

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

May 11, 2009, 2009
6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Clerk Sportel-Bogard

Guests: Pat Crowley, Drain Commissioner

Also Present: 6 interested persons

Supervisor Vlietstra called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to excuse Clerk Sportel-Bogard from the meeting, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

Supervisor Vlietstra appointed Deputy Supervisor Fisher to take the minutes if acceptable to Board members.

Supervisor Vlietstra noted an inadvertent inclusion of the Annual Road Commission meeting (Item II on the agenda) would be changed to an Annual Meeting with the Drain Commissioner's office.

Drain Commissioner Crowley introduced herself and referenced her desire to improve the image and operations of the office. She suggested the Township give consideration to adopting the FEMA flood plain map, despite Alamo Township not having a recognized flood plain. Doing so would assist residents in obtaining lower cost flood insurance. Drain Commissioner Crowley also suggested the Township give consideration to the value of wetlands and set up wetland protection areas. She felt this was especially important given the State of Michigan is stepping away from this area. A diagram depicting historical water levels was shown. Water tables have reached levels not seen in approximately 12 years. The Drain Commissioner would appreciate the Township's assistance in helping home owners understand historical issues with flooding. An audience member residing on 6th Street expressed concern about her newer 350 foot well and the impacts the gravel mine might have on her well. It was suggested the audience member speak with Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services and information about well draw downs was provided. Drain Commission Crowley noted she had visited Sand Creek and expressed positive comments about the work accomplished.

MINUTES

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to approve the work group minutes of May 4, 2009, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

No report was received.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported April permits of 0 electrical, 1 mechanical and 0 building. (\$90.00 collected in fees). A number of permits were received at the end of April but were not processed until May. She noted the Township's gratitude for Building Inspector Cardiff's maintaining his reviews of permit applications and that the established procedure of using the City of Kalamazoo for inspections is running smoothly.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted Chief Moore was unable to attend and that he provided a few items of interest. In mid-April Chief Moore spent 2 weeks at the Michigan State Police Fire Investigator School and was one of 29 students selected to attend. Fire fighter Derek Dunn and Chief Moore are wrapping up their Fire Inspection Certifications. Once the certifying body reviews their paperwork, both will be nationally certified. There was a smaller than hoped for turnout at the Pancake breakfast. The Department is re-applying for the Assistance to Firefighters grant after being turned down last year.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher gave the Ordinance Enforcer's report based on a written document prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. Seven and three-quarter hours of service were delivered in April. Two cases have been referred to the court.

PARKS BOARD REPORT

No report; a quorum was not present at the April Parks Board meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ex-officio member Feniger reported the Commission made several final changes to Ordinance 46-61 and anticipates the Commission passing it in June and forwarding it to the Board for consideration and adoption. The Land Use Plan survey is being drafted and will be presented to the Commission in June. The Commission reviewed several "clean up" issues to various portions of the Zoning Ordinance; a public hearing is planned for June on the proposed changes. Lastly, discussion was initiated on wind generation; research will be conducted on what other municipalities have in place.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paid as of April 13, 2009	:	\$ 25,342.25
Received:		\$ 34,740.00
General Account:		\$ 41,618.45
General Maxsaver:		\$452,088.80
Fire Truck LUG Account:		\$ 18,214.11
Alamo Township Parks:		\$ 3,961.51

Treasurer Stoneburner notes a decrease of \$10,600 in revenue sharing for the quarter. She further noted she is investigating other banking options following the Township's current bank instituting a series of costly service fees.

CLERK'S REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra noted Clerk Sportel-Bogard has been busy with the just completed election. Inquiry was made on correspondence from the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Supervisor Vlietstra noted the correspondence was intended as informational only.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

1. AB Avenue

A recommendation was made to effect repairs to AB Avenue according to the estimate provided by the Road Commission.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to effect repairs to AB Avenue to prevent further deterioration, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Trustee Potter-Williams – no; Trustee Feniger – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes. Carried 3-1.

2. Payment for the Board of Review

Supervisor Vlietstra outlined a recommendation to alter the reimbursement schedule (rather than the overall amount) for Board of Review members. Advantages were outlined as ensuring double payments are not necessary (for an alternate plus a regular member) and funds budgeted for the year are not exceeded. A previous recommendation of \$100.00 for the March Board of Review and \$50.00 each for the July and December Boards had been made. Al Sweitzer suggested a \$140/\$30/\$30 or \$130/\$35/\$35 split to better recognize the more intensive work for the March Board.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to adopt a payment schedule for the Board of Review of \$130 for March and \$35 each for July and December, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Clarification offered that this change is effective with next Board of review cycle; July representing the first Board of review in the new fiscal year. Trustee Feniger – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes. Carried.

3. Moratorium of Special Exception Use Permit Application for Gravel Mining

Supervisor Vlietstra referenced the earlier discussion regarding Ordinance 46-61 and the need to extend the moratorium through the passage of a Resolution to accommodate this final review. The Resolution provides for a one month extension.

MOTION by Trustee Feniger to extend the moratorium for another month, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Trustee Feniger - yes. Carried.

4. Other

A. Recycling/Junk Day. Trustee Feniger noted a third metal bin was ordered as it appeared one would be needed though it was, ultimately, not needed. The Boy Scouts did not have their newspaper trailer onsite; therefore, newsprint was added to the mixed paper bins necessitating their being emptied during recycling hours. Out of the 187 persons attending junk day/recycling, all but 29 arrived prior to 12:45. Trustee Feniger may recommend cutting junk day hours to 9:00 – 1:00; matching regular recycling hours. This would represent a savings to the Township. Trustee Feniger was assured the Boy Scouts would be addressing the newsprint collection issue.

B. Museum. Trustee Feniger noted a museum open house was held on Saturday, May 9. A lack of publicity was noted.

- C. Lighting for Flag Pole. Clerk Sportel-Bogard requested a quote for a light for the Township flag pole and quote was provided to Board members. The Board would like Clerk Sportel-Bogard to check with other Township electricians in terms of a quote and consider the use of the existing conduit and set-up to lower costs.
- D. 9-1-1 Amendment. Supervisor Vlietstra reminded the Board of the history of payments for emergency dispatch. The Kalamazoo County Township Supervisors were not initially recommending issuing payment for 2009 but have decided to recommend 2009 payments while the County completes additional preparatory work for a central dispatch center and phone surcharge. The County has provided an amendment (running through 2009). A letter was received under separate cover stating Alamo Township's fees for 2009 are identical to those in 2008.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to sign the amendment and pay the 9-1-1 fees for 2009, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes. Carried.

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 Trustee Feniger. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Treasurer Stoneburner noted the increase in stamps effective today.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Ron Williams (Commented on the installation of the well at G Avenue and 6th Street and the possible ramifications of this draw on local wells. Reference was made to the recent letter to the editor concerning F Avenue and Mr. Williams noted a recent accident on F Avenue. Repairs to F Avenue have been initiated; one lane is complete and one lane needs further work.)

Roger Flath (Referenced the low lying DE Avenue areas.)

Al Sweitzer (Welcomed feedback on wind generation technology for his work in this area as a Planning Commission member. Also noted the City of Walker is looking at developing an ordinance on this subject.)

Bob Vlietstra (Highlighted the receipt of the March report of responses for fire/rescue/crimes).

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Fisher
Alamo Township Deputy Supervisor