13-54  CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Alpine Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 2013 at the Alpine Township Hall, 5255 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, Michigan, 49321 with due notice. Supervisor Arends called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisor Alex Arends, Clerk Jean Wahlfield, Treasurer Jim Townsend, and Trustees Ron Cordes, Jim May, William Schweitzer, and Mike Wahlfield.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the Consent and the Regular Agenda as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

13-55  CONSIDERATION OF VOUCHERS AND BILLS

A motion was offered by Townsend, with support from May, to approve the check register for the period 04/03/13 thru 04/16/13 and the payment of the invoices for the period ending 04/17/13 which includes the addition of an invoice for Norman Camera presented at this meeting. The motion carried 7-0.


A motion was offered by Schweitzer, with support from M. Wahlfield, to open the public hearing for the Great Lakes Label, LLC request for industrial facilities tax abatement for personal property located at 910 Metzgar Drive NW. The motion carried 7-0.

President John Anthony Cook explained that the abatement request is for $1,141,243 of new personal property. Great Lakes has experienced growth in their business and added 6 employees in 2012. He anticipates hiring 6-7 new employees in 2013 and currently has 42 employees and two work shifts. Great Lakes is anticipating that they will be ready for an addition to their existing building at the end of the fourth quarter.

Noting that no public comments were offered, a motion close the public hearing for the Great Lakes tax abatement request was offered by May, with support from M. Wahlfield. The motion carried 7-0.

Board members discussed the Great Lakes abatement request and verified with the applicant that 6 to 7 new jobs will be created due to the addition of the new equipment.
A motion was offered by M. Wahlfield, with support from Townsend, to approve Resolution #13-07 for Great Lakes Label, LLC located at 910 Metzgar Court NW approving the Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement Certificate for New Personal Property for a period of 12 years. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

May offered a motion, with support from Schweitzer, to Approve Agreement #13-02 which is a property tax abatement agreement with Great Lakes Label, LLC located at 910 Metzgar Court NW. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

13-57  PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Weld, KDL Alpine Branch Manager, thanked the Board for the financial support of library branch programs. She appreciated the Township offer to have Library staff participate in the recent CPR and AED training. Weld discussed the good collaboration between the Township and Alpine KDL branch with Alpine Staff especially sharing the use of the Board meeting room and the CIP setting aside funds for a future library building.

13-58  COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission: Cordes - The Commission approved the site plan presented by CEI for an addition to their existing building which is located at 940 7-Mile Road NW.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Schweitzer – York Woods Condo Association submitted a request for two variances one for a parking area and one for a zero setback in the front yard. Both variance requests were denied.

Historical Committee: Schweitzer – The annual Maple Syrup Tasting and Judging will be held at the Alpine Elementary School on Sunday, April 21, 2013.

Sewer & Water: Arends – Arends reported that the sewer agreement with Plainfield Township has been signed and $135,000 has been received as part of the agreement. Negotiations continue with the Kenowa Hills School District to obtain a sewer easement to service the Somerset Meadows development. Correspondence regarding this topic was included in the Board packets.

Parks & Recreation: May – The March meeting was held in Westgate Park and the next meeting will also take place at the Park as discussion continues on upgrades to the Park property.

Community Development Committee: M. Wahlfield – The committee met on March 26. Creating a business directory was discussed as well as using an intern for this process. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 a.m. in the Township Offices.

13-59  LAMOREAUX SIDEWALK PROJECT – K.C. ROAD COMMISSION TO ACT AS PROJECT MANAGER FOR TOWNSHIP

Board members reviewed the K.C. Road Commission Engineer’s Opinion of Costs for the Lamoreaux Sidewalk project from Alpine Avenue east to the Township boundary line which is dated 03/05/2013. The projected cost estimate is $187,602. Supervisor Arends noted that an amount of $200,000 has been slated for this project in the CIP. He is requesting that the Board appoint and approve the K.C.
Road Commission to be the project manager and oversee the project on behalf of the Township. A map of the project was available for review.

Board members discussed the project and the merits of asphalt versus concrete sidewalk. It was noted that enough time exists for the concrete to cure before the use of salt in the winter and that properly sealing the concrete is very important.

**A motion was offered by May, with support from Cordes, to approve the K.C. Road Commission as the project manager for the Lamoreaux Sidewalk project which is from Alpine Avenue to the Township Boundary to be completed this summer. The motion carried 7-0.**

Following a question from May it was noted that the bid for the project has not been let out to contractors and that the K.C. Road Commission will oversee the bid process.

**13-60 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #13-06 – NKSA LIFT STATION ALARM BID**

The North Kent Sewer Authority worked to obtain a SFR loan for Mission alarm and signaling monitoring units for lift stations as well as other equipment. The Alpine Board previously decided to pay for the Mission monitoring equipment directly out of the sewer fund as Alpine has only two lift stations that need to be outfitted. Competitive bids were obtained and DVT Electric was the lower bidder. The amount for Alpine Township is slated at $8,340 as well as a contingency amount. The resolution for consideration tentatively awards the bid pending successful financial arrangements with the SRF fund.

**A motion was offered by May, with support from Townsend, to approve Resolution #13-06 - Approving the Tentative Award of Construction Contracts for Wastewater System Improvements to DVT Electric, Inc. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.**

**13-61 REVIEW REQUEST FROM HOP RIDGE FARMS – PDR PROGRAM**

Board members received the email dated 04/09/13 from Bethany and Andrew Debski regarding the Purchase of Development Rights Program. Their farm located on 7-Mile Road is applying to the PDR program in Kent County. The Debski’s are requesting that the Township Board establish a line item in the annual budget and a $2,000 contribution from the Township in support of their application and the program.

Board members discussed the information with May noting that farmland is selling for more at this time than what the PDR program is paying for development rights.

*The Board did not take any action on the request and noted that the Debski’s are in the application process at this stage.*
13-62  FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Klomparens provided several updates. The Alpine Fire Department has received the $2,000 donation from the Monsanto Fund. The committee created to pull together specs for the new Medic 7 SUV has continued its work and have done some observations of similar trucks recently purchased by area fire departments. Lt. Kelly recently attended a leadership conference. Preventive maintenance of fire apparatus continues.

The Chief reviewed the results of the recent MABAS exercise which tested for three objectives involving communication. Proper documentation is very important. The next exercises are planned in the month of June and September.

Deputy Fire Chief Lakso has announced that he will be retire from his position as Deputy Chief but will remain with the Alpine Department as a firefighter.

Supervisor Arends thanked Lasko for his service as Deputy Fire Chief on behalf of the residents of Alpine Township. The Board expressed their appreciation for the work done by Lakso especially for his assistance and helpfulness during the transition period to a new Fire Chief.

Trustee May discussed the holding and organizing the firefighter rescue and training program that is specific to agricultural equipment at his farm.

13-63  WORKSHOP AND REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 2014 BUDGET

Supervisor Arends reviewed the draft budget document dated 03/29/2013 which was distributed in the Board packets. He noted that revenues and the fire department budget items were reviewed at the special meeting on April 1, 2013. At that meeting it was the consensus of the Board to reinstate the employee pension to the 2008 rate of 10% of wages for full time employees including elected officials. Arends noted that that budget document reflects an extra $100 in the health benefit line item for each employee. The Supervisor suggested that for Township Board members that participate on other committees are paid a $30.00 per diem stipend for each meeting they attend.

The Fire Department budget was discussed as a recommendation has been made by Chief Klomparens to eliminate the EMS night duty pay. Instead he has proposed that firefighters responding to a night call are paid $40.00 for first hour to run the call and then are paid the regular night rate. The future purchase a new turnout gear was discussed as the gear is good for 10 years per code. Board members discussed setting aside funds in the CIP now for future purchases.

The Supervisor discussed an increase in pay for the Planning Director of 2% in addition to the restoration of the pension for full time employees. He explained that the Planning Director has gone above and beyond her regular duties and taken on addition responsibilities such as the CIP and recreation plan. The draft budget document reflects this change.

Board members discussed the increase in the Planning Director wages and it was the consensus that the FY 2014 budget reflect a 2% increase in wages.
Treasurer Township discussed a decrease in the Township administration fee which is currently at one-half of a percent. He suggested that the fee decrease by another one-quarter of a percent in the FY 2014 budget.

Board members discussed the decrease of the Township administration fee by one-quarter of percent and the result was that the administration fee will remain the same as in the current FY 2013 budget which is one-half of a percent.

13-64 SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR FISCALY YEAR 2014 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

A motion was offered by May with support from Townsend, to set Monday, May 20, 2013 as the public hearing date for the Fiscal Year 2014 budget. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

13-65 PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered at this time.

13-66 SUPERVISORS REPORTS, BOARD COMMENTS, AND ADJOURNMENT

Board comments were received on the positive things that are happening in the agricultural and industrial areas of the Township

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

Alex Arends, Supervisor