

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

MARCH 9, 2009
6:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: 3 interested persons (public hearing); 11 interested persons (regular meeting)

Supervisor Vlietstra called the public hearing to order at 6:30.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to open the public hearing on the Township's 2009-2010 proposed budget, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

Supervisor Vlietstra turned the hearing over to Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Clerk Sportel-Bogard referenced discussion from the March 2 work group meeting inquiring if there were proposed changes or adjustments on the part of Board members.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to adopt the 2009-2010 budget as presented, **support** by Trustee Feniger.

Supervisor Vlietstra opened the floor for citizen comment on the proposed budget.

Mary Joliffe (Inquired if salaries were increased). Supervisor Vlietstra stated they were not.
Linda Rayman (Inquired if funding for the Building Inspector had changed). Deputy Supervisor Fisher stated it had not.

Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – no (because of wages); Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes. The 2009-2010 budget was adopted as written.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to close the public hearing, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried. The public hearing was closed at 6:37 p.m.

Supervisor Vlietstra called the regular 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 work group minutes of March 2, 2009, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Lieutenant Paul Baker presented the Board with the February service report for all townships. These reports will be received monthly whether through electronic means or in person. Sheriff Fuller intends for command, including himself, to be more integrated into townships. Lt. Baker noted an excellent transition between administrations. He updated the Board on several local disasters (e.g., flooding this summer and several fires at apartment complexes leading to dialog to make renter's insurance available).

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

No report was received. Supervisor Vlietstra referenced the upcoming Board of Review. In response to the Board's request, Assessor Laws rewrote her contract with no increase for this year. Treasurer Stoneburner inquired about the inclusion of APEX software in the proposed contract. Supervisor Vlietstra agreed to address prompt responses to telephone inquiries with the Assessor. The proposed contract freezes compensation for this year, retaining the \$500 increases for years 2-4 as proposed previously. Due to the uncertainty of funding for subsequent years, a single year contract was proposed. A single year contract had not been discussed with the Assessor.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to offer a single year contract due to an unpredictable future, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Trustee Feniger – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – no; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – no. Carried.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported February permits of 2 electrical, 1 mechanical and 1 building. (\$762.00 collected in fees).

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A written report prepared by Chief Moore was provided to each Board member and summarized by Deputy Supervisor Fisher. The Department has 2 action items (approval for testing fees and approval to send Laura Hoffman to the 4-day EMS Expo in Grand Rapids). The Department responded to 14 incidents in February with an average response time (dispatch to arrival) or 8.07 minutes. The Department participated in a number of training activities and was recertified in AED's and CPR. Chief Moore spent 6 days at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. The annual update of operational guidelines is underway.

Supervisor Vlietstra referenced an item he planned to discuss later referencing townships' position on entering into a contract for payment of emergency services dispatch. Supervisor Vlietstra asked Lt. Baker to explain the issues behind this. Lt. Baker provided a detailed explanation on the technology impacting dispatch and fire departments. Various solutions are being reviewed with current equipment having perhaps 5 more years of life before the technology and equipment is obsolete. As noted in previous discussions, all municipalities in the county have not agreed to participate in a single plan making a county-wide charge on phone service cumbersome due to division of revenues. Dialog is ongoing.

MOTION by Trustee Potter-Williams to approve \$570 for the fire inspector test for Chief Moore and Firefighter Dunn, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Feniger to authorize \$260 to send Firefighter Hoffman to the EMS Expo in Grand Rapids, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard gave the Ordinance Enforcer's report based on a written document prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. Five and one-quarter hours of service were delivered in February. Supervisor Vlietstra noted court orders may be necessary to resolve a number of outstanding issues.

PARKS BOARD REPORT

Parks Board Secretary Fisher noted minutes were previously forwarded to Board members highlighting several items. The Board is seeking surplus commercial playground equipment and heard an informational proposal to establish the Park as the home course for a possible Otsego High School cross-country ski club. The 3rd Annual Car Show will be held June 27th; proposed new features are planned in the form of antique tractors and motorcycles. The trout structure(s) incurred damage, again, due to unusually high water levels in Sand Creek. Repairs are planned when waters recede.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ex-officio member Feniger provided the Planning Commission Report in Chair Smith's absence. A survey is planned for use in updating the Land Use Plan. The Board was invited to recommend questions to include. Supervisor Vlietstra added the Commission would be holding a public hearing at its next meeting on a proposed gravel mining ordinance. By-laws for the Commission should be ready for adoption at the next meeting and ordinances for wind turbines and outdoor wood burners are in the planning stages. Member Sweitzer referenced an April seminar on wind energy generation in Lansing that he would like to attend, registration is \$55.

MOTION by Trustee Feniger to approve attendance at the seminar for any Planning Commission member who desires to attend, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paid as of February 9, 2009 :	\$ 9,768.07
Received:	\$ 45,440.00
General Account:	\$ 53,696.38
General Maxsaver:	\$371,753.07
Fire Truck LUG Account:	\$ 18,212.43

Treasurer Stoneburner notes she will settle with the county on March 19th and will report back in April.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reported \$24,177.94 in liabilities for the month of February. Further, she noted an election on May 5th (school board elections and a request for a millage from the transit authority). The ballot is at the printer, absentee ballot applications are ready for mailing; precincts will be combined. Clerk Sportel-Bogard recommended that Esper Electric be invited to review the Township's electrical service due to recent problems. Treasurer Stoneburner added that a light needs to be installed for the Township flag pole. Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted Building Inspector Cardiff's recommendation to have the Township electrical inspector assess the service.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to have the Township electrical service looked at including the flag pole light, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

1. Border Road Objection

Supervisor Vlietstra reported Alamo Township filed an objection with the Road Commission as did Kalamazoo Township. Oshtemo Township objected to Alamo's consent judgment. The townships have 60 days to work out a solution followed by the Road Commission having an equal amount of time to make a final decision if the townships cannot come to agreement. Alamo Township is filing a letter with the Road Commission concerning Oshtemo's objection. Although the Alamo objection was received by the Road Commission on March 11th, all objections will be addressed by April 25th despite this exceeding the 60 days for Alamo Township. A mediator is being selected to assist the Townships in resolving the issues amongst themselves. Attorney Soltis is taking the lead on this selection.

2. 2009 Road Work

Estimates have been received from the Road Commission to double chip seal EF Avenue. Because there are inadequate funds to complete all work this year, a suggestion had been made to pulverize and ready the road this year and complete the work next year. One resident had observed he'd rather it be left alone. It is unclear how other residents feel. Deputy Supervisor Fisher had completed an analysis of Township and Road Commission par funds committed to date. Combining remaining funds from both, there are sufficient funds to grind, grade, shape, compact and apply dust control this year.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to send a letter to EF Avenue residents to gauge their opinions on the various options, followed up with a phone call if a response is not received, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

Ron Williams had gathered signatures on a petition to repave West F Avenue from 7th Street to Owen Drive. A lengthy discussion regarding funding, prioritization for road repairs, road construction and suspected violations to load limits resulted. Supervisor Vlietstra responded that stimulus monies will not funnel to the Townships for road repairs and that the Township's contingency fund is approximately \$300,000. Discussions regarding special assessments or a Township-wide millage were offered as possible solutions. Funding is not possible for this year and this stretch of F Avenue will be added to next year's list.

3. BSA Updates

Treasurer Stoneburner researched this area and notes the Township currently pays for 4 updates per year (\$1,000) although the website does not seem to be updated this frequently. Costs were based on 4,500 parcels and are \$3,000 for real time updates and \$2,000 for monthly updates. Trustee Potter-Williams noted lack of support for considering an upgrade in the absence of completing quarterly updates. Deputy Supervisor Fisher observed that regardless of whether updates were quarterly, during peak times (property tax and income tax seasons), the Township website is persistently out-of-date. Supervisor Vlietstra will address updates with Assessor Laws.

4. Other

Deputy Supervisor Fisher referenced an inquiry at a prior meeting regarding the mechanism used by the Board to prioritize roads and distributed a notice from the Road Commission. A three hour asset management workshop is being offered at no charge for elected officials and management staff on various topics including pavement basics, maintenance, a rating system and prioritizing.

AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES

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

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Supervisor Vlietstra reported the Supervisors met and discussed the emergency services contract. Jill Bland with Southwest Michigan First reviewed what was working well in the County (i.e., Midlink Expansion). Supervisor Vlietstra and Planning Commission member Smith visited a number of area businesses.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Stan Rakowski (Inquired about the construction of berms at the gravel mine, the eyesore the remaining buildings create, enforcement and time frames for remedy). Supervisor Vlietstra responded that there were no time frames and that an engineer will provide enforcement rather than the Township Ordinance Enforcer.)

Ron Williams (Inquired what happened to the wrought iron Alamo cemetery fence). Clarification that the posts are decorative metal; however, the fence itself is wire and located at the Township museum.

Berle Finkey (Noted a large and growing pot hole on 8th Street)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard
Alamo Township Clerk