

October 9, 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 7:02 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

12 people in attendance.

Clerk Venema requested that the agenda be amended and add the 9 Day Early Voting. It was inserted as the first item under new business.

The Township's Assessor, Chad Razmus, was invited to speak to us about a survey that he would like to send out. It would be a pilot program. It would help him with tracking some of the improvements done in homes that would be 40 yrs or more in age. He gave prices on the cost and printing, plus administration costs. The Board of Trustees will vote later during this meeting, under New Business.

Citizens Comments:

One resident stated that she would not take the time to fill out the survey that assessor would send out.

Steve T. stated on the nature trails in Rector Community Park, over 400 trees have fallen over the years. He was suggesting that maybe trees should be replenished. Trustee Scheffers suggested that the DNR has a program.

Consent Agreement

- A. Minutes, with a name correction, motion was made by Treasurer Stoneburner, and supported by Trustee Scott, approved.
- B. Approval of Liabilities, a motion made by Supervisor VanderWeele to approve the minutes and liabilities, with Trustee Scheffers supporting, motion passed.

Received Reports:

Clerks Report:

Clerk and Deputy Clerk attended the Professional Development Retreat which was classes for Clerks and Deputies only. We learned many new things to help with Elections, Websites, how to keep proper files, and legal advice, etc.

Our new website has launched. The address for the website is alamotownshipmi.gov
Check it out and watch for new pictures and additions to be continued to be added.

Cemetery duties continue.

November Election will be held on November 7 for a Veteran's millage.

Treasurers' Report:

Insured Cash Sweep: \$ 369,993.66
Current tax: \$ 209,503.76
Trust & Agency: \$ 31.44
General Account: \$ 168,809.99
ARPA Account: \$ 201,706.98
Special Fire Protection: \$150,679.83
Fire Withholding: \$

Kalamazoo Community Foundation:

Treasurer Stoneburner will be checking with Marty Landes about our donations to Kalamazoo Foundation.

Trustee Scheffers would like to have a list of all the ARPA Funds that are already allocated.

Building Department Report: September 2023

Building Permits	8	\$715.00
Electrical Permits	4	\$455.00
Mechanical Permits	5	\$400.00
Zoning/Compliance Permits	0	\$ 0.00
Totals	17	\$1,570.00

Planning Commission Meeting

Planning Commission did not meet in October.

Fire Department Report

Given by Chief Kizer.

For the month of September, 2023 Alamo Fire Department responded to 32 Incidents. The total calls for the year is at 321.

The new fire truck is in town. It was at the Fire Station on Saturday, Oct 7, for a couple of hours. Fire Chief noted that there were 2 or 3 spots that need some attention, they will get them taken care of. Green Signs for addresses, are still on website, until they can locate a new supplier.

Fire Chief spoke on the subject of the museum being used by the Kalamazoo Police Dept. That will not be happening.

10 year plan for future Fire Trucks and major rebuilds: It had been sent to our Attorney Roxanne Seeber, she replied on Sept 8, 2023, it is filed with Alamo Fire Special Assessment File. Trustee Scheffers made a motion to approve that we stay with the allocated amount in the 10 year plan, and continue with plan as suggested. Supported by Trustee Scott, A roll call vote was taken. Supervisor VanderWeele, YES, Trustee Scheffers, Treasurer Stoneburner, YES, Trustee Scott, YES, Clerk Venema, YES. Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Julie Johnston, was available to answer any additional questions the Board might have. She stated this time of year is a good time to start. She would be able to meet with the Planning Commission in November. If the time frame runs longer than a year, she would negotiate a price then. At this point it will be \$9,800, for the year. Trustee Scheffers made a motion to hire J. Johnston as the consultant with the contract that she presented to us, and also added we should take it from our ARPA funds. Supervisor VanderWeele supported. A roll call vote was taken, Supervisor VanderWeele, YES, Trustee Scheffers, YES, Treasurer Stoneburner, YES, Trustee Scott, YES, Clerk Venema, YES. Passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

9 Day Early Voting Contract with Kalamazoo County: A brief explanation was given of what this means. Our Attorney Seeber has already vetted the contract. Motion was made by Trustee Scheffers to have the Clerk be able to sign and take part in the Early Voting. Supported by Treasurer Stoneburner. Roll Call vote was taken: Supervisor VanderWeele, YES, Trustee Scheffers, YES, Treasurer Stoneburner, YES, Trustee Scott, YES and Clerk Venema, YES, passed.

Rector Community Park: Mike Lampen, Park Advisor, gave a recommendation for the Township to purchase a Land Pride grading scraper for the park. It would help with maintaining the parking lots, without adding additional gravel. An over the phone quote was \$3,500. A motion was made by Trustee Scheffers to allow up to \$3,500 to purchase a used one for maybe less, or brand new one closer to spring. Supervisor VanderWeele supported. Motion passed.

Mike Lampen, Dan Scheffers are listed as Park Advisors. Mike suggested we add Tom Brussie, and Steve Tolliver on as Park Advisors. The Park Rangers, Lee Stoneburner and Steve Tolliver.

Mike Lampen made a suggestion to reimburse for gas, lubrication on tools, etc for working on trails.

Vote on Chad Razmus Proposal:

Presentation was given at the beginning of this meeting. Treasurer Stoneburner made a motion to try this as a pilot program in Alamo Township. Clerk Venema supported. A Roll call vote was taken: Supervisor VanderWeele, NO, Trustee Scheffers, NO, Treasurer Stoneburner, YES, Trustee Scott, NO, Clerk Venema YES, 3 to 2 vote. It did not pass.

Steensma Lawn and Power Equipment: The Board members had all received a copy of a Service Agreement.

Treasurer Stoneburner made a motion to go with the 2 year service agreement that was being offered. Trustee Scott supported. All Aye vote, motion passed.

Board Comments:

*Trustee Scott stated that Aggregate is not the name of the company, it has changed.

*Trustee Scott wanted to know if the doors(front of hall) were completed and up to code. Fire Chief Kizer did some quick checking and was informed it is up to code

*Trustee Scott had some questions about the project on DE Ave. Removal of trees, ditches a mess, eroding after weekend rain. Where are the logs going? Supervisor VanderWeele replied and said this was the Road Commission's project, and would not cost us. She stated if someone wants the wood, they can get some.

*Trustee Scott brought up the fact that we skipped the snow plowing bid under new business. Supervisor VanderWeele suggested we table it till November.

*Clerk Venema asked for suggestions for where HD Lawncare and J. Wilson would dispose of leaves this fall.

Adjournment

Trustee Scheffers made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Scott supported the motion. Motion passed.

Adjournment @ 9:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Clerk Barb Venema.