for gutters/guards and to leave the actual decision up to Clerk Sportel-Bogard, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

5. Snow Plowing

One bid has been received for snow plowing; the contractor cannot plow for the upcoming season. Clerk Sportel-Bogard is seeking clarification on pricing from the bidder for two of the cemeteries. Treasurer Stoneburner felt the contract should be bid out with Trustee Feniger concurring. An ad will be placed in the paper with a quick submission deadline. An award decision can be made at the anticipated special meeting.

6. Wrongful Acts Amendment to Insurance Policy  
 Supervisor Vlietstra states the endorsement addresses non-monetary defense costs.  
**MOTION** by Trustee Feniger to proceed with seeking the endorsement effective April 1, 2011 when the policy renews, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes. Carried.
7. Kalamazoo County Agreement.  
 Deputy Supervisor Fisher explained the proposed contract represents the vehicle that will allow Kalamazoo County to convey the Township’s portion of the ARRA grant funds. Attorney Soltis has reviewed the contract and provided the Board with his comments.  
**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to approve the Agreement with Kalamazoo County, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Trustee Feniger – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.  
 Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted the instructions for handling the 3 originals of the contract. Given the state has now provided final approval of the changes made to the proposed projects, funded projects may now commence.
8. Landes Consulting Agreement.  
 Deputy Supervisor Fisher provided a draft Agreement to cover the independent inspection of the G Avenue mine and reclamation requirements at the former C Avenue mine. The Agreement was contingent upon Mr. Landes obtaining professional liability insurance which was accomplished following the work group. Given the possibility of a special meeting, the Agreement was quickly drafted and distributed to permit action at the next occurring meeting when action items are appropriate.

**AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES**

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to pay the liabilities, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

**BOARD MEMBER TIME**

Supervisor Vlietstra (Terry Tilley, Road Commission, and he reviewed of all Paser-rated 6, 7 & 8 roads. Traffic counts and pricing are outstanding. Further discussion to occur at the December work group).

Treasurer Stoneburner (The motion made at the October 11 meeting concerning the MTA January Conference included only Board members. She would like to see this expanded to include others.)

**MOTION** by Treasurer Stoneburner to allow anyone who wishes to attend the Conference to be able to attend, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

Trustee Potter-Williams (Inquiry regarding the status of the broken window at the Museum. Trustee Feniger noted he is playing telephone tag with the Mike Corradini.)

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

L. Conti (Read a short statement of support for Dick Bennett relative to the DNRE ticket).

D. Bennett (Commended Clerk Sportel-Bogard for getting good people to work on election day; supported Newt Covault’s appointment to the Park Board; stated his citation was a private affair).

D. Nichols (Provided his research and observations on current and future outdoor furnaces; urged the Township to be proactive with alternative energy sources.) Supervisor Vlietstra noted the Township is taking input and cited the cost to change an ordinance.

N. Covault (Stated people will be impressed by the pavilion).

S. Hoogstraten (Did not support costs associated with ordinance modifications to be reason not to do so; advocated for an ad hoc group and ad in the paper to assist in hiring a new assessor; observed the assessor being an employee no longer seems to be as firm.)

D. Albrecht (Inquired whether the outdoor furnace ordinance was complaint driven). Trustee Feniger noted there had been some complaints but predominantly the Township desired to be proactive.

J. Landon (Stated there are more complaints concerning trash than for outdoor furnaces). Trustee Potter-Williams notes that effective April 1, 2011 residents may not utilize burn barrels).

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Trustee Feniger to adjourn, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard  
Alamo Township Clerk