

ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

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

October 12, 2009

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

Also Present: 10 interested others

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 October 5, 2009, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. 4-0-1 (Feniger abstained due to absence at the October 5 meeting). Carried.

AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES ANNUAL REPORT

Martin Landes, Aggregate Industries, highlighted the written report previously provided and sought feedback on the format/content to ensure maximum utility to the Township. Mr. Landes referenced a section addressing complaints commenting that each complaint is logged and addressed regardless of the level of seriousness or validity. Supervisor Vlietstra commented he has found Aggregate Industries to be responsive in addressing any concern he has expressed; Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted Aggregate Industries strives to be anticipatory to prevent issues from arising. Mr. Landes reminded Board members that he is willing to take persons through Kalamazoo West site.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

No report was received.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported September permits of 1 electrical, 0 mechanical and 3 building. (\$448.90 collected in fees). Two permits for new construction were received earlier in the day.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Fisher reported Chief Moore had been at a training all last week and had advised there were no action items for consideration this month. A written September report is anticipated.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard gave the Ordinance Enforcer's report based on a written document prepared by Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman. Twenty hours of service were delivered in September. Supervisor Vlietstra will follow up with Ordinance Enforcer Hoffman regarding several outstanding complaints and the number of office hours.

PARKS BOARD REPORT

Parks Board Secretary Fisher noted the Board approved an Eagle Scout project and established its fall workday. The Board plans to finalize decisions to move forward with purchasing a second commercial swing set; noting this will be brought before the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Township Purchasing Policy. A joint Parks Board/Planning Commission meeting will occur at the regular October Parks Board meeting to discuss the definition of a park, part of the Planning Commission's process to consider an ordinance governing parks. Future agenda items include discussion of the use of solar as a long-term energy solution at the park and a winter photo contest to encourage winter park use. A suggestion was made to modify financial reporting and, subsequent to the meeting, approval of the \$2,000 grant to connect the Kal-Haven Trail with the DE Avenue Park was received from the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ex-officio member Feniger and Planning Commission member Sweitzer noted that a park is land set aside for a purpose and the purpose is what is to be discussed at the joint meeting. Ex-officio member Feniger noted the Planning Commission continues its work on updating the Land Use Plan and that Deputy Supervisor Fisher successfully addressed the restoration of the handicapped parking at one of the area gas stations.

MUSEUM REPORT

Supervisor Vlietstra asked Curator Smith to report. Curator Smith noted, despite inclement weather, a favorable turnout at the 1st Annual Tractor Day. The Museum is closed for the year. Planned improvements include the addition of a library and changing out displays. Trustee Feniger will provide Deputy Supervisor Fisher with several particulars on the furnace for the ARRA grant. Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted the engineers' positive comments during their tour of the Museum in preparation for the grant application.

RECYCLING

Supervisor Vlietstra asked Trustee Feniger to report on junk day. Trustee Feniger noted a TV had been left following the close of junk day. The shorter hours did not appear to negatively impact residents' participation. The shorter hours support the volunteer help and save funds by limiting the hours the compactors are onsite. Two citizens offered positive comments and/or questions. Trustee Feniger clarified the metal collection helps offset the costs of the compactors.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(through September 31, 2009)

General Account:	\$430,016.06
Parks Fund	\$ 5,846.55
Fire Truck Account:	\$ 18,247.76

Treasurer Stoneburner offered her thanks to Deputy Supervisor Fisher for the Fall newsletter; publishing the survey data has been well-received.

Treasurer Stoneburner reported she is fielding phone calls from residents who are confused by receiving what they believe are duplicate absentee ballot applications. Supervisor Vlietstra stated he sent out applications in a mailing he distributed with Clerk Sportel-Bogard's name on the return envelope; callers may be referred to him. Deputy Supervisor Fisher verified with Clerk Sportel-Bogard that the applications she provides are personalized thus distinguishing them from the duplicates sent out by the supervisor.

Treasurer Stoneburner stated she thought the Tractor Day write-up in the Hometown Gazette was very nice.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Sportel-Bogard reported \$40,483.72 in liabilities for the month of September.

Clerk Sportel-Bogard noted overages in the legal fees/notices line items in the budget and recommends a transfer of \$15,000 from contingency, anticipating this will be sufficient through the end of the fiscal year.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to transfer \$15,000 from contingency into legal fees/notices, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Trustee Feniger – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes, Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes. Carried.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

1. Bernard Cronkhite Letter of Agreement

Treasurer Stoneburner noted the upkeep (mowing) of the land adjacent to Green Bauer represents a cost to the Township and by allowing Mr. Cronkhite to farm the land, the land is both tended and a cost to the Township is eliminated.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to allow Mr. Cronkhite to farm the land adjacent to the Green Bauer Cemetery as noted in the Letter of Agreement, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

2. 5th Street: Petition to Abandon

Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted Road Commission Managing Director Johnson's statements: If petitioning does not occur, 5th Street will be considered to be temporarily closed and funding sought to repair the bridge. The cost of such repair to be shared on a 50/50 basis. If petitioning occurs, 5th Street would be considered permanently closed and the bridge deck would be removed, also at a cost of 50/50. The cul-de-sac would be required (also at a 50/50 fee to the Township) if the Jirgens elected not to petition thus necessitating the north end of 5th Street to remain open. Deputy Supervisor Fisher posed two additional questions to the Road Commission: Given the road is currently blocked; and contains no cul-de-sac, why would one become necessary at a later point and also asked a question Trustee Potter-Williams had raised at an earlier meeting, given the Township did not move to close the road, why must costs be equally shared. Trustee Potter-Williams added that lack of bridge maintenance is not the Township's responsibility yet the Township is being asked to share in the costs. Answers to all outstanding questions are anticipated by November to permit a decision on whether to proceed with a petition.

3. Resolution: Building Department Fees

Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted although the Board approved the modified Building Department fees in July, Ordinance 46-62, adopted on September 14, 2009, requires a Resolution to establish fees. Future fee modifications would be made by Resolution but contain only the portions being modified.

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to adopt the Resolution affirming the Building Department fee schedule, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Trustee Potter-Williams – no (voted no to adopt fees in July); Trustee Feniger – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

4. ARRA Update

Deputy Supervisor Fisher noted she took the Johnson Controls staff and engineers through the Fire Station, Township Hall and Museum as part of the process needed to develop the preliminary assessment required for the ARRA grant application. The preliminary assessment will be shared with the Board prior to the grant being filed. Due to time constraints this is anticipated to be in the form of a joint special meeting next week; it is likely, to save on an additional special meeting being called, each township will need to also convene separately to decide whether to proceed in participating in the grant application. Johnson Controls noted a rebate was available for the lighting upgrades completed at the Hall earlier in the spring. Deputy Supervisor Fisher will follow up on this.

5. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Supervisor Vlietstra referenced Jeff VanBelle's review of the NFIP reminding Board members of the Township's lack of participation in the Program has impacted residents' ability to secure flood insurance. It was noted that Mr. VanBelle had advised the Board there is an inability to obtain flood insurance through the federal government without belonging to NFIP; the private flood insurance market is available but more expensive. Application information was not available as expected. Supervisor Vlietstra will secure applications, complete them and provide them to the Board for review and discussion prior to making a determination on whether to proceed. Outstanding questions include impact on building regulations and future obligations.

6. PA 116 - Drobny

The Drobny family has purchased land on B Avenue and has requested to have this holding included in the PA 116 (Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program).

MOTION by Treasurer Stoneburner to permit the addition of the B Avenue holding to the Drobny's existing PA 116 holdings, **support** by Trustee Potter-Williams. Trustee Potter-Williams – yes; Trustee Feniger – yes; Treasurer Stoneburner – yes; Supervisor Vlietstra – yes; Clerk Sportel-Bogard – yes. Carried.

7. MTA Annual Conference

Supervisor Vlietstra noted the Annual MTA Conference will be held in Grand Rapids on January 27-29, 2010.

MOTION by Supervisor Vlietstra to permit any Board member wanting to attend the MTA Annual Conference to be able to do so, **support** by Clerk Sportel-Bogard. Carried.

AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES

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

BOARD MEMBER TIME

Supervisor Vlietstra referenced the training on Speed Limits set for October 15 at 7:00 p.m. (Cooper Township Hall).

Clerk Sportel-Bogard suggested cancelling the November work group meeting.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to cancel the November work group, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried

Clerk Sportel-Bogard provided information on replacement utility tables for the Hall. The existing tables are falling into disrepair and are of a size and weight making movement difficult. She is

recommending replacement of 6 of the tables (30 x 72) plus a storage cart at a total cost of \$1,256.68. This expenditure would be covered by funds in the current budget.

MOTION by Clerk Sportel-Bogard to purchase the 6 tables and cart at a cost of \$1,256.68, **support** by Treasurer Stoneburner. Carried.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Sycketa Giacobone: (Question regarding a dog park in the Township Park). Clarified the dog park was not contemplated for the township park but on private property.

Lorence Wenke: Introduced himself and stated he would like to be the 20th District State Senator in 2010 when Senator George must step down because of term limits. He provided both written and verbal materials with a theme of pledging to value each tax dollar by being mindful of the taxpayer who originally earned it.

David Veenstra (Inquired about the origins/increases in legal fees)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Trustee Potter-Williams to adjourn, **support** by Trustee Feniger. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garilyn Sportel-Bogard
Alamo Township Clerk