

**ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

7901 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 382-3366

**August 10, 2009**

7:00 p.m.

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

Also Present: 6 interested persons

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 minutes of July 13, 2009, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

Lieutenant Paul Baker provided the Township with the County of Kalamazoo's new emergency plan; a letter is to be signed by the Township and returned. A second packet will be provided to Alamo Fire & Rescue. The monthly service calls report will be forwarded at a later date. Organizational (command officers) changes to make the Sheriff's Department more business friendly took place on August 1. Lt. Baker described two emergency management initiatives (emergencies in voter precincts and a business continuity plan for County government). At Supervisor Vlietstra's request, Lt. Baker reviewed the history of and current plans to sustain the HazMat county-wide program. Each of the county fire departments will be asked to contribute \$600 per year (escalating at a rate to sustain but not grow the program). A contract is being developed and organizational entity issues are being addressed. Additionally, Supervisor Vlietstra asked Lt. Baker to update the Board on the Fire Tower (located at the Regional Training Campus). The first leg of the project, the 5 story fire tower is operational, with classrooms, a driving course, materials storage, etc., to follow.

Representative Larry DeShazor provided a number of updates of interest to the Township. Revenues to the State are down 25% this year (a combination of income, sales, business and property taxes). The state deficit continues to increase and a \$1.7 billion deficit is predicted for next year, 4.3 billion over the next 3 years. Numerous proposals to address the deficit are being promoted, Representative DeShazor noting that Michigan is at the top or bottom of all the wrong lists. Through the Michigan Federal delegation (specifically noting Representative Upton and Senators Levin and Stabenow), he is promoting that the Federal government waive the State match required to capture federal dollars for a period of two years and also that Michigan's rate of return on tax dollars (90 cents for each dollar) be improved. He also provided a status report on the various committees on which he is a member. Representative DeShazor noted we all will be doing more with less and is promoting the completion of an inventory of mandates facing townships; noting a need to become more business oriented.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

No report was received.

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported July permits of 0 electrical, 2 mechanical, 1 building and 1 zoning. (\$315.50 collected in fees). Three applications for a variance plus two applications for a special exception use have been filed in recent months. Deputy Fisher has initiated an analysis to determine if the application fee (\$500) covers the processing costs; this will be ready by the September meeting. Subsequent to this being initiated, the Planning Commission also recommended a review of the SEUP fee.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Moore reported the Department responded to 14 incidents in July with an average response time of 7.07 minutes. Trainings for the month included a tour of a township farm to learn about operations and safety procedures for Anhydrous Ammonia. Discussion included potential emergency responses and evacuating portions of the township in case of a leak. Competency drills were held on pump operations. A minor repair was done on Engine 121 (accelerator cable). The lock on the station has been re-keyed and keys are in the process of being redistributed. The Department received 3 cards of thanks for services and a flower basket from Oak Grove Bible church for assistance provided during their Vacation Bible School. Chief Moore noted the \$600 proposed HazMat fee is less than having a member on the team. September training is scheduled at the Fire Tower; this represents the last year payments are due. Congratulations were offered to Chief Moore for earning his NFPA certification as both a National and State Certified Fire Inspector.

Chief Moore asked for approval to obtaining required fire fighter physicals; funding is contained in the Fire & Rescue budget.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to authorize \$3,525 from Fire & Rescue's budget for the required firefighter physicals, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried.

## **ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Clerk Sportel-Bogard gave the Ordinance Enforcer's report based on a written document prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. Eleven hours of service were delivered in July.

## **PARKS BOARD REPORT**

Parks Board Secretary Fisher referenced a presentation by Site Design Solutions (one of the three owners is a township resident). Site Design Solutions provided an overview of their small, locally- based service, a demonstration of design software and an offer to assist the Parks Board in seeking grants (at no cost). Mr. Ron Storks (Friend of the Kal-Haven Trail) invited the Parks Board (June) to apply for a grant. The Friends are committed to giving back to the communities through which the Trail passes. The Parks Board will be seeking a grant to establish a pedestrian ingress/egress with the possibility of a small picnic area near 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Dan Knight is the acting Chair following Jon Little's resignation for personal reasons. Two of the rangers completed the voluntary safety inventory provided by the Township insurance carrier. A couple of repairs to equipment are needed and a decision was made to remove a piece of equipment rather than effect repairs. A conceptual plan for the C Avenue Park (south side) is currently being discussed by the Parks Board.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Ex-officio member Feniger referenced the variance/special exception fee schedule as noted earlier. The Land Use Plan survey results were presented to the Commission. Chair Smith added the work done by Helen Goyings, Paula Baker and Deputy Supervisor Fisher on the survey noting Vice-Chair Goyings has assigned persons to complete various sections: narrative and land cover plan. Chair Smith reported contact with Western Michigan University and plans to take advantage of their expertise with regard to the land cover portion. Vice-Chair Helen Goyings, Paula Baker and Deputy Supervisor Fisher will complete the overall LUP narrative once all subcommittees have reported. Chair Smith noted the special exception use permit application for a dog park was withdrawn.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Paid as of August 10, 2009:	\$ 8,949.10
Received:	\$ 1,537.78
General Account:	\$461,359.26 (through July 31)
Alamo Parks Fund	\$ 6,442.39
Alamo Fire Truck Account:	\$ 18,216.39

## CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard noted \$427,169.62 in reported liabilities for the month of July. The vast amount of the figure is due to the transfer of accounts.

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reported a quote of \$4,800 has been received from Prein & Newlof to stake the new section of the Alamo Center cemetery. She will ensure this quote includes the \$1,100 for the stakes. The budget contains funds to complete this work. Clerk Sportel-Bogard was advised that a previous staking resulted in flattened tires.

**MOTION** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to complete the staking of the Alamo Center cemetery at a cost not to exceed \$4,800, **support** by Supervisor Vlietstra. Trustee Feniger – yes, Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

## NEW/OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Dust Control

A contract for the 2<sup>nd</sup> application of dust control has been received. Due to product unavailability, 2 applications are needed (at the same cost) to achieve the same result. The Township Park does not need a second application; other dirt roads, except FG, require only interrupted application.

**MOTION** by Trustee Feniger to enter into the contract with the Road Commission to apply dust control to applicable Township roads, intermittent application to all but FG Avenue, support by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

### 2. Michigan Township Association Fall Conference

Board members should have received notice of the upcoming MTA Fall Conference; registration is \$80 per person.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Vlietstra to authorize Board members wishing to attend the MTA Fall Conference to do so, support by Trustee Feniger. Carried.

### 3. Speed Limit Resolution

Supervisor Vlietstra had inquired about the process to have the 25 mph speed limit changed in Alamo Center. The Road Commission provided draft language (provided to Board members) that contained blanks for the streets to be studied as a part of the change process. Board members were not immediately supportive of an increased speed in this area nor was Chief Moore. Supervisor Vlietstra noted a training on this topic will be held at the Cooper Township Hall on October 15. Board members requested this topic be tabled until such time as interested Board members may attend the training.

## AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES

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

### **BOARD MEMBER TIME**

Supervisor Vlietstra referenced the Kalamazoo County Chapter of the MTA's Annual Picnic at the Scotts Mill Park (6:30 p.m.) on August 26<sup>th</sup>. (Bring a dish to pass) Contracted assessors and potential state revenue sharing cuts are on the agenda.

**MOTION** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to cancel the work session for September 7<sup>th</sup>, if there is no pressing business, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

### **CITIZEN COMMENT**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Trustee Potter-Williams to adjourn, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:29.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard  
Alamo Township Clerk