

Keith Blankenbiller, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order. Present were Keith Blankenbiller, Michael Stump, Solicitor Gary Swavely, and Mary Anne Fieux. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building and was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Keith Blankenbiller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Keith Blankenbiller presented the minutes from the January 21, 2015 meeting. Mike Stump made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Keith Blankenbiller, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: After review of the bills, Mike Stump made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$57,052.31 from the General Fund, \$11,726.80 from the Sewer Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$1,368.47 from the Septic Fund, and \$0 from the Highway Fund (Liquid Fuels) seconded by Keith Blankenbiller and the motion was unanimously approved. Mike Stump made a motion to pay taxes, payroll and interim bills, seconded by Keith Blankenbiller, and the motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE TREASURER: Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller asked Mr. Stump to review the financial reports. Mr. Blankenbiller said overall the Township is in good shape. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller pointed out salt usage for the season slightly above the budget number due to the bad winter. Keith Blankenbiller continued stating Mike Stump and his Road Crew were doing a good job plowing and salting the Township roads.

Mike Stump made the motion to approve the financial reports, Keith Blankenbiller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Judith Treichler was present from the public and stated she had no comment at this time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Gary Swavely stated he had nothing to report at this time.

SEWER REPORT: Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller asked if there are any questions or comments regarding the Sewer Payment Status Report YTD from Paul Datte's office. Mr. Stump pointed out that there has been one (1) writ of Scire Facias filed by Mr. Datte.

Mr. Blankenbiller continued the meeting by reviewing the SEO Septic System Status Report from LTL Consultants for January 2015. Keith Blankenbiller stated Township properties are in good shape with only two (2) addresses being cited with a Notice of Violation for not pumping their septic system. Mr. Blankenbiller noted the second address on the list should be corrected to read Laurel Avenue since there is no Laurel Run Avenue in the Township.

Keith Blankenbiller went over the Septic Pumping Status Report YTD prepared by Ruth Ann Moyer. Mr. Blankenbiller asked Mrs. Moyer for clarification on the first property listed in her report. Mrs. Moyer explained the owner of the property does not know where the septic tank is located. Mrs. Moyer said this is due to the septic pumping service company not knowing where the tank is located since the employee who serviced the property has died.

Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller asked Mike Stump for a report on the proposed VFD's (Variable Frequency Drive) to be purchased for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Stump

said Fred Ebert, Ebert Engineering, is working on a proposal for the VFD's. Mike Stump said the water froze due to the heaters not working properly at the Township sewer plant. Mr. Stump stated they were able to fix the problem in-house and therefore save money.

Mr. Stump continued he is looking to update the lighting at the facility to improve the lighting efficiency and longevity. Mike Stump said he is researching different types of lighting and hopes to come up with replacement bulbs at a decent price which will last long and be energy efficient.

ADMINISTRATION: Keith Blankenbiller announced the Township is coming up on its Spring Clean-up and is looking for individual volunteers and volunteer groups to assist with the offloading the bulky material from resident's vehicles. Mike Stump added help is also needed to help direct traffic at the event. Mr. Stump said the event is usually held on a Wednesday and Saturday. Mr. Blankenbiller stated Boy Scout groups would be appropriate volunteers. Ruth Ann Moyer stated the Clean-up has always been the same day as the Boy Scout Jamboree which is a conflict and the date for the Jamboree should be verified.

BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT: Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller gave a summary of the Building and Code Enforcement Officer's report from Kraft Code Services for February 2015. Mr. Blankenbiller pointed out the highlights of the report stating progress is being made for demolition of structures on the property located at 19 Schmecks Lane. Mr. Blankenbiller continued stating permits have been issued for 21 Schmecks Lane, the property granted a variance by the Zoning Hearing Board at a meeting held on January 13, 2015. Mr. Blankenbiller continued stating progress has been made at 153 Heckman Road with general demolition of all fire damage being removed from the site.

Mr. Blankenbiller continued announcing L & I (Labor & Industry) will randomly conducting inspections of commercial buildings with Kraft Code Services to inspect properties for compliance.

Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller said construction at the Reserve at Spring Pointe – Phase 2 "Building #1" is moving along. Keith Blankenbiller stated they are in the process of obtaining permits for "Building 2".

ROAD MASTER REPORT: Mike Stump gave a summary of the 2014 – 2014 Salt Usage report stating \$14,259.59 has been paid and the Township estimates it will be invoiced for \$12,672.33 which brings an estimated total of \$26,931.92 when all bills have been paid. Mr. Stump continued explaining the road salt budget for the year is \$25,000.00 which means the Township is slightly over budget. Mike Stump explained historically the Township has utilized less salt due to milder winters and salt cost less per ton. Mr. Stump explained salt cost \$35.00 per ton when he started with the Township and now it is either \$63.33 per ton or \$72.51 per ton, depending on the "Coop" vendor. Mike Stump stated they are sparing the salt while maintaining safe roads. Mr. Stump said the Township does not waste salt compared to other Townships Mr. Stump has observed.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller asked Planning Commission Chairperson Ned Brumbach for an update regarding the proposed Zoning Map which will accommodate the new Zoning Ordinance. Chairperson Brumbach stated the Zoning

Map had been produced some years ago and asked the Supervisors to provide feedback regarding the proposed Zoning Map. Keith Blankenbiller said timing might be good due to there being new members on the Planning Commission. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller requested the Planning Commission review the map at their next meeting and present their recommendation for the new Zoning Map to the Board of Supervisors. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller said the map was forgotten about during the new Zoning Ordinance review process due to concentration being on verbiage.

RECREATION BOARD REPORT: There was no report.

ALSACE MANOR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY REPORT: Fire Chief Wendy Becker presented her review of the Reserve at Spring Pointe – Phase 2 – Amended Final Plans. Fire Chief Becker introduced Lenny Fick, Deputy Chief, and Barry Bartsch, Assistant Fire Chief. Deputy Chief Fick and Assistant Fire Chief Bartsch joined Fire Chief Becker presenting the results of their review. Wendy Becker stated the proposed hydrant system is currently a dead-end system and should be changed to a closed loop system.

Fire Chief Becker continued, by explaining there is limited access to the two (2) buildings located at the rear of the property for the fire trucks access those properties due to the steep grade's close proximity to the buildings. Wendy Becker continued stating the two (2) front buildings have access, but a retaining wall is located to the rear of those buildings and may also limit fire truck access.

Fire Chief Becker explained Muhlenberg has Knox boxes on all buildings which provide keys to all the utility rooms. Fire Chief Becker said Muhlenberg has emergency lighting in each building per NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) and requested Alsace Township has the same lighting, as well as, meeting or exceeding the same Fire and Emergency Codes as the buildings constructed in Muhlenberg Township.

After reviewing the plans, Keith Blankenbiller suggested Fire Chief Becker bring these concerns to the next Planning Commission meeting scheduled for March 5, 2015. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller asked Ms. Fieux to draft a letter to Gary Kraft, Kraft Engineering outlining Fire Chief Becker's concerns. Gary Swavely asked to be copied on the letter.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Emergency Management Coordinator Darlene Bartsch stated she used to work with Jane Bender with the NIMS (National Incident Management System). Darlene Bartsch suggested Mary Anne Fieux work with her since Jane Bender has retired.

Vice-Chairperson Keith Blankenbiller asked Darlene Bartsch about 911 going online. Mr. Blankenbiller said there appeared to be a problem with radios due to the "atmosphere" (heat and water) firefighters work under. Fire Chief Wendy Becker explained there is nothing wrong with the radios and what Keith Blankenbiller read in the newspaper has not been proven. Vice-Chairman Blankenbiller asked Fire Chief Becker if there were any problems with the new radios and she stated there was none after working with the radios for six (6) months. Wendy Becker believes the problem others have may have to do with lack of training, she added she is big on training the firefighters. She stated the radios are to be worn under the fire coats on a strap. Fire Chief Becker added her people can hear EMS and EMS can hear the Alsace Manor Volunteer Fire Company which they could not do with the old radios.

SUPERVISORS REPORT: Mr. Blankenbiller asked Ruth Ann Moyer if landlords are reporting their tenant information to the Township. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller said the Township in coordination with the last census required landlords to report their tenants to the Township. Mrs. Moyer stated she sends letters to landlords requesting updated information regarding any changes in the tenants on the rental property. Mr. Blankenbiller asked Mrs. Moyer the method by which the Township is policing rental properties. Mrs. Moyer stated there is an Ordinance and she continues to send letters to landlords requesting the information, however, not all landlords respond to the letter. Mrs. Moyer added many rental properties have a high turnover rate. Mrs. Moyer said she needs to know the information for the Per Capita Tax. Judith Treichler suggested the Oley School District might be of assistance. Keith Blankenbiller asked Mrs. Moyer to think about a better method of keeping track of occupant information for rental properties.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: – There were no additional comments from the Public. Keith Blankenbiller asked if there was any additional business for the Supervisors and as there was none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Stump made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Keith Blankenbiller, the motion was unanimously approved. Adjournment was at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Anne Fieux
Secretary – Treasurer