

**MINUTES  
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2022**

**2022-123      CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Alpine Township Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Monday, August 15, 2022 at the Alpine Township Meeting Room, 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 Jean Wahlfield, Treasurer Beth Alt and Trustees Ron Cordes, Rob Scheidel, and William Schweitzer. Mike Wahlfield was absent.

The Supervisor proposed one addition to the Agenda which is the Consumer's Energy Franchise Ordinance and Agreement for consideration.

**A motion was offered by Cordes with support from Schweitzer to approve the Agenda with one addition. The motion carried 6-0 with M. Wahlfield absent.**

**The Consent Agenda was approved as presented in a motion offered by Cordes with support from Schweitzer. The motion carried 6-0 with M. Wahlfield absent.**

**2022-124      CONSIDERATION OF VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**A motion was offered by Scheidel with support from Cordes to approve the payment of vouchers for the period 07/18/22 through 08/17/22 as presented. The motion carried 6-0 with M. Wahlfield absent.**

**2022-125      PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received at this time.

**2022-126      COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Planning Commission: Cordes** – Approved a Rezoning Request to A, Agricultural for Ben Karas for property located at 4357 Cordes Avenue NW consisting of 8.56 acres. The Commission denied a request from Abandoned Acres for the addition of an escape room on the property.

**Zoning Board of Appeals: Schweitzer** – The Board did not meet.

**Historical Commission: Madura** – The Commission did not hold a meeting in July. Work continues for the 175th Anniversary open house projects.

**Sewer & Water: Madura** – No report about public sewer. The EGLE letter about Alpine Meadows Mobile Home Park was briefly discussed.

**Parks & Recreation: Scheidel** – A meeting was not held.

**Library – Knapp:** The monthly newsletter was in the Board packets.

**2022-127 KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY – COMMUNITY REPORT**

Representatives from the Kent District Library were present to highlight data and information contained in the 2021 KDL Community Report.

Alpine Library Board Representative Penny Weller stated that the Summer Wonder reading program was huge this year and the summer meals program was available all summer in the Alpine Library.

KDL Director Lance Werner noted he appreciates that the Alpine Library Staff and Township work well to make great things happen. Yearly circulation numbers continue to increase.

Alpine KDL Manager Liz Knapp shared information about new online services offered by the KDL and other community opportunities for KDL library members. She shared patron stories that highlighted the great service provided by the Alpine Library Staff and appreciation for the library.

**2022-128 REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION FROM NOISE ORDINANCE-ABANDONED ACRES – 7737 FRUIT RIDGE NW FOR HAUNTED CORN MAZE**

Frank and Amy Stabile have requested an exception from the noise ordinance for their Abandoned Acres Farm Haunted Attraction located at 7737 Fruit Ridge Avenue NW. Board members discussed the request noting that the parking issues were addressed last year by using more lighting and arrows. The Township is not aware of any noise complaints from last year.

**A motion was offered by Scheidel with support from Alt to approve the exception from the noise ordinance for the Abandoned Acres Farm Haunted Attraction located at 7737 Fruit Ridge Avenue NW for September 23 & 24, 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm, September 30 and every Friday and Saturday in October, dusk – 12:00 am, and October 9, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30, & 31, dusk – 10:00 pm. The motion carried 6-0 with M. Wahlfield absent.**

**2022-129 FINAL READING OF REZONING #22-01 – 4357 CORDES AVENUE NW TO A, AGRICULTURAL**

Ben and Kelli Karas were present at this meeting as well as property owner Fred Schweitzer for the rezoning request of the 8.56-acre southern portion of the 15.82-acre property addressed 4357 Cordes Avenue from R-1, low density Residential to A, Agricultural. The Planning Commission recommended approval at their July meeting. The property split has been completed as well as the filing of a driveway easement.

**Motion offered by Cordes, with support from Schweitzer to approve Rezoning #22-01 to rezone the 8.56 acre southern portion of the 15.82 acres property addressed as 4357 Cordes Avenue (41-09-35-100-027) from R-1 to A, Agricultural including the Findings of Fact and to order publication. Motion carried 6-0 with M. Wahlfield absent in a roll call vote.**

**2022-130 CONSIDERATION OF CONSUMER'S ENERGY FRANCHISE ORDINANCE AND AGREEMENT**

The Supervisor stated that the Township has received a proposed franchise ordinance and agreement for Consumers Energy Company to conduct a local electric business in Alpine Township for a period of 30 years.

**A motion was offered by Cordes with support from Scheidel to renew the Agreement and Franchise Ordinance with Consumer's Energy for a period of 30 years and to Authorize the Supervisor to sign the Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0 with M. Wahlfield absent.**

**2022-131 DISCUSSION OF PRIORITY HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES**

The Supervisor discussed the topic of health insurance. The Township will be paying for 80% of insurance cost with the employee paying 20%. The topic of whether this applies to single or the higher family premiums and rates was discussed. The Deputy Chief noted that there is plenty of room in the budget to cover the single or family premiums for firefighters.

Also discussed was the life and disability insurance for firefighters.

**2022-132 UPDATE – NEW FIRE STATION #1- 1100 HENZE STREET NW**

Jeremy Kelly explained that the telephones and paging systems were not connected to the bay areas at new Fire Station #1. When the administrative person is gone, the rest of the station does not hear the phone or doorbell ring at the front of the office. The Fire Department will continue to work to resolve this problem as well as removal of epoxy on the bay floors.

**2022-133 FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Fire Department answered 93 alarms for July. Chief Klomparens contacted EPS security for a quote for more security cameras to be placed at new Fire Station 1. The recommendation is that three additional cameras be added at a cost of approximately \$7,500. The Chief will bring camera location and information for consideration at the next meeting. An additional problem at the new fire station is that drivers has been cutting over an area of the lawn that connects to another drive at the fire station. The Board suggested that additional landscaping such as boulders or cement parking bumpers should be added to the area of concern to prevent the problem.

The Deputy Chief requested information about the retirement/pension amounts that need to be conveyed to new firefighters. This item and other employment issues will be addressed when the new employee policy is updated.

Full-time firefighter candidate Lance Olney has passed his physical exam and has all the required testing and assessments completed. The fire chief is recommending that Alpine Township hire Olney at a starting salary of \$40,00 with a beginning work date of 08/21/22.

**A motion was offered by Scheidel with support from Schweitzer to hire Lance Olney as full-time firefighter for Alpine Township as he as successfully completed the required testing and assessments at a salary rate of \$40,000 and a beginning work date of 08/21/22. Motion carried 6-0, with M. Wahlfield absent.**

The Supervisor explained that Charlee Cordes Weatherwax has completed and passed Inspector 1, Fire Officer, and Building Inspector courses and has submitted certification that she has successfully completed these training programs. The Supervisor recommended that Cordes Weatherwax receive a salary increase to \$46,500 annually. This recommendation was supported by the fire chief and the Board discussed the pay increase recommendation. Treasurer Alt suggested the fire chief create a pay scale for future full-time hires based on education courses and experience as a reference.

**Motion offered by Scheidel with support from Cordes to approve a pay increase for Charlee Cordes Weatherwax to \$46,500 annually starting with the next payroll date which is 8/23/22. Motion passes 6-0 with M. Wahlfield absent.**

**2022-134 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andy Stachowiak, 6870 Vinton Avenue NW, stated that something needs to be done about what people leaving items in the cemeteries. It makes it difficult to maintain the grounds and causes damage to his lawn mowing equipment. People don't maintain the plants and bushes, and it creates more work for him. The Supervisor suggested placing signs on the building or gates.

**2022-135 SUPERVISOR AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Supervisor noted that the Township Auditors will be at the Township on 8/16/2022 to conduct the required annual audit. Rental of the soccer field at the sports park are underway for the fall season. The Supervisor thanked Trustee Cordes for the work done at the Sports Park and Alpine Center Cemetery.

**2022-136 ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Scheidel with support from Alt. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

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Greg Madura, Supervisor