

ALAMO TOWNSHIP
7901 NORTH 6th STREET
KALAMAZOO MICHIGAN 49009
MEETING MINUTES / FEBRUARY 25, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Conti with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation given by Trustee VanderWeele.

Members Present: Supervisor Conti, Treasurer Stoneburner, Clerk Endres, Trustee Potter-Williams, Trustee VanderWeele, and Township Attorney John Lohstorfer.

Other interested parties 400 +.

Supervisor Conti opened with a request to rearrange the agenda for the meeting so all non residents could be heard right away and be able to leave, if they wished, after addressing the noise ordinance.

Motion was made by Clerk Endres to change the order of the agenda; supported by Trustee VanderWeele, Carried 5-0.

Approval of January 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Treasurer Stoneburner requested changes in meeting minutes to add ***personal comment**. Personal comment was made regarding Renting of the Township Hall, dates of rental, and the creation of a Policy Committee.

****PER TREASURER REQUEST SEE ATTACHMENT.***

Motion was made by Treasurer Stoneburner to add requested changes to minutes, supported by Trustee Potter-Williams Motion Died 2-3 (opposed /Supervisor Conti, Clerk Endres, Trustee VanderWeele).

Motion was made by Trustee Potter-Williams to approve meeting minutes as written; Supported by Clerk Endres. Motion Carried 4-1 (Treasurer Stoneburner opposed).

Authorization of Liabilities:

Current Liabilities up for approval \$ 16,091.87.

Motion was made by Trustee VanderWeele to authorize payment of Liabilities; Supported by Clerk Endres. Carried 4-1 (Treasurer Stoneburner opposed on grounds that she felt payment should not be made to supply Planning Commission Chair with ink for his computer which he does Township Business on. Clerk Endres stated a Check was never written for that expense and has nothing to do with the current Liabilities up for approval).

Planning Commission Report:

Supervisor Conti introduced the “**Proposed**” Noise Ordinance along with a six step plan that he had worked on with Kalamazoo Speedway owner Gary Howe.

The six step plan:

- 1.) Remove all language from noise ordinance referring to Speedway.
- 2.) Alamo Township will conduct the postponed meeting at Alamo Elementary on February 25, 2013.
- 3.) Alamo Township will consider new noise ordinance minus any speedway provisions at the February 25 meeting.
- 4) Speedway people appear before Planning Commission on March 5 to demonstrate methods (mufflers) and there plan to control noise.

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5.) Planning Commission completes special exception use for speedway and enters into a negotiated agreement on a use with speedway.

6.) Planning Commission suspends any enforcement provisions for one racing season, and will conduct joint tests with speedway to determine compliance with noise levels.

Motion was made by Trustee VanderWeele to approve the six step plan for a Pathway to a resolution between Alamo Township and Kalamazoo Speedway; Supported by Trustee Potter-Williams. Motion Carried 4-1 (Treasurer Stoneburner opposed).

Supervisor Conti opened the meeting up to public comment regarding **Proposed** Noise Ordinance. Comments were heard for 2 hours from 64 interested parties. In summary the majority of the people voiced concern regarding the negative impact on the Kalamazoo Speedway, and were opposed as written.

Several Questions, statements, and concerns were heard, among them were: How will ordinance be enforced, Track has been in Township for 63 years, this is the Country, Special use permit is vague, what is the cost of the 'Special Use Permit', language is not clear, who will enforce ordinance, fireworks display and the ordinance, noon bell, concern on impact of business in township, concerns regarding noise from mowing lawns, snow blowers, driving motorcycles, drive by traffic, diesel trucks driving through township, cutting fire wood, construction, farming, chickens and roosters, and if there is any section that may be pre-empted from State Statutes.

Mr. Howe expressed willingness to work with the Board. He stated he has already cut scheduled practice days by 45% and is requiring every car owner face the direction of the muffler pipes down towards the track instead of outward facing, and will require approved mufflers on all vehicles.

Motion was made by Supervisor Conti to table the Noise Ordinance until the March meeting; Motion failed.

Motion was made by Clerk Endres to send the Noise Ordinance back to the Planning Commission for further review; Supported by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried 4-1 (Treasurer Stoneburner opposed).

Motion was made by Trustee VanderWeele to take a 5 minute recess; Supported by Trustee Potter-Williams. Carried 4-1 (Treasurer Stoneburner opposed).

Supervisors Report:

Supervisor Conti introduced the 2013 / 2014 Proposed Budget. Budget will be heard and approved at a formal Public Hearing in 30 days.

Discussion was heard on reopening the Township Hall to the citizens of the township with the creation of new policies. Supervisor Conti expressed the importance of Policies and would like to follow through with the creation of a Policy Committee.

Clerk Report:

Liabilities for the month of January: \$ 16,091.87.

Cemetery Revenue: \$ 150.00. We received notice from Suburban Tank that the opening and closing of graves will be going up by \$ 50.00 as of March 1, 2013. Treasurer Stoneburner commented that the price has not gone up for a very long time and expressed her approval.

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Election Update: There will be a County wide election May 7th, the only item on the Ballot is a request for the renewal of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority 0.4 mill tax. We will be combining precincts for this election as this is a small election. Voting will take place at the Township Hall.

The Board members have received many emails, 3 letters, a few phone calls, as well as 5 concerned citizens who have stopped by the office to voice their opinion / concerns about the proposed Noise Ordinance.

Treasurers Report:

General Fund:	\$ 137,780.38
Fire Department Fund:	\$ 18,236.07

Building Department Report:

Building Permits	1	\$ 180.00
Electrical Permits	1	\$ 80.00
Mechanical Permits	2	\$ 160.00
Outdoor Wood boiler Permits	1	\$ 25.00
Total Revenue		\$ 445.00

Fire Department Report:

The Alamo Fire Department responded to 30 incidents for the month of January.

Operations: Engine 121 was serviced in January and will be needing a radiator, the estimated cost is \$2,500.00; it still has not passed the pump test. There is still no news on the approval of SCBA grant but hope to hear something within the next two months, this could bring the township \$ 150,000.00 of much needed money to purchase soon to be outdated equipment. Chief Kizer placed a request for \$600.00, from the training budget, so he and Sam Corridini could attend an Investigation class; both Chief Kizer and Sam Corridini are members of the Kalamazoo Fire Investigation Team.

Motion was made by Treasurer Stoneburner to allow Sam Corridini and Chief Kizer to attend the Investigation class for \$ 600.00; Supported by Supervisor Conti. Motion Carried 5-0.

Chief Kizer asked permission to purchase 2 sets of turn out gear (pants/coat) at a cost of \$ 2,055.00 per set.

Motion was made by Treasurer Stoneburner to allow Chief Kizer to purchase 3 sets of Gear at a cost of \$ 2,055.00 per set; Supported by Supervisor Conti. Motion Carried 5-0. (There is money in the budget to purchase these items)

Chief Kizer reminded the Board that March is the month that all the trucks are scheduled for service.

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Parks Board Report:

Parks Board Chair Tim Brittan discussed the present proposed budget and the three main improvements they would like to accomplish this coming fiscal year. Priorities include: 1.) Park Maintenance, 2.) The Installation of gates in the outfields, and 3.) Making the pavilion barrier free assessable. Chair Brittan expressed the importance of making the park improvements barrier free assessable from the parking lot. There have been several projects completed this year with most of the funds being raised through private donation.

Township Road Committee:

The Township road committee along with Supervisor Conti attended an Asset Management Program offered by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and were trained on how to evaluate the township roads. With this knowledge they have voted on the proposed road projects for the upcoming fiscal year. They have voted to continue with what was begun last year and complete the contracted amount for 7th street. Along with 7th Street they have chosen 4 additional projects to present to the Board for approval.

Farmers Market Report:

The Township will host a New Farmers Market. Opening day will be May 14, 2013 at the Alamo Township Park; this is the second Saturday of the month which is the same day as recycling. Citizen Daniel Knight announced as of today there are 20 interested vendors. The vendors will be selling items from Honey, Maple Syrup, and Beef, to Candy and Fresh locally grown Fruit and Organic Vegetables.

Safety Committee Report:

Not a lot to report at this time. Committee Chair Kim Spitzner will be working on setting up neighborhood watch areas. We will be hearing more about this from the officer. (Lieutenant Jeff Christenson)

Old Business:

A.) Reopen Township Hall – With the Hall being closed more than a year ago we would like to make it available to its residents once again, to use for weddings, birthday parties, reunions etc, by simply agreeing to the new use agreement, policy and remitting a \$ 100.00 security deposit. If the hall is returned in the same way the deposit will be returned.

B.) Adopt New Policy and Agreement

Clerk Endres made a Motion to reopen Township Hall and adopt New Policy and Agreement; Supported by Trustee Potter-Williams. Motion Carried 4-1 (Treasurer Stoneburner opposed sighting concerns for security of offices and the care of the facility).

New Business:

A.) **2013/2014 presentation of proposed Budget.** Supervisor Conti presented a proposed balanced Budget for fiscal year 2013/2014.

****SUPERVISOR CONTI INTRODUCED SALARY RESOLUTION 1***

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RESOLUTION DIED.

B.) **Policy Committee.** Supervisor Conti discussed the creation of a Policy Committee. A Resolution was presented by Supervisor Conti and Supported by Trustee Potter-Williams to establish a Policy Committee to be comprised of up to 5 members and whose duties are to clarify existing and establish new policies to assist in the operation of Township government and it's departments. Resolution Carried 4-1 (by roll call vote Treasurer Stoneburner opposed) Supervisor Conti also asked for Volunteers. (See attached Resolution)

Citizen Comments of non-agenda Items:

Comment was heard from 11 people. Comments ranged from the noise ordinance, availability of 2012 meeting minutes on the Web site, legal counsel, committee members, bridge hazard, taxes paid by speedway, to the 6 point agreement Mr. Howe and Supervisor Conti had worked on.

Board Member Time:

Comment was heard concerning: The presentation of Eagle Scout Project (Foot Bridge) to the Township Board and the Parks Board, Authorization to pay Woodwork Specialties and Consumers Concrete, Opening the Township Hall, Proposed Budget, Reimbursements, and working together.

Motion was made by Supervisor Conti to adjourn the meeting; Supported by Trustee VanderWeele Motion Carried 5-0

Meeting Adjourned 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Endres
Alamo Township Clerk