

February 13, 2023- Township Board Meeting Minutes

The Board Meeting of the Alamo Township Board of Trustees was held at the Alamo Township Hall, 7901 North 6th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

Board Members Present:

Supervisor: Gail VanderWeele
Treasurer: Mary Stoneburner
Clerk: Barb Venema
Trustee: Russell Scott
Trustee: Jason Scheffers

The Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor VanderWeele at 7:00 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Twenty-two people in attendance, which included Fire Chief Kizer, and Steve Shultz from Bloomingdale Communications.

Steve Shultz from Bloomingdale Communications presented for approximately 55 min, and answered some questions concerning expanding into Alamo Township, with their internet for approximately 150 homes. Most of the people at the meeting left after this presentation.

Consent Agreement

- A. Minutes, a motion made by Trustee Scheffers to approve the minutes, with Treasurer supported. Passed.
- B. Approval of Liabilities

A motion by Trustee Scott to approve the liabilities, with Trustee Scheffers supported. Passed. Trustee Russell is questioning the bill from Siegfried and Crandall, for the charge for helping with our new budget. Trustee Scheffers would like an explanation for this bill.

Received Reports:

Clerks Report: Death Report: Nov - 2, Dec. - 4 and Jan. - 3

I had a Zoom Website meeting for our new website with STG on Jan 26. Our new phones were installed. I am working with Mary Balkema, at the County, for ARPA funds for the roads. I went to the County and had an Election Audit, for Nov 8, 2022. I have been working with the cemetery, many details. Election machines are having modems removed and new batteries installed. Had a two hour zoom meeting with the Kalamazoo County Clerks. I typed up the new proposed noise ordinance. Re-organizing files, Board minutes, Board meeting records, ordinances. Even tracked down and filed a missing ordinance.

Treasurers' Report:

Insured Cash Sweep:	\$ 264,684.44
Current tax:	\$ 810,675.92
Trust & Agency:	\$ 22.63
General Account:	\$ 439,155.65 including ARPA Funds
Fire Withholding:	\$

Kalamazoo Community Foundation: \$237,397.86 As of December 31, 2022

Building Department Report: January 2023

Building Permits	3	\$250.00
Electrical Permits	5	\$ 535.00
Mechanical Permits	2	\$160.00
Zoning/Compliance Permits	0	\$.00
Totals	10	\$945.00

Planning Commission Meeting

Planning Commission met on February 7, 2023, Trustee Scheffers gave us a synopsis of the meeting. Approval had been given to Three B, LLC, (Bos Concrete) for special exception in the 5700 block of West D Avenue.

Fire Department Report

Given by Fire Chief Kizer

For the month of January, 2023 Alamo Fire Department responded to 46 Incidents. The nature of these calls are as follows:

Incidents:

- 23 EMS calls
- 15 PI Accidents
 - 1 Initial Aids, 1-Cooper
- 4 Fires, 2 brush, 2 vehicle
- 2 Fire Alarms

Training:

- 1/3 Ice Water Rescue Classroom
- 1/16 Ice Water Rescue Practical
- 1/21 CE Blitz

Operations:

- 161 is back in full service.
- New truck update (July 2023)

Personnel:

- No Personnel issues to report.

Public Relations/Fire Prevention:

No Public Relations to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Noise ordinance. Board members have the copies of the new proposed ordinance. Clerk Venema explained about the copy, how it contained the changes and additions to the ordinance that we had discussed at a Workshop Board Meeting on January, 23, 2023.

3 citizens came to podium, 2 requested we leave our original ordinance as is. Third citizen wanted to ask questions and comments, but was speaking from a copy of the new proposed ordinance, which should have been only in the hands of the Board Members. He turned it in, he stated it was obtained from the Deputy Supervisor VanderWeele.

Trustee Scheffers stated that we are not gaining a lot by approving a new ordinance.

Trustee Russell stated that he would rescind the motion that he had made in January, that we only look at updates on the ordinance and vote on it in March. He rescinded. Supervisor VanderWeele stated she was not ready to vote. Treasurer Stoneburner made a motion that we keep the old one, retype and redate it. Trustee Scheffers supported. A roll call vote was taken. Trustee Scheffers, YES, Supervisor VanderWeele, NO, Treasurer Stoneburner, YES, Trustee Scott, YES, Clerk Venema, YES, **4 to 1 vote.** Old ordinance to remain.

Grant Writer for Sparks Grant for Rector Community Park. Mike Lampen gave us a brief update on the first round of grants, we had not submitted anything yet. No one in Kalamazoo County received a grant in the first round this year. The next deadline for a grant is April 1, 2023. We have 2 bids for a Grant Writer, OCBA Landscape Architects, and WIGHTMAN.

Trustee Scheffers made a motion that we accept OCBA, with their laid out plan of #1 to 7, with the option to add on any of the A, B, and C options. Clerk Venema supported. Roll call vote was taken. Trustee Scheffers, YES, Supervisor VanderWeele, YES, Treasurer Stoneburner, NO, Trustee Scott, YES, Clerk Venema, YES, with a 4 to 1 vote. It passed. Leah Goodman from the Little League, will be a liason, and will keep us informed as well as Mike Lampen.

Museum Bell: It has been cleaned up and in storage. A couple of bids were obtained with the intention of possibly putting it in the Township Hall, the door would have had to been removed and replaced. Treasurer Stoneburner brought up the fact of space in the Township Hall and who would actually be able to enjoy it. Trustee Scheffers would call Reliable Glass, Clerk Venema and Treasurer Stoneburner would come up with some sort of a plan. The intention is to put it on the front lawn at the Township Hall, in a case with a light.

Drug Free Policy: The Township has to have a policy in place, since we will be receiving funds through ARPA for the roads. A policy was approved by our attorney, and we had a copy of the policy that our Fire Department has. A motion was made by Supervisor VanderWeele to approve the policy approved by our attorney, Trustee Scott supported. Passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ROADS: Deputy Supervisor came to the podium to present the Board with the roads that need repair in our Township. Supervisor VanderWeele and Deputy Supervisor met with Mark Worden from Road Commission of Kalamazoo County. Roads will need to be approved by March 15, 2023.

Cremains Columbaria: Clerk Venema gave more information on these cemetery monuments that would hold cremains. They are no larger than current monuments in the cemetery, and as long as they stay with in the guidelines of size, we will approve them. No vote needed on this.

Otsego Library Board: Bart Seelye is willing to serve on the Board at the library again. Trustee Scheffers made a motion to reappoint B. Seelye to the Library Board, Treasurer Stoneburner supported. Passed. Robin Rowe is not willing to continue serving, but willing to help find a replacement for her position. Her term is not over until the end of 2023.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FIREWORKS: They are requesting permission for fireworks on June 24 and July 1, 2023. Supervisor VanderWeele made a motion to approve, with contingency of having the egress be fixed, and capable to have a fire truck enter. Trustee Scheffers supported. Passed.

Citizen comments:

Board Comments;

1. Clerk Venema brought to the Board, that Gary Sportel's rate for putting in foundations at the cemeteries is now .50 cents per square inch.
2. Clerk Venema asked that we approve the Board of Review members, before the Board of Review Meetings in March. Michael Martin, Gerrit Bosch, Nyla Merrill and Richard Bennett are the 4 members. Clerk Venema made a motion, Trustee Scheffers supported. Passed. Clerk Venema will call the members to come in and take an oath in the next 10 days.
3. Clerk Venema brought to the Board, that a citizen is inquiring why we are not renting the Township Hall. Trustee Scheffers suggested we call other Townships and find out what they are doing, and their rates.

1. Treasurer Stoneburner brought up our sign on the front door says we are OPEN from 9-12, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. She suggested being open till 3pm or 4pm on those days.
2. Treasurer Stoneburner brought up the Museum, and how dirty it is, and something should be done

Adjournment

Treasurer Stoneburner made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Scott supported the motion. Motion passed.
Adjournment @ 9:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Clerk Barb Venema,