

ALMONT TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2008

Meeting called to order by Supervisor at 7:00 p.m. at 819 N. Main St., Almont, MI. Members present were Supervisor Groesbeck, Clerk Hoffner, Trustees Moore, Sweers, Eschenburg, and Stroup. Absent was Treasurer Rayl. Also present were approximately 30 visitors. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

LATE AGENDA: Fireworks Ordinance will be placed under new business:

MOVED BY HOFFNER, SUPPORTED BY SWEERS TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

REPORTS: Fire Chief Wilcox gave his report and said the open house for the new fire hall will be August 24th from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Police Chief Nael gave his monthly and quarterly reports. Attorney Bob Seibert explained a few issues he had with the proposed police contract. Treasurer Rayl arrived at 7:17 p.m. Supervisor suggested the contract be re-written to address the concerns for "increased costs" statement. **MOVED BY HOFFNER, SUPPORTED BY STROUP TO ACCEPT QUARTERLY POLICE DEPT. FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. CARRIED. MOVED BY HOFFNER, SUPPORTED BY MOORE TO ACCEPT QUARTERLY SCHOOL LIAISON REPORT AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.** Assessor and planning commission reports were received. Board decided they would like the monthly assessing reports to continue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor gave brief background as to discussions concerning First Responders and an ambulance being stationed in Almont Township. Consensus of board was to form a committee to look into how to go about starting First Responders. **MOVED BY GROESBECK, SUPPORTED BY SWEERS TO FORM A COMMITTEE OF BOARD MEMBERS AND FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO ACTIVELY PURSUE GETTING A FIRST RESPONDERS UNIT IN ALMONT TOWNSHIP. ROLL CALL VOTE: GROESBECK-YES, STROUP-YES, RAYL-YES, MOORE-YES, SWEERS-YES, ESCHENBURG-YES, HOFFNER-YES. MOTION CARRIED.** Clerk Hoffner, Supervisor Groesbeck, and Treasurer Rayl volunteered to serve on the committee.

Ric-Man Construction requested their mining permit be renewed for another year. Report from Ray Davis said there are no issues at the pit that should keep the board from approving the permit renewal. He did state that the dust control could be managed a little bit better. **MOVED BY MOORE, SUPPORTED BY STROUP TO RENEW MINING PERMIT FOR ONE YEAR FOR RIC-MAN CONSTRUCTION. ROLL CALL VOTE: GROESBECK-YES, MOORE-YES, ESCHENBURG-YES, STROUP-YES, SWEERS-YES, RAYL-YES, HOFFNER-YES. MOTION CARRIED.**

Clerk Hoffner said she had received a call from someone asking if the board would consider buying back the gravesites she has at Webster Cemetery. Mr. Seibert will review the cemetery policy and see if an ordinance is needed, he feels the policy would be fine. **MOVED BY HOFFNER, SUPPORTED BY GROESBECK THAT TOWNSHIP WILL OFFER TO BUY BACK GRAVESITES, FOR ORIGINAL PURCHASE PRICE, IF REQUESTED. CARRIED.**

Supervisor told board that due to the new Planning Enabling Act, employees of the township can no longer serve on the Planning Commission. He also noted that the Supervisor makes the planning commission appointments with board approval. Mr. Hank Gutenkunst is our cemetery sexton and has served on the planning commission for 14 years. He will be stepping down at this time. **MOVED BY GROESBECK, SUPPORTED BY SWEERS TO APPOINT BRYAN ZENDER TO FINISH THE UNEXPIRED PORTION OF HANK'S TERM ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION, WHICH IS DECEMBER 2010. ROLL CALL VOTE: STROUP-YES, GROESBECK-YES, RAYL-YES, HOFFNER-YES, SWEERS-YES, ESCHENBURG-YES, MOORE-YES. MOTION CARRIED.** Dick Stine has been with the fire department for 39 years and has no desire to retire from there so he will give up his planning commission seat before the September 2008 required date. Supervisor stated he will appoint someone at the August meeting to replace Dick on the planning commission.

The board is in need of a Zoning Board of Appeals alternate and Supervisor stated that Clay Stroup had shown an interest in the position. **MOVED BY HOFFNER, SUPPORTED BY SWEERS TO APPOINT CLAY STROUP AS AN ALTERNATE ZBA MEMBER. ROLL CALL VOTE: STROUP-YES, HOFFNER-YES, GROESBECK-YES, SWEERS-YES, MOORE-YES, RAYL-YES, ESCHENBURG-YES. MOTION CARRIED.**

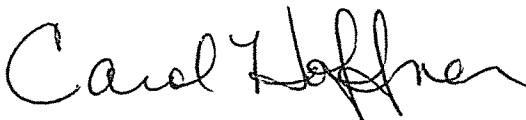
Fireworks Ordinance was presented for approval. It has been reviewed by Attorney Seibert. **MOVED BY STROUP, SUPPORTED BY SWEERS TO ADOPT FIREWORKS ORDINANCE #54. ROLL CALL VOTE: ESCHENBURG-YES, STROUP-YES, GROESBECK-YES, MOORE-YES, HOFFNER-YES, SWEERS-YES, RAYL-YES. MOTION CARRIED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION: Attorney Seibert explained exactly what the board can and can't do as far as cleaning up the Behnke property. **MOVED BY ESCHENBURG, SUPPORTED BY MOORE TO AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE BEHNKE PROPERTY CLEANUP AND WORK WITH MR. SEIBERT TO GET SOMETHING DONE. ROLL CALL VOTE: ESCHENBURG-YES, STROUP-YES, GROESBECK-YES, MOORE-YES, HOFFNER-YES, RAYL-YES, SWEERS-YES. MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion concerning a haul route from the Measel Pit to VanDyke. It has not been an issue in the past but now the Lapeer County Road Commission says something needs to be done. **MOVED BY ESCHENBURG, SUPPORTED BY MOORE TO DESIGNATE THE ROUTE FROM THE MEASEL PIT ON KIDDER RD, SOUTH TO TUBSPRING, TUBSPRING WEST TO VANDYKE AS A CLASS A HAUL ROUTE FOR KEN MEASEL SUPPLY. MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer Rayl and Clerk Hoffner asked board about splitting the bill for the new fiber optics with the fire department. **MOVED BY RAYL, SUPPORTED BY STROUP TO PAY HALF THE FIBER OPTIC BILL OUT OF GENERAL FUND AND HALF OUT OF THE FIRE HALL FUND. CARRIED.**

MOVED BY ESCHENBURG, SUPPORTED BY MOORE TO ADJOURN. CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



Carol Hoffner
Almont Township Clerk