

Phil Kline, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order. Present were Phil Kline, Keith Blankenbiller, Michael Stump, Solicitor Gary Swavely, Township Engineer Gary Kraft, and Mary Anne Fieux. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building and was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Phil Kline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Phil Kline presented the minutes from the July 15, 2015 Supervisor's meeting. Keith Blankenbiller noted that the draft copy of the minutes provided to the Supervisors prior to the meeting had been revised per his informing Ms. Fieux the second to last paragraph should read the Skyline Drive fire tower being located in Lower Alsace Township. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mike Stump, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$83,160.03 from the General Fund, \$10,483.72 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$997.09 from the Septic Fund, and \$8,231.37 from the Liquid Fuels Fund, seconded by Mike Stump and the motion was unanimously approved. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to pay taxes, payroll and interim bills, seconded by Mike Stump, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Chairperson Kline directed the Supervisors to review the financial reports. Vice-Chairperson Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve the financial reports, seconded by Mike Stump, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Chairperson Kline opened the public comment section of the meeting. Drew Eck introduced himself and stated he and his wife were looking a letter of support from the Supervisors for the purchase of property located at 43 Woodside Avenue on two (2) separate deeds. Mr. Eck explained they are under a time constraint under the contract with the seller and currently the property includes two (2) purparts. After discussion between the Supervisors, Mr. Eck and Township Solicitor Swavely, it was decided that Township Solicitor Swavely would continue to work with Mr. Eck's solicitor Mr. Koch, as additional documentation would be required for a determination to be rendered. Solicitor Swavely concluded stating current documentation does not support the Eck's position and therefore he could not give a recommendation to the Board at this time.

Patsy Keim was the next person from the public to address the Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Keim said she had questions for Supervisor Mike Stump. First Mrs. Keim asked Mike Stump why the road was back-scraped two (2) hours before the Township Engineer arrived to inspect the road. Mr. Stump explained due to the recent rain the road was scraped to help fix the holes in the road.

Mrs. Keim stated the road had not been fixed in two (2) years. Mr. Stump stated he was following up per the last Township meeting when it was proposed the Township would address poor road condition issues on Reiff Road, especially after a rain event. Chairperson Kline added it had rained on Friday before the Township Engineer's site inspection and timing was appropriate for the road to be scraped. Mike Stump stated the volume of rain prior to Mr. Kraft's site inspection was greater than he has seen in five (5) years.

Chairperson Kline asked Township Engineer Gary Kraft to provide information about the situation at Reiff Road. Gary Kraft said he conducted site visits to the location several times before and after the road scraping. Mr. Kraft stated the water is running downhill and slope is an issue with the runoff on the road. Mr. Kraft continued stating a swale can help, but there is limited space for a swale due to the current road width and the problem of maintaining a safe travel lane. Major excavation of land and significant tree removal would need to be executed in order to construct a proper swale. Excavation of the area needed for the swale would take away from cropland, Kraft added.

Township Engineer Kraft continued stating water at the top of the hill could be dispersed, however, it would involve cooperation between the Township and property owner. He added this would benefit Mrs. Keim by a plan being creating a plan which disperses water from running down the hill. Mike Stump agreed with Township Engineer a proper plan should be created to resolve the problem.

Chairperson Kline informed Mrs. Keim the Township will be more diligent in addressing the problems on Reiff Road. Phil Kline stated Mike Stump will continue to check the road after hard rains.

Township Solicitor Gary Swavely asked Mrs. Keim what action she was specifically requesting from the Township. Solicitor Swavely said he is trying to help Mrs. Keim by asking for specifics the Township could address on Reiff Road, per her needs. Mrs. Keim did not provide any specifics and stated she would talk to her State Representative. Township Solicitor Swavely recommended to the Board that they do not participate in any further debate on this matter.

Mrs. Keim asked Mike Stump why he had the truck going sideways on the road close to their wall. Mr. Stump explained he turned into the right-of-way and did so due to the rain in order to take photos and protect the Township phone from the rain. He said the photos were taken to show the flow of the water.

Solicitor Swavely asked Mrs. Keim if she had any further questions other than the ones previously asked. Mrs. Keim asked Mr. Stump why he won't coordinate with Oley Township. Mr. Stump said he did not want to comment on that question. Solicitor Swavely closed the discussion and noted Mrs. Keim's comment.

Mary Ann Ohlinger from the public was the next person from the public to speak. Mrs. Ohlinger stated fireworks are against the law in Pennsylvania and requests the Township take action. Chairperson Kline said he is going to tell her the same thing as he told her on his phone when she called at 10:00 pm. Mr. Kline informed Mrs. Ohlinger the Township does not regulate fireworks and she should call the State Police.

Solicitor Swavely said a permit is required for certain fireworks and State Police would still be responsible for enforcement. Mr. Swavely reiterated Chairperson Kline's instruction to Mrs. Ohlinger to call the State Police when the fireworks are being setoff.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Swavely presented the Board with Resolution 2015-6 which rescinds Resolution 2015-5 for the Skyline Drive Project spearheaded by Lower Alsace Township. Gary Swavely explained there were only minor changes made to Resolution 2015-6 and the intent of the Resolution remains the same. Solicitor Swavely stated Resolution 2015-6 includes language rescinding Resolution 2015-5. Chairperson Kline asked if any members had

any questions. Keith Blankenbiller made the motion to approve Resolution 2015-6, Michael Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**SEWER REPORT:** Chairperson Kline directed the Supervisor's to review the Datte report on delinquent sewer payments and asked if there were any questions on the report. Mike Stump stated Township Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Ruth Ann Moyer, does an excellent job on collecting sewer payments for the Township. Chairperson Kline concurred.

Mrs. Moyer asked for direction regarding a payment plan which was signed, but no money has been received. Mr. Kline directed Mrs. Moyer to follow-through with Datte's office with enforcement of non-payment of the sewer bill.

Chairperson Kline said the next item is the LTL SEO Report for July 2015. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller gave an overview of the report of various properties. Keith Blankenbiller reported the septic system on Beckers Grove could not be found has been located and now have been located and pumped.

Phillip Kline asked the Supervisors to review the Septic Pumping Report. Keith Blankenbiller reported there were six (6) properties needing to be pumped, which two (2) were pumped leaving only four (4) properties need to be pumped at this time.

Chairperson Kline suggested to the Board the phone line with Frontier Communications be disconnected since it was established for residents to utilized when the WWTP was initially put online. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to discontinue service with Frontier Communications for the WWTP emergency calls, Michael Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Kline asked Ms. Fieux to contact Frontier Communications to cancel the phone service.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Chairperson Phil Kline stated he had nothing to report at this time.

**BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT:** Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller reported on various properties included in the Kraft Code Services report for August 2015. Mr. Blankenbiller reported on a complaint on Spies Church Road about weeds and tall grass. Keith Blankenbiller stated he also checked out the property which has been cut and debris removed from the porch. Mr. Blankenbiller continued to report on various properties within the Township per the Kraft Code Services report.

Mr. Blankenbiller continued with the property located on Poplar Ave. and explained the temporary Certificate of Occupancy has expired. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller said a Civil Complaint form has been forwarded to Solicitor Swavely for his review and subsequent filing. Gary Swavely explained State Code dictates a Civil Complaint be filed rather than a Summons. Solicitor Swavely continued and stated Civil Complaints have a limit of \$12,000, per State law. Mr. Swavely stated he will continue to work with Joe Neidert from Kraft Code Services on this matter.

Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller said the property at 224 Spies Church Road has been followed up regarding a complaint from a neighbor, however, there has been no activity upon inspection of the property. Mr. Stump added he responded to a sewage complaint about the property and there was no problem upon inspection. Mr. Blankenbiller stated for these reasons the

Township has a policy that a written complaint form be submitted to the Township, phone call complaints are not accepted.

Keith Blankenbiller reported on the Reserve at Spring Pointe – Phase 2 Amended Final Plans stating Building F has been issued a temporary CO on July 15, 2015. He added there is continued progress with Building G. Mr. Blankenbiller stated there were a few issues with Building F and unit/street addressing was one of the issues. Fire Chief Wendy Becker stated she has received the addresses. Mrs. Becker stated plans stated the buildings have letters as their designation, but the mailing addresses are numbers. Gary Kraft stated numbers for the building addresses are consistent with 911. Mr. Blankenbiller said he has to go by the site plan references for the buildings.

Mr. Blankenbiller stated the plans for the Reserve at Spring Pointe – Phase 2 Amended Final Plans should soon be recorded. Township Engineer explained the original Phase 2 plans have been recorded, however, the amended Final Plans for Phase 2 are yet to be recorded.

Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller reported on the Judith Treichler vs. Zoning Hearing Board of Alsace Township case and stated the Honorable Timothy J. Rowley has ordered the Township to arrange for three (3) HVAC quotes to inspect the Thomas J. and Dahna Barrett property located at 45 Poplar Avenue. The purpose of the quotes is for moving the condenser unit from its current location to another side of the house. Phil Kline asked Gary Swavely if Keith Blankenbiller could contact three (3) HVAC contractors for the purpose of quotes. Mr. Swavely stated there is no problem with Mr. Blankenbiller acquiring the quotes and he is to contact Mr. Swavely if any problems arise.

Mr. Blankenbiller continued with a property located at 245 Spies Church Road requesting to be connected to the Exeter Township's sewer system. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller stated he requested guidance from the Ebert Engineering who handles new sewer connections at the Five-Points location. Mr. Blankenbiller contacted him on August 17 stating he needed the information for tonight's meeting. Keith Blankenbiller continued and asked a letter be sent to Ebert Engineering regarding the plan for 245 Spies Church Road. Phil Kline stated he would work with the office on the letter to Ebert Engineering.

Mr. Blankenbiller next item to discuss was Holding Tank Ordinance 2015-2. Mr. Blankenbiller asked Ms. Fieux for an explanation of what needs to be added to the Ordinance. Ms. Fieux explained a reference to recording the Holding Tank Agreement with the Berks County Recorder of Deeds should be added. Solicitor Swavely stated he had spoken with Ms. Fieux and recommends the Ordinance be revised to reflect the Agreement having to be recorded. Mr. Swavely stated he would work with Mr. Levengood on revising the Ordinance. Solicitor Swavely stated after the Ordinance is adopted it is required to be advertised. Mr. Blankenbiller recommended the additional language be added to the Ordinance.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Supervisor – Road Master Mike Stump started with opening the Bid for Double Bituminous Seal Coat and stated there was only one (1) bid submitted by Martin Paving, Inc. Mr. Stump stated the bid bond was included, as required. Mr. Stump continued by announcing the prices submitted by the contractor. Mr. Stump stated Schmehl Rd. is \$12,666.00, Irish Mountain Road is \$22,878.00, Delp Road is \$10,560.00, and Kutz Road is \$24,285.00, for a total of \$70,389.00 and a unit price of \$3.00 per sq. yd.

Township Engineer Gary Kraft stated he opened bids in other Townships which came in at \$2.30 per sq. yd. and suggested re-bidding the project in April or May of 2016 for a better price. Gary Kraft said due to the monies available through Liquid Fuels to municipalities, larger projects are being prioritized and therefore bid by contractors. Mr. Kraft reiterated, early bidding is recommended. Michael Stump made a motion the bid from Martin Paving Inc. be rejected, Keith Blankenbiller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mike Stump presented his report on the Manor Project. Mr. Stump stated the project was going well with the majority of the pipe, approximately 90%, in place. Mr. Stump continued stating they will be laying down 54 loads, approximately 1,400 tons of asphalt base replacing in the Manor and the overlay will be done in the spring of 2016.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** No report due to August 6, 2015 meeting being canceled due to no business.

**RECREATION BOARD REPORT:** Phil Kline reported a total of 162 children were registered with the Summer Recreation Program which ended on August 14, 2015. Mr. Kline said the program was very successful and a report summarizing the program will be submitted at a future meeting.

**ALSACE MANOR FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** Chairperson Kline asked Fire Chief Wendy Becker for her report. Mrs. Becker asked about the Emergency Access for the Reserve for Spring Pointe – Phase 2. Township Engineer Gary Kraft informed Mrs. Becker the application for the Emergency Access has been submitted to PENNDOT. Mr. Kraft explained PENNDOT has sent their comments and a response to the comments has been submitted. Gary Kraft continued stating there shall be no occupancy of Building I until the establishment of the Emergency Access has been fulfilled. Mr. Kraft stated the other three (3) buildings, F, G, and H are approved to receive a Certificate of Occupancy. Mrs. Becker stated the first building is occupied and requested names of the occupants for the Fire Department's run cards.

Keith Blankenbiller expressed his concern over tracking the tenants at the apartments. Ruth Ann Moyer stated the process of tracking tenants at Spring Pointe will be easier than other tenant occupied houses. Ms. Fieux added that she contacted the manager at Spring Pointe for a contact person to acquire the names and addresses of the occupants. Darlene Bartsch said the problem is with single family home rental properties and acquiring the occupant information.

Gary Kraft stated Kraft Codes conducts rental inspections for other municipalities. Mrs. Moyer stated due to the fluid nature of rental properties this information is difficult to track. Ms. Fieux said she had been surveying other municipalities via email and obtained information about their landlord - tenant rental requirements. Ms. Fieux advised the Supervisors of some of the responses from municipalities responding to the email. Mrs. Moyer added Alsace has a process in place to address landlord – tenant information. Mr. Blankenbiller summarized by stating this will be a work in progress.

Fire Chief Wendy Becker announced their ISO rating went from a 69 to 441 which is a great improvement. Chairperson Kline commended her on the improved rating.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Darlene Bartsch reported she spent time with Ms. Fieux at the Berks County 911 center with Jonathan Fritz. Ms. Fieux was designated the administrator for the Township office. Darlene Bartsch continued stating they are testing and the County 911 office is having a problem with their system.

Darlene Bartsch asked for an upgrade for her phone. She explained the phone is an old phone and has small keys. Darlene added the pipeline meeting will be held on August 26, 2015.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Phil Kline asked if any of the Supervisors had any additional information to report.

Mike Stump informed the Board about the PENNDOT systematic safety improvements which includes 36" signs. Mr. Stump stated the Township must replace the signs PENNDOT installs. Keith Blankenbiller asked about the reflectors on the stop sign posts by the Sunoco and Woodside Avenue. Mr. Stump stated he installed the reflectors to increase safety in the area.

Mr. Blankenbiller asked Mr. Stump about the "No Stopping & Standing" signs to be placed along Rt. 12 between Woodside Avenue and Antietam Road. Mr. Stump stated the Township has approval to place them along the road, but the Township must purchase the signs. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller requested the signs be purchased. Mr. Stump stated the Engineering Department at PENNDOT in Allentown designates the location of the placement of the signs. After discussion about the enforceability of the signage, it was decided to continue with the signage project.

Chairperson Kline said there was an article in the newspaper about Oley Ambulance. Mr. Kline stated he met with a representative from Oley Ambulance asking for further details. Phil Kline stated their type of service is changing. Fire Chief Becker stated they were upgraded and going from BLS to ALS. Mr. Kline stated they have been at the Oley Supervisor's meeting and Oley will be offering \$10,000.00 to Oley Ambulance. Mrs. Becker expressed her concern about other ambulance services who cover Alsace Township. She added that Lower Alsace Township Ambulance, like Oley, just acquired their ALS. Fire Chief Becker continued by explaining ambulance coverage in Alsace Township. After discussion, Chairperson Kline asked for authorization for Oley Ambulance to come to a Supervisors workshop meeting for the purpose of discussion only.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** – Phil Kline asked if there were any further comments from the public and there were none.

Phil Kline asked if there was any additional business for the Supervisors and as there was none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Stump made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Keith Blankenbiller, the motion was unanimously approved. Adjournment was at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Anne Fieux  
Secretary – Treasurer