

Phil Kline, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order. Present were Phil Kline, Keith Blankenbiller, Michael Stump, Township Solicitor Gary Swavely, and Mary Anne Fieux. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building and was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Phil Kline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Phil Kline presented the Minutes from the November 18, 2015 and December 2, 2015 Supervisor's meetings. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve the Minutes from the November 18, 2015 and December 2, 2015 Supervisor's meetings, Michael Stump seconded the motion, and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Chairperson Kline asked for approval of Township payment of bills. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$48,883.19 from the General Fund, \$3,114.13 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$664.71 from the Septic Fund, and \$0.00 from the Liquid Fuels Fund, seconded by Michael Stump, and the motion was unanimously approved. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to pay taxes, payroll and interim bills, seconded by Michael Stump, and the motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Supervisors reviewed the Treasurer's financial reports for the month of November 2015. Vice-Chairperson Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve the financial reports, seconded by Mr. Stump, and the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: There were no comments from the public.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Swavely presented Resolution 2015-7 explaining the resolution was for the Skyline Drive multimodal project Lower Alsace Township is spearheading. Mr. Swavely continued and explained Lower Alsace Township originally applied for a grant from PA DCED and was now applying for a grant from PENNDOT. Solicitor Swavely further explained the context of Resolution 2015-7 was the same as the Resolution 2015-6. Michael Stump made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-7, Keith Blankenbiller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Swavely presented Ordinance 2015-2, which he explained was an Ordinance authorizing participation of Alsace Township in the PSATS Health Insurance Cooperative Trust. Solicitor Swavely stated Ordinance 2015-2 was properly advertised in the Reading Eagle and Berks County Law Library. Mr. Swavely explained the ordinance was required due to the Township changing their health insurance to the PSATS health insurance programs. Michael Stump made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-2, Keith Blankenbiller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Swavely discussed the Comcast Franchise Agreement with Alsace Township which Mr. Swavely explained is currently up for renewal. Solicitor Swavely stated the current agreement was for a term of 10 years which is typical for these forms of agreements. Solicitor Swavely stated the Township has received a proposal from the Cohen Law Group who specializes in the renewal of cable franchise agreements and represents municipalities throughout the Commonwealth, including some Berks County municipalities. Solicitor Swavely informed the Supervisors he has reviewed the proposal from the Cohen Law Group and has spoken with attorney Dan Cohen to further discuss the proposal. Solicitor Swavely stated an action is required for the proposal submitted by the Cohen Law Group, and to authorize Mr.

Kline to sign the letter of engagement. Keith Blankenbiller stated it would be in the best interest of the Township to have the Cohen Law Group work on behalf of the Township. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to retain the Cohen Law Group to negotiate with Comcast and to authorize Phillip Kline to execute the letter of engagement, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Swavely stated he has reviewed the Agreement for the new 2016 Ford 350 and recommends the Township approved the Ford Motor Credit Company Lease-Purchase document and all associated documents and authorize Phillip Kline to execute said documents. Keith Blankenbiller asked if these documents were already executed and Michael Stump explained the expenditure of the funds had been approved. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion for Chairperson Kline to execute the documents provided by the Ford Credit Company for the lease-purchase 2016 Ford 350, Michael Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Swavely announced the hearing for the Barrett case has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 1:00 pm. Mr. Swavely stated he would contact Joe Neidert, Kraft Code Services, since it is necessary for him to be present at the hearing.

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 and there were none.

Chairperson Kline asked Keith Blankenbiller Supervisors continue with the next matter LTL SEO Report for November 2015. Mr. Blankenbiller reviewed the report and expressed his concern over the Lucas matter located at 41 Poplar Avenue. After discussion, Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to authorizing immediate and all necessary action by Township Zoning, Building, Code, Sewage Officials, and Solicitor to remedy the problem of the disconnected sewer connection at the Lucas property located at 41 Poplar Avenue. Darlene Bartsch informed the PA DEP is another source to utilize.

Mr. Blankenbiller summarized the Septic Pumping Status Report stating reminder post cards are continued to be sent out for those properties are behind in pumping their septic system. Ruth Ann Moyer added that 69 properties which should have been pumped during 2015 still need to be pumped.

ADMINISTRATION: Chairperson Kline asked the Supervisors to review the 2016 Budget. Phillip Kline explained a tax increase of 0.5 mil will be necessary. Mr. Kline stated there had not been an increase in taxes in over 12 years. Mr. Kline asked if any Supervisors had any questions and since there were none Mr. Kline asked for a motion for approval of the 2016 budget in amount of \$1,617,583.11. Michael Stump made a motion to approve the 2016 budget in the amount of \$1,617,583.11 which includes a tax increase of 0.5 mil, Keith Blankenbiller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Swavely explained Resolution 2015-8 is a resolution for the 0.5 mil increase in the tax rate and thus sets the millage rate for the Township. Michael Stump made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-8 setting the tax rate at 1.5 mils, Keith Blankenbiller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Kline explained the tax increase represents a \$50 increase for \$100,000 of assessed value.

Solicitor Swavely presented the Berks County Animal League Agreement to the Supervisors. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to continue the Township's contributions and enter into the Berks County Animal League Agreement and authorizing Phillip Kline to execute the Agreement, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairperson Kline pointed out the meeting dates for 2016 in the Supervisor's packets. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion for the Township to advertise meeting dates in the Reading Eagle for Board of Supervisor's Workshop and Business meetings, and Planning Commission meetings.

Phillip Kline stated he was contacted by Rich Christ regarding the need for his grandson to do an Eagle Scout project during 2016. Mr. Kline further explained his grandson would like to do a project for the Township which might include the building of a wall in the playground area.

BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT: Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller reported on various properties included in the Kraft Code Services report for November 2015. Mr. Blankenbiller stated the property located at 196 Skyline Drive are starting to clean up the property, however they did not pull a permit. Phillip Kline asked why demolition permits are required. Mr. Blankenbiller explained there can be problems with electric, plumbing, and other areas where a person could be injured. Mike Stump expressed his concern over minor projects such as a carport being demolished not being the same as a house demolition. Mr. Blankenbiller explained the process is also connected to impervious areas. Ruth Ann Moyer said the process is also connected to the property tax assessment process. Discussion continued regarding demolition permits.

Mr. Blankenbiller continued reporting on several properties including 5 Elm Avenue which has made application to the Zoning Hearing Board for relief from lot coverage. Phillip Kline and Keith Blankenbiller said they had discussed revising the proposed Zoning Ordinance prior to it proceeding through the approval process. Mr. Kline and Mr. Blankenbiller discussed a change in percentage in lot coverage in the Manor area. Mr. Blankenbiller added well setbacks also need to be addressed in the Well Ordinance.

Mr. Blankenbiller continued and reported on the Reserve at Spring Pointe. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller reported Buildings F and G have been issued temporary CO's. Accessibility deficiencies continue to be addressed by the State. Building I's CO is contingent upon the Emergency Access which Mr. Blankenbiller stated should be addressed soon. Phil Kline asked about the manhole cover, Mr. Blankenbiller stated he did not have the proper tool to measure and could not get the lid off.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Supervisor-Road Master Mike Stump reported a box has been installed at Kegerise Drive and Poplar Avenue. Mr. Stump explained he wanted the overlay to settle prior to the installation of the box. Mr. Stump said Public Works is in good shape for a snow event. Michael Stump added they are utilizing the winter hours to repair equipment for Spring and Summer.

Keith Blankenbiller asked if there was a lateral on the Eller's property. Michael Stump stated there wasn't a lateral at the Eller's property. Keith Blankenbiller suggested the lateral be installed prior to paving.

Patsy Keim from the public asked Michael Stump for an update on Reiff Road. Mr. Stump said he has spoken with Duane from Oley Township and Township Engineer Gary Kraft. Mr. Stump explained he is waiting for Mr. Kraft to propose a resolution to the problem.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Due to Planning Commission Chairperson Ned Brumbach not being present, Chairperson Kline asked Mary Anne Fieux to report on the Planning Commission's December 3, 2015 meeting. Ms. Fieux reported the Planning Commission gave Mr. Wessner, property owner of 38 Cherry Lane advice on his proposed annexation. Ms. Fieux explained Mr. Erdlitz's proposal was to divide one (1) lot into two (2) lots. Mr. Kline asked for a copies of the Planning Commission minutes and they should be considered draft, for information purposes only.

RECREATION BOARD REPORT: There was no report.

ALSACE MANOR FIRE COMPANY REPORT: Fire Chief Wendy Becker stated she had nothing report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Darlene Bartsch reported the squatter on Mt. Laurel Road is back living in his recreational vehicle. Mr. Kline said Mr. Neidert, Kraft Code Services will follow-up.

SUPERVISORS REPORT: Chairperson Kline asked if any of the Supervisors had any additional information to report. Phillip Kline thanked Kraft Code Services and Kraft Engineering for sponsoring the Township's Christmas luncheon.

Phillip Kline read aloud from Kraft Code Services good wishes for Mr. Blankenbiller's future and thanked Mr. Blankenbiller for the years of working together. Chairperson Kline presented a plaque to Keith Blankenbiller thanking him for his service to the Township.

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

Phillip Kline asked if there was any additional business and as there was none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Keith Blankenbiller made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Stump, the motion was unanimously approved. Adjournment was at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Anne Fieux
Secretary – Treasurer