

**MINUTES  
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 17, 2015**

**2015-105      CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Alpine Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, August 17, 2015 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, William Schweitzer, and Mike Wahlfield.

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

**2015-106      CONSIDERATION OF VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**A motion was offered by May, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the payment of checks and invoices from July 21, 2015 through August 17, 2015, including election inspector pay. The motion carried 7-0.**

**2015-107      PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Beye, 4842 Kittery, approached the Board regarding the safety of his children as well as Westgate neighborhood residents. Beye is concerned with cars speeding through the neighborhood and would like to work with the Township to come up with a solution.

The Supervisor called for a Town Hall meeting to be held in September to discuss safety issues in the Westgate neighborhood. He will include the K.C. Policing Officer, a representative of the Kent County Road Commission and invite Westgate Neighborhood Residents.

**2015-108      COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Planning Commission: Cordes** – No meeting was held

**Zoning Board of Appeals: Schweitzer** – Did not meet

**Historical Committee: Schweitzer** – discussed hosting a travelogue program and looked at pictures from Larry Heydenberg's trip.

**Sewer & Water: Arends** – Did not meet. The Somerset sewer project is almost finished.

**Parks & Recreation: Jim May-** Arends and May discussed having field work done in order to bring in more use from the residents/leagues. The committee would like to see a 5 year recreational plan (different then the Master Plan). The Committee would like to be involved in the process.

**Public Services Committee: Alex Arends** – No report

## **2015-109 NOISE AND STENCH – RAILROAD NEAR VINTON AVENUE**

The Supervisor explained that Alpine Township office has received complaints from residents on Vinton Ave near the railroad tracks. Railroad cars containing animal feed are being delivered to Michigan Rail and Storage located at 5758 Vinton Avenue and residents have complained about a foul odor that is disturbing the surrounding residents.

Trustee Ron Cordes stated that he is the owner of Michigan Rail and Storage and provided comments regarding the operation of his business and the complaints received by the Township. He explained the difficulty he has communicating with the railroad and the location where the railroad cars are delivered.

Board members have copies of a memorandum dated August 14, 2015 from the Township Attorney regarding the rail car disturbances and discussed the topic.

The Supervisor noted that he has visited the neighborhood and experienced the stench reported. He explained that the Township may need to address the stench by implementing an ordinance. He suggested holding a Town Hall meeting with residents and all the parties involved with the railroad operation sometime in September. The Board discussed other solutions.

No one from the public or Vinton neighborhood attended tonight's meeting regarding this topic.

## **2015-110 DISCUSSION – UPDATES TO PUBLIC WATER AGREEMENT WITH PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP –**

### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 15-01 – DEFERMENT FOR HARDSHIP**

Townsend has concerns with the hardship definition since it would mean that a resident could only qualify for a deferment if they have no income at all. Townsend also suggested revising the wording in Section 4.

**A motion was offered by May, with support from Townsend to table Ordinance No. 15-01 in order to make revisions. Motion carried 7-0.**

### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 15-02 – WATER CONNECTION REQUIRED**

Trustee Wahlfield proposed a new version of Ordinance No. 15-02 and read it out loud. Mike Wahlfield's proposed version would allow Alpine Residents the choice to hookup to public water or to drill a water well. The Supervisor stated that almost every other Township in Michigan requires hookup to public water and believes following suit is in the best interest of the community. Board members discussed the changes proposed by Trustee M. Wahlfield.

**A motion was offered by Mike Wahlfield, with support from May to approve Wahlfield's version of Ordinance No. 15-02 to allow Alpine Township Residents the choice to either hookup to public water or to drill a well. The motion carried 6-1 in roll call vote with Arends dissenting.**



**2015-111 WEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY BANK – ADD TO LIST OF APPROVED DEPOSITORIES**

The Treasurer informed the Board that he would like to move money in the near future into West Michigan Community Bank as the interest rate is currently .35%. The bank is not on the current list of approved depositories.

**A motion was offered by Townsend, with support from May to approve adding West Michigan Bank to the list of approved depositories for Alpine Township. Motion carried 7-0.**

**2015-112 FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The July run report was received.

Captain Tim Schweitzer requested for the Board to approve adding four new firefighters to the Department. Schweitzer stated that all four men have been interviewed, passed a background check and have great driving records. Daniel Duffy has been on the Alpine Fire Department in the past and has recently moved back into the Township and is interested in returning. Duffy is Firefighter 1 & 2 trained and needs medical training. Christopher Freeman will need Fire and EMS training. Thomas Katerberg will need fire and EMS training. Joshua Cross has his EMS basic and will need fire training.

**A motion was offered by May, with support from Townsend to approve hiring Daniel Duffy, Joshua Cross, Christopher Freeman, and Thomas Katerberg as paid on call firefighters for the Alpine Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

Deputy Fire Chief Kelly gave a report and provided 3 quotes for new SCBA equipment. Bids were received from Apollo Fire Equipment, Avon Protection, and Douglass Safety Systems. The bids from Douglass and Apollo were comparable and the recommendation is to accept and approve the bid received from Douglass Safety Systems, LLC. Kelly noted that much time was invested in evaluating the bids and a new thermal imager camera is included in bid from Douglass.

**A motion was offered by May, with support from Townsend to accept and approve the bid and quote number 30225 from Douglass Safety Systems, LLC for 24 new Avon air packs and equipment in the amount of \$142,328.64. Motion carried 7-0.**

**2015-113 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Greg Madura, residing at 4655 Westgate Drive commented on the speeding issue in the Westgate neighborhood by noting that he feels that the Kent County Sheriff's Department does a good job of patrolling and commented on the topic of sidewalks.

**2015-114 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee May reported that he is happy to be home in the USA following his travels in Europe.

The Clerk informed the Board of the upcoming November 3, 2015 election for the Kenowa School District. Kenowa is asking for a renewal and \$55 Million.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Samantha Hanna,  
Recording Secretary



Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

  
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Alex Arends, Supervisor