

**ALAMO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

AUGUST 11, 2014

Alamo Township Hall  
7901 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

The August 11, 2014 meeting was called to order at 7:00p, by Supervisor, Lou Conti. Members present were Lou Conti, Supervisor~Mary Stoneburner, Treasurer~Dawn Potter-Williams, Trustee~and Gail VanderWeele, Trustee. Absent was Laura Endres, Clerk. Another sixteen residents were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was cited. At the Supervisor's request, a moment of silence was given for Laura Endres' Mother, whom was experiencing difficulty after having surgery.

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Corrections requested:

1) Under approval of minutes, it should state~Motion was made by Trustee VanderWeele to approve the meeting minutes: *for July 14, 2014* (needs to be added)...

2) Under Fire and Rescue: Personnel: it should state~Chief Kizer presented the names of three *new* (needs to be added) firefighters...

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee, Dawn Potter-William, and supported by Supervisor, Lou Conti. Motion carried 4-0

**\*AUTHORIZATION OF LIABILITIES:**

Supervisor, Lou Conti, gave the report. Trustee, VanderWeele made a motion to approve payment of the liabilities. It was supported by Supervisor, Lou Conti. Motion carried 4-0

**\*REPORTS:**

**\*SUPERVISOR:**

Supervisor, Lou Conti stated Hart Drive was nearly completed, the barrier free sidewalks at the park has been completed, the Farmers Market and Crafters had another successful year, and the official transfer of 5<sup>th</sup> Street has been given to Alamo Township from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. Conti also thanked Trustee VanderWeele, for sprucing up the restrooms. He ended with a statement from President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

**\*CLERK/SEXTON REPORT:**

Supervisor, Lou Conti, gave the Clerk's report:

July, 2014 liabilities: \$26,848.15 Treasurer, Stoneburner, asked about the invoice from AI where gravel is listed. Conti said he will have to look at, for he had not seen it.

In the **Clerks report**, it stated:

**\*ELECTIONS:** All Election Inspectors have been through training and are certified to work elections for the next two years. We have a great group of Election Inspectors. The August 5, 2014 Primary Election ran smooth. In Precinct 1 there was a 17% turnout; of the 202 votes, 66 were Absentee Voters. In Precinct 2 there was a 12% turnout; of the 279 votes, 128 were Absentee Voters. We incorporated a Receiving Board in this election and plan on using an Absentee Voter Counting Board in the November, 2014 Gubernatorial Election, provided a M-100 tabulator may be borrowed from another district.

**\*CEMETERY:**

Income for July, 2014: \$350.00

A complaint was made regarding the overhanging branches along neighboring property lines in the Alamo Center Cemetery. Clerk Endres, stated she planned on waiting until Fall for this maintenance

project in order to eliminate the chance of killing any trees. However, she is proceeding with this project, and it should show much improvement.

**\*TREASURER:**

*General Account:	\$176,850.46
*Trust & Agency	559.33
*Current Tax	73,380.32 (paid out twice a month)
*Fire Truck Fund	18,238.80
*Surplus Account	61,955.15

\*CD: (PNC) Closed out on 7-29-2014 ~ \$50,977.89 Put into the General Account

\*CD: (FIRST NATIONAL BANK) Closed out on 6-4-2014 ~ \$250,123.08 Put into the Savings Account

\*Insured Cash Sweep Money Market Saving: \$233,496.15

Treasurer, Stoneburner stated there are no more CD's  
Supervisor, Conti reported the Kalamazoo Foundation: \$102,327.41

**\*DEPARTMENTS:**

**\*BUILDING DEPARTMENT:**

*Building Permits	6	\$1,804.00
*Electrical IPermits	7	1,010.00
*Mechanical Permits	3	420.00
Outdoor Wood Boiler/Permits/Misc.	0	
TOTALS	16	\$3,234.00

**\*FIRE AND RESCUE:**

Fire Chief, Kizer was not in attendance. There was a firefighter present and reported 15 runs, Alamo Department trained with neighboring departments and another will soon take place with Cooper Township F&R Department. He stated 8-18-14 will be a primary training for SBCA

**\*PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Newt Covault, Chair reported the language zoning changes are complete and has submitted to the Board of Trustees approval. Newt stated many, many hours has been put into these changes via meetings at the township hall and in the Commissions homes. This will be placed on the September's agenda. The Land Use Plan should be finished by September. The truck wash is going well. ~~K&L~~ **J&K** Machining is underway with new construction. The HC (High Caliber) business is going well.

**\*PARK BOARD:**

Supervisor, Conti gave the Parks Board Report. He stated things are progressing. Patrols have been normal with nothing unusual found. There is a lot of excitement now that the township has acquired 5<sup>th</sup> Street where the park can extend and tie into the Kal-Haven Trail.

**\*OLD BUSINESS:**

**\*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC):**

Supervisor, Conti reported the EDC will be holding a meeting on September 3, 2014, at

12:00 noon. It will be held at VanDam and Krusinga, on Ravine Road. A Power Point Presentation will be given regarding the US131/12<sup>th</sup> Street Commercial/Industrial district. If you wish to attend, please RSVP by August 15 at 382-3366. Treasurer, Stoneburner asked who the committee members were. Lou stated, Duane Bogard, Dan Scheffers, Beldon Smith, and Tony LoBretto. EDC announced the new 'Business Exchange Directory' that is now on the township's website. One can follow the prompts to add their business or may stop in the office to pick up an application. This page is an informational listing of businesses and businesses service that are provided by township residents.

**\*NEW "WELCOME WAGON" LETTER:**

Trustee, VanderWeele tweaked the Welcome Letter to go to new residents moving into Alamo Township. Supervisor, Conti reported he has recently sent nine letters out. He stated Dave Veenstra is able to provide the real estate closings in Alamo Township. Treasurer, Stoneburner asked if it would be possible for all board members to obtain the listings as well. Supervisor, Conti said that he would be happy to do that.

**\*NEW BUSINESS:**

**\*WEB PAGE~COMMUNITY NOTES PAGE:**

Supervisor, Conti proposed having a Community Notes page added to the township's website.

On it, only Alamo Township residents can submit via web site, stopping in the office, or calling to have their notice put on the web page. It could include yard sales, estate sales, or a local event

and etc. The event must be for your own benefit or a nonprofit organization. No business promotion or political advertising will be allowed. The site will have two pages; one for the applicant and the second the Community Note Page. Conti said he would monitor the page so as to remove items after the dates have passed. Conti stated it would not exceed \$100.00 for this to be implemented. Supervisor, Conti made a motion to have this addition on the township's website, Trustee, Potter-Williams second it. The motion carried 3-1. Treasurer, Stoneburner, stated she opposed because it should be looked into more, before jumping into it.

**\*ESTABLISH NATURAL GAS COMMITTEE:**

With a possibility of State subsidy in the future for natural gas to be made available for Alamo Township, Supervisor, Conti, would like to establish a citizens committee to explore the possibilities of expanding natural gas access in our Township. He proposes the committee will be responsible for developing a plan, with residents input. They will educate the citizens on the plus and minuses of converting their existing system. A resolution will be in place before the committee is established. After discussion, it was determined the committee will be made up of five to seven residents. Supervisor, Conti, made a motion to establish a Natural Gas Committee made up of five to seven residents. Trustee, Potter-Williams supported it. A roll call was taken. Conti-yes~Potter-Williams-yes~VanderWeele-yes~Stoneburner-no~Endres-absent. The motion passed 3-1. Gary VanderVeen stated he was pleased that we were getting a committee together and spoke shortly of how much of a savings it is and will be for others.

**\*ROAD PROGRAM UPDATE:**

Supervisor, Conti, reported Hart Drive was looking fantastic. He stated if it hadn't rained today, it might have been finished. He hopes it will be completed by Wednesday. Trustee, VanderWeele, asked if the trees that were marked with a big red circle on them, had been cut down. Conti indicated not all of them had been. Pauline Kizer said they were still determining if they would be cut down. Conti reported D Avenue/2<sup>nd</sup> Street is now complete.

**\*RECYCLING COORDINATOR:**

Supervisor, Conti, stated the township is in need of getting help for the recycling days. He stated the number of years he has been spearheading the program, and it's time to look for

another way in which it will be handled. Conti said he has talked with the Boy Scouts Leaders and they may be interested. Trustee, VanderWeele stated she felt if the Boy Scouts were to help in this capacity, it should be volunteer, and not for pay. Trustee, Potter-Williams asked that we look into other possible options and discuss it at our September meeting. It was agreed verbally.

**\*MTA EXAMINES UNLAWFUL EXPENDITURES WORKSHOP:**

MTA is offering a workshop for township officials to attend. The workshop, Perfectly Legal: Disclosure & Lawful Expenditures, will be 1-4pm on September 18 @Holiday Inn, Battle Creek, September 23 @Valley Plaza Resort in Midland, and September 25 @Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls. Trustee, Potter-Williams made a motion to make this available to anyone interested in attending. Treasurer, Stoneburner supported. Motion carried 4-0.

**\*TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL:**

Supervisor, Conti, reported for Clerk, Endres additions to the Township Hall Rental Agreement: \*restricting what it can be rented for (ex: tupperware parties, garage sales, etc.). \*the number of times one person can rent in a year for free \*the security deposit can be picked up only during regular office hours after facility has been inspected and the key has been returned. After some discussion, Trustee Potter-Williams suggested this to be tabled until next months meeting so Clerk, Endres can explain more. It was agreed upon verbally.

**\*ASSESSOR'S CONTRACT ADJUSTMENT:**

Clarification was made in regards to the structure of the funds received for Land Parcel Combinations. MOTION was made to set the fee disbursement for Land Parcel Combinations as follows: Assessors to receive \$75.00, and the Township to receive the balance of \$75.00 per Combination by Trustee Potter-Williams, Supported by Supervisor Conti. Motion Carried 4-0.

**\*CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Tony LoBretto extended an invitation to attend Firefighter, Tom Molenaar's, retirement party. He served on Alamo's Fire and Rescue Department for 28 years. It will be Sunday, August 17, from 1:00 to 3:00pm with a short ceremony at 2:00pm at the Township Hall. New Covault, referenced how The Alamo Foundation is only one of a kind where the monies stay in our Township. From the Foundation, scholarships will be awarded to selected Heronwood students.

**\*BOARD TIME:**

Supervisor, Conti announced there will be a Township Energy Workshop on October 15, at 7:00pm, at the Township Hall. It will be informational as to how to better energize your home. Conti said there will be a reminder in the next newsletter. Conti said the township's Audit on Assessing was good and we have no fear of the state taking over. Trustee, VanderWeele, asked if The Kalamazoo County Road Commission will be installing a blinking light at the D Avenue/2<sup>nd</sup> Street intersection. Conti said no and Trustee, Potter-Williams said it is death based.

**\*ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Trustee, Potter-Williams and supported by Supervisor, Conti to adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm... Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail VanderWeele  
Alamo Township Trustee