

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 17, 2023**

2023-37 CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Alpine Township Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on March 20, 2023, at the Alpine Township Meeting Room located at 5255 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, Michigan, 49321 with due notice. Supervisor Madura called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present were Supervisor Greg Madura, Clerk Emily Symko, Treasurer Beth Alt, Trustees Mike Wahlfield, and Ron Cordes. Absent were Trustees Rob Scheidel and William Schweitzer. Also present was Planning Director Sue Becker.

A motion was made by Wahlfield with support from Cordes to approve the Agenda. The motion passes 5-0, with Schweitzer and Scheidel absent.

Trustee William Schweitzer arrives at 7:01 p.m.

2023-38 CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented in a motion offered by Wahlfield with support from Cordes. The motion carries 6-0, with Scheidel absent.

2023-39 CONSIDERATION OF VOUCHERS/BILLS

A motion was offered by Cordes with support from Wahlfield to approve the payment of vouchers, for the period 03/21/2023-04/18/2023. The motion carried 6-0, with Scheidel absent.

2023-40 PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public comment offered at this time.

2023-41 COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission: Cordes- Meeting is Thursday, April 20, 2023.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Schweitzer- Did not meet. The board attended a class.

Historical Commission: Wahlfield- Maple Syrup contest was well attended. First and Second place winners were awarded a gift card. The community room remodel is scheduled for the beginning of May.

Sewer & Water: Madura- The massive rains have kept the sewer plant on high alert. They have had 4 days of 24 hour monitoring the levels, but it never breached. Plainfield has distributed flood kits in the past to homeowners in susceptible flood areas.

Parks & Rec: Madura- Work for the pavilion and pickleball courts started on Friday.

Library: Knapp- absent, handout given to Board Members.

2023-42 REZONING #23-01, OSN-PUD, OPEN SPACE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AT 2451 & 2555 4 MILE ROAD NW. (WILDER CROSSINGS)

Rick Pulaski from Nederveld and Howie Heher from GWCC and JTB Homes are in attendance. Madura opens the discussion with the Board. At the March Board meeting, the request was tentatively approved based on the findings of facts to be discussed tonight.

The Board discusses the request and reviews the findings of facts. Alt states she disagrees with a few of the findings of facts, and it will be a big change to the beautiful Township. Trustee Schweitzer concurs with the findings of facts as presented. Madura states that the property turned R-1 about 14 years ago, and states it is not currently used as farmland, so it will preserve the surrounding farmland from being developed. The land across Peach Ridge Avenue was good farmland about 12 years ago and has since been developed. Madura shares many developers are interested in Alpine Township. Wahlfield agrees with the findings of facts as presented. Symko also agrees with the findings of facts and agrees that it is not taking away current farmland. No further discussion from the board.

Wahlfield: "I, Mike Wahlfield, make a motion to approve the Findings of Facts one through eleven, and Conditions of Approval one through ten, as stated in Rezoning #23-01; thereby granting full rezoning approval from R-1, Low Density Residential to OSN-PD, Open Space Planned Unit Development for properties addressed 2555 and 2451 4 Mile Road NW, together with the Preliminary Development Plan."

Motion made by Wahlfield with support from Schweitzer, to approve the requested rezoning from R-1, Low Density Residential to OSN-PUD. Open Space Neighborhood Planned Unit Development for the parcels noted above as it meets the Township Master Plan and to order publication of the zoning ordinance map change. Motion passes 5-1 in a roll call vote as follows:

AYE: Cordes, Symko, Madura, Schweitzer, Wahlfield

NAY: Alt

ABSENT: Scheidel

2023-43 Update-American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

Treasurer Alt gives updates on ARPA funds. Big plans are underway for Alpine Township Sports Park using CBDG grant money. Next month, we will be getting bids to redo both entrances at the Township Office. The pavement is uneven and causes problems with the doors latching properly.

Cordes makes a motion to obtain bids for the improvement to the East and West entrance to the Township Office, with support from Alt. Motion carried 6-0, with Scheidel absent.

Consumer's Energy has recommended switching to LED lights over installing solar panels because of roof concerns and space limitations. The optimal time to plan for solar panels will be in line with a new roof installation. Wahlfield suggests Fire Station #3 for solar panels as they have the space.

2023-44 Fire Department

Chief Klomparens gave the department update. March had ninety-four alarms. New trucks are in, and the slide-outs have been installed. A consultation has taken place for the fabrication of boxes for the trucks. Madura, Symko, and Wahlfield attended a policy meeting with the Chief to discuss the Lexipol policy implementation, and to discuss Township specific employee policies. After the final draft, the Township Attorney will review for final approval. Alt and Symko participated in the interview process for a new full-time firefighter for the Township. The Chief would like to move forward with candidate Dan Royce. He has 26 years of experience, trained in EMS and an adjunct instructor. He has retired from Wyoming Fire Department, where they are used to running high call volume.

Motion made by Schweitzer, with support from Cordes, to hire Dan Royce as a full-time Firefighter, contingent on the candidate passing the required pre-hire tests. Motion passes 6-0, with Schiedel absent.

The Chief also asks for a promotion in Title only for 2 current full-time firefighters. The chief requests the corresponding pay increase to take place July 1st, in line with the new fiscal year. He feels both employees have been with the Township for many years and have earned many certificates. Brian Stalsonburg is currently an Instructor II and Chief recommends a title change to Lieutenant. Trevor Driesenga has been with the Township for five years and is currently working on earning the Instructor I certificate. The Chief recommends a title change for Driesenga to Equipment Operator.

Motion made by Cordes, with support from Symko, to immediately promote in title only, Driesenga to Equipment Operator, and Stalsonburg to Lieutenant. Appropriate wage increases will be in effect July 1st, 2023. Motion passed 6-0 with Schiedel absent.

2023-45 PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Sanders 2634 Schindler Drive. Sad day for democracy. There is a lack of attention to rezoning, and the board ignored the density issue. The board got it wrong. The amount of homes is too dense. States he doesn't believe anyone is in support of this project.

Peggy Brechting 1275 6 Mile Road. She agrees with Ken Sanders. The Planning commission voted no, did the Board not read their packets? The Township will take a turn for the worse. It will no longer be beautiful.

Mike Brechting 4700 Gibbs. He agrees with Ken. Disappointed with the Board, except for Beth. The Board is not listening to the people. When are we going to address the Master Plan? The survey shows what people want. We are opening the door for more problems.

Cheryl Pierre 2700 Schindler Drive. She agrees with Ken. The vote was not unanimous. The board did not state any facts, only their opinions. They wanted OSN-PUD, not R-1. The Zoning commission should have been present. The board did not represent. The Board did not do justice to the community.

Tony Brechting 1307 6 Mile Road. He is disappointed. He feels like the Planning Commission did not do their job.

2023-46 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Wahlfield talks about recent events in Ottawa County. Ottawa County has eliminated any public comment at the end of their Board Meetings. John Gibbs is the head of the committee. Wahlfield also discusses bringing back the Memorial Day Service in the cemetery. Township Officials and Fire Chief read the names of the Veterans in our cemeteries. Wahlfield recommends the information be in the next Harvester. Chief Klomprens offers the Fire Department to assist.

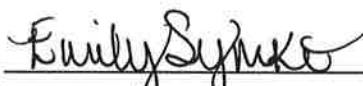
Trustee Schweitzer concurs with bringing back the Memorial Day Service.

2023-47 ADJOURNMENT


Motion made by Cordes to adjourn the meeting, with support from Schweitzer. Motion passes 6-0 with Scheidel absent.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Symko, Clerk



Greg Madura, Supervisor