

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

2014-127 CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Alpine Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014 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. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present were Supervisor Alex Arends, Clerk Jean Wahlfield, Treasurer Jim Townsend, and Trustees Ron Cordes, Jim May, Mike Wahlfield and William Schweitzer.

A motion was offered by May, with support from Townsend, to approve the Consent Agenda and approve the Regular Agenda as presented. There was no further discussion and the motion carried 7-0.

2014-128 CONSIDERATION OF VOUCHERS/BILLS

A motion was offered by Townsend, with support from May, to approve the payment of checks, invoices, and the five additional vouchers for the period ending 11/17/2014. The motion carried 7-0.

2014-129 PRESENTATION – DOWNTOWN & RIVER CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN

Suzanne Schulz, Planning Director for the City of Grand Rapids gave a presentation on the master plan process to create a new downtown and river corridor.

2014-130 PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

2014-131 COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commission: Cordes – No report

Zoning Board of Appeals: Schweitzer – Did not meet

Historical Committee: Schweitzer – An Open House was held at the Community Room on November 16. Dr. Mary Jane Dockeray gave a presentation and 30 plus people were in attendance.

Sewer & Water: Arends – Attended the November NKSA meeting. No other updates.

Parks & Recreation: Jim May- Did not meet.

Public Services Committee: Alex Arends – Did not meet.

**2014-132 DISCUSSION – LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR PARTY WORLD
5568 ALPINE AVENUE**

Manager, David Castor of Party World submitted an application for a liquor license in order to obtain a filling station inside the store to fill beer growlers for their customers. Castor believes if approved, this would expand their market considerably by having the ability to supply craft beer. Party World is required to obtain an on premise liquor license in order to fill growlers. Party World is requesting the last on-premise liquor license available in the Township. The Township may wish to hold onto this license in case a large establishment moves into the municipality. The Township is under no obligation to approve an available license at any time as explained in the Township's liquor license Ordinance No.13-05.

Trustee Wahlfield suggested to Castor that he contact Liquor Control and try to get their policy changed. He feels Party World is ahead of the game on this and feels it is time for Liquor Control to change.

Townsend suggested to Castor to contact the legislature and request for a new category of license.

There was discussion regarding when Alpine Township would receive another Liquor License and Clerk Wahlfield explained that it is dependent upon the census performed every 10 years. The next census will be in 2020 and the Township would need 1500 new residents before they would assign an additional on-premise license.

The Clerk informed Castor that she will not vote to approve the liquor license and Board members expressed their opinions. Castor will make a decision by 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 19th on whether or not to pursue the license so that public noticing can take place prior to the next board meeting.

2014-133 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Chief Jeremy Kelly gave the October fire run report to the Board and there were no questions. Kelly provided information about hiring a new firefighter and recommended that the Township hire Brent Dontje as of December 1st for Station 1. Dontje comes with Fire Fighter and EMS training along with great referrals.

May with support from Townsend made a motion to approve the request to hire Brent Dontje to the Fire Department as of December 1, 2014. Motion carried 7-0.

The Deputy provided information about the fire that occurred at York Creek Apartments on November 08, 2014. Surrounding area Fire Departments showed up to help, which included a platform truck and together they ventilated the building with positive pressure to clear out the smoke and find the source. The fire was confined to one apartment unit.

Kelly informed the board there is a new FEMA Grant opportunity and proposal out to acquire a platform truck that would require a 10% match from the Township. There is a good chance the grant will be awarded to rural and combination Fire Departments. Kelly requested permission to submit the grant on behalf of the Alpine Township Fire Department.

May made a motion with support from Townsend to allow the Alpine Township Fire Department to write a FEMA grant for a new platform and if approved would require a 10% match from the Township. Motion carried 7-0.

Kelly informed the Board that the gas meters came in for tenders #8 and #10 and they are on the trucks and ready to go. Also, the Fire House Grant has been submitted.

2014-134 Public Comment

No Comments

2014-135 SUPERVISORS REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Arends has a meeting with North Kent Transit tomorrow regarding raising the rates as well as a meeting with Sparta and Rockford Construction regarding an industrial park development in the City of Walker that would affect Alpine Township.

Arends will be meeting with Kenowa Hills Public Schools to discuss the possibility of holding a hot air balloon festival which attracted 15,000 people attended last year at a different location.

Clerk Wahlfield stated that a date needs to be set for the Community Development Block Grant public hearing.

May with support from Townsend motioned to set December 15, 2014 as the public hearing date for the Community Development Block Grant funds. Motion carried 7-0.

J. Wahlfield inquired about who will be attending MTA Conference this year in order to receive the early-bird discount. Each Board member confirmed their attendance. Trustee Wahlfield will be the flag carrier in the Parade of Flags.

A motion was made by May with support from Townsend to approve the registration fee payment for the 2014 MTA Conference. Motion carried 7-0.

The Clerk expressed her appreciation and gratitude for Dorothy Alt whom has been an election chairperson for Alpine Township for many years and retired after the 2014 November General. Thank you Dorothy for your many years of service with Alpine Township!

Townsend commented that Attorney Jeff Sluggett confirmed that the ½ percent administration fee is applied on property taxes only, not new SAD's, sidewalk projects, etc. He noted that when he

began in 2008 Alpine Township had almost \$4 million in accounts and currently the Township has almost \$7 million due to the diligence of the Board and employees.

Townsend also congratulated the Clerk and her Deputy for their work with the election.

Trustee Wahlfield would like to see the Township work with the owner of the house on Lamoreaux and figure out his porch construction issues. The Clerk and Supervisor informed M. Wahlfield that the porch was built with no permits.

The Supervisor is working on getting the business's together for a meeting with a new approach to get more businesses involved.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Hanna,
Recording Secretary

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

Alex Arends, Supervisor