

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, 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 June 17, 2015 Supervisor's meeting. 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 \$69,919.46 from the General Fund, \$6,494.72 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$2,150.70 from the Septic Fund, and \$392.39 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. Chairperson Kline informed the public there are three (3) signatures required for all Township checks and two (2) out of the three (3) signatures are signed by Supervisors. Chairperson Kline stated this serves as a "checks and balance" measure for the Township.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Chairperson Kline directed the Supervisors to review the financial reports. Mr. Kline informed the Supervisors he met with Mary Anne Fieux and Ruth Ann Moyer to review the financial report's figures for the first six (6) months of year as to how they equate with the 2015 Budget. Chairperson Kline reported on the General Fund and stated overall the Township is financially on track. Keith Blankenbiller noted building permits have doubled as to compared to last year. Mr. Blankenbiller added this should be an indicator the economy has picked up.

Chairperson Kline summarized the remaining financial reports which also show the Township is in good shape financially. He noted the Septic (08 Fund) Report is in better shape than last year due to delinquent monies having been collected.

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. Anna Wingert from 19 Magnolia Lane was present and stated she recently taught the Summer Recreation Program Leaders their First Aid/CPR/AED Certification course. Mrs. Wingert explained she learned the Township did not have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). She added the equipment can help save lives, especially since there is the Summer Recreation Program with 60-80 children present. Mrs. Wingert said AED's are often thought of for adult use, however, there have been instances where youth have had cardiac events which an AED saved the child's life. She added the unit is important to have due to public meetings and also for staff who are present on a day-to-day basis. Mrs. Wingert offered her services to assist the Township to purchase an AED and conduct training.

Keith Blankenbiller made a motion for the Township to acquire quotes for the purchase of an AED device. Mike Stump seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Chairperson Kline stated Ms. Fieux should work with Mrs. Wingert and advised quotes should be received from different companies. Mike Stump said the AED could possibly be purchased through the PA COSTARS program. Discussion about the proposed location for the AED

followed. Mrs. Wingert's husband, Mike Wingert informed the Supervisors the unit should be in a secure location due to recent thefts of AED's.

The next person to speak from the public was Patsy Keim from 200 Reiff Road. Mrs. Keim asked about the engineering report for Reiff Road. Mike Stump reported a report for Reiff Road had not been conducted as he initially had thought. Mr. Stump explained he has met on site with the Township Engineer, Gary Kraft who provided a verbal recommendation. Mr. Kline stated it may not have been clear to the Township Engineer that a formal written report was required. Chairperson Kline stated the Township will request the Township Engineer to provide a written report.

Michael Stump continued and explained the plan was to disperse the water flow over a greater area to help eliminate erosion or to create a ditch on the northeast side of the road to detain the water off the side of the road. Mrs. Keim asked for the road to be maintained and the holes in road to be filled-in. Mrs. Keim said she has been filling-in the holes in the road. She said the Township does a great job with cutting weeds and snow removal.

Keith Blankenbiller said he supported Mrs. Keim's request for a written report by the Township Engineer. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller said he noted last month's meeting Minutes stated there would be a report from the Township Engineer at this meeting. Chairperson Kline supported Mr. Blankenbiller and said a report from the Township Engineer will be available for the next meeting.

Mr. Kline stated the report from the Township Engineer will help direct the Township create a solution to the pothole problem. Chairperson Kline said Michael Stump will meet again with Gary Kraft, Township Engineer to discuss solutions to the problem.

Mrs. Keim informed the Supervisors the water flow from the road had impacted their neighbor's field and caused it to washout. Mr. Stump reiterated that he will meet with Mr. Kraft and a written report by the Township Engineer will be provided for the next meeting.

Mrs. Keim asked for direction as to what she should do in the interim should there be problems with the road. Chairperson Kline advised Mrs. Keim to call the Township to advise the Township of the problem. Mr. Kline also directed Mike Stump to check the road after rain to check the condition and address problems as best possible.

Mr. Blankenbiller again reassured Mrs. Keim the Township Engineer will conduct an inspection of the situation and accordingly provide a report on his findings. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller added that Patsy Keim will be provided a copy of Gary Kraft's report prior to the next meeting.

Next from the Public was Jan Cohen-Cruz residing at 104 Schweitz Rd, Fleetwood, representing Art in the Fields. She stated was attempting to obtain a grant from Berks County Arts Fund/Rural Arts Grant Program. Mrs. Cohen-Cruz informed the Supervisors Alsace Township is one of the municipalities listed in the grant package as an area where there is need for the arts. She continued by explaining the program would represent Alsace's history through art. Mrs. Cohen-Cruz stated she was present to obtain a letter of support from the Supervisors for the project. She said if she receives the grant she would be willing to work with the Summer Recreation Program to serve as another venue for the arts. Chairperson Kline informed Ms. Fieux would write a letter of support for his signature in support of the grant.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Swavely stated the first item before the Board is Resolution 2015-5 related to the Skyline Drive Improvement Project. Mike Stump said he had a comment about the City of Reading holding off on the project. Mr. Stump added the City has reviewed Alsace's Resolution and approves of its format compared to the DCED template provided to the Township, but the City wants to do further work on their Resolution.

Gary Swavely reminded the Supervisors there was a deadline of July 31, 2015 for the Resolution to be submitted. Solicitor Swavely added the DCED template resolution provided by Lower Alsace did not make any sense since it was a resolution for the applicant who is Lower Alsace Township. He added the Township had worked hard to create a Resolution specific to the Township's role in the project. Solicitor Swavely stated a dollar limit for Alsace was also added to the Resolution. Mr. Swavely reiterated that the process has been rough getting the proper information from Lower Alsace Township in order to create a resolution pertinent to Alsace's role in the project.

Mike Stump added he had a concern about the bike lane and the liability to the Township and its insurance. Mr. Kline said the improvements to the road will make the roadway safer and liability will be for the better. Mr. Stump continued by explaining the roadway is being shifted so a bike lane can be created next to the stone wall. Michael Stump stated the partially grant funded rebuild of the road is a benefit to the Township.

Mr. Stump asked Ms. Fieux if the City of Reading had approved the resolution. Ms. Fieux stated they had not approved their resolution and said she emailed Ralph Johnson from the City of Reading a copy of Alsace's draft resolution. Solicitor Swavely said he had a concern over the deadline, but added he limited Township's exposure as can be seen in the resolution before the Supervisors.

Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-5, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Swavely said the next item before the Board is the Holding Tank Agreement for the Chemseal Property located at 2911 Pricetown Road. Keith Blankenbiller stated he had no problem with the Holding Tank agreement since it was the same Agreement as was in place when Chemseal applied for the Agreement. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to authorize Chairperson Kline to sign and therefore execute the Holding Tank Agreement, Michael Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**SEWER REPORT:** Chairperson Kline directed the Supervisor's to the Datte report on delinquent sewer payments. Mr. Kline explained to the public that the report represents sewer payments which support the operation of the Alsace Township Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Mr. Kline stated the report represents residents in the arrears. He further explained some residents have payment arrangements, and other homes have been foreclosed and therefore rectified. Mike Stump noted the list is shorter, but the amount due is higher.

Ruth Ann Moyer asked about empty homes which residents have walked away from, but are not in foreclosure, if there should be liens placed upon the property or the Township should wait until the homes are sold. Solicitor Swavely said the foreclosure process can be lengthy and said liens should be placed on the property, however, he said Datte would make the final decision. Mrs. Moyer had concern about the money it costs to place a lien and Chairperson

Kline explained the Township will get the money back when the home is sold. Ruth Ann Moyer noted a Writ of Scire Facias had been filed for the Poplar Avenue property.

Chairperson Kline said the next item is the LTL SEO Report for June 2015. The Beckers Grove property was discussed and as a result Keith Blankenbiller made a motion for the SEO to take action necessary for the property to be in compliance with DEP regulations, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Phillip Kline asked the Supervisors to review the Septic Pumping Report. Keith Blankenbiller asked about the notification process which Ruth Ann Moyer explained about the timing of the notices she mails to the residents. Chairperson Kline said during the winter months it can be difficult to have a system pumped. Vice-Chairperson asked Mrs. Moyer for the list of the six (6) properties which have not pumped. Mrs. Moyer said some of these properties do not have phone numbers. Keith asked that the information also be sent to LTL.

Chairperson Kline continued with the Alsace Christian Fellowship request for relief from their sewer bill since the property located at 47 Alsace Avenue is vacant. Mike Stump informed the Supervisors there are a few churches looking to purchase the property. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to relieve Alsace Christian Fellowship located at 47 Alsace Avenue of any responsibility for their sewer bill from July 2015 onward with the stipulation that the building stays vacant and that when the property is sold or inhabited the sewer bills will start again and that Glenn Kraft is notified the building is vacant, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Chairperson Phil Kline pointed out a report from Township Engineer Gary Kraft on the City of Reading's draft Comprehensive Plan and his recommendation that Alsace Township has no comment due to there not being any impact on the Township. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to approve Gary Kraft's recommendation, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT:** Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller reported on various properties included in the Kraft Code Services report for July 2015. Mr. Blankenbiller stated there were a few property maintenance violations which originated as complaints from a neighbor. He continued by informing the public the Township has a complaint form which can be utilized for this purpose. A NOV was issued for a property on Spies Church Road, the certified letter was not served, and therefore a citation will be filed with the District Magistrate.

Mr. Blankenbiller stated the Township is permitted to cut the grass on properties in violation of Township code and be reimbursed for its services. Keith Blankenbiller continued by stating he would drive by the two (2) properties on Spies Church Road to further inspect the properties. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller continued to review the report from Kraft Code Services. He pointed out 19 Schmecks Lane has a placard stating it as uninhabitable. Further follow-up will be conducted by Kraft Code Services.

Keith Blankenbiller reported on the Reserve at Spring Pointe and stated construction is continuing on Building F and G. Building F is scheduled for a temporary CO as early as this week. Keith Blankenbiller stated he wanted to meet with the Alsace Manor Volunteer Fire Company (AMVFC) but was unable to do so. Phil Kline stated he and Mike Stump met with Wendy Becker from the AMVFC. Mr. Stump reported Mrs. Becker and her fire crew conducted

a thorough inspection of the new units at the Reserve at Spring Pointe. There was still concern expressed about water pressure at the site.

Mr. Blankenbiller reported on the Kula Kamala Foundation's Zoning Hearing Board meeting held on July 14, 2015. LTL's July 2015 report commented on the sewage flow rates for overnight weekend use. Chairperson Kline said the Zoning Hearing Board variance was approved with conditions regarding limits on the overnight use at the site. Solicitor Gary Swavely confirmed the conditions of the variance and added Township codes must be followed for all uses proposed at the site.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Road Master/Supervisor Mike Stump gave an update on the Alsace Manor Project. Mr. Stump stated over 1,000 feet of U-drain has been installed in the Manor. Michael Stump added there was dust as a result of the project which he addressed. Mr. Stump continued and said about 160 feet of 30 inch corrugated metal pipe is ready to be installed for the upgrades. Tops will also be replaced according to Mr. Stump. Supervisor Stump estimates the project is 50% completed. Mr. Stump continued by stating he expects to be paving the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of August.

Keith Blankenbiller asked about easements which might be required for the Manor Project. Mr. Blankenbiller indicated he spoke with Township Engineer Gary Kraft about necessary easements. Chairperson Kline noted the majority of the work is being done in the Right-of-Way (ROW). Mr. Stump stated he would speak to Mr. Kraft about the easements when they meet about Reiff Road.

Mike Stump made a request to go out to bid to oil and chip Schmehl, Delp, Irish Mountain and Kutz Roads utilizing Liquid Fuels Funds. Mr. Stump stated he has been working with Charlie Paris from PennDOT, who ultimately will be the person assisting to create the bid package for the Township. Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to go out to bid to oil and chip portions of Schmehl, Delp, Kutz, and Irish Mountain Roads equating approximately one (1) mile, dimensions to be determined at a later date, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. Chairperson Kline requested signage be placed on the road advising drivers of the oil and chip work. Mr. Stump stated the bid requires the contractor to be in compliance with PennDOT signage requirements and therefore the liability is on the contractor to provide the proper signage.

Mike Stump asked Ms. Fieux to report about the Berks Coop salt bid for 2015-2016. Ms. Fieux stated the Township of Spring is taking lead on the project for Berks Coop and has requested municipalities to submit their requests by August 22, 2015. Ms. Fieux stated she needs the quantity of salt the Township wants for the season to submit for the Berks Coop salt bid. Ms. Fieux also pointed out there is no minimum salt purchase required in the Berks Coop program, whereas the State COSTARS program has a minimum purchase requirement.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** No report due to July 2, 2015 meeting being canceled.

**RECREATION BOARD REPORT:** Phil Kline reported 152 children are registered with the Summer Recreation Program, noting during 2014 a total of 126 children were registered with the program. Approximately 80 children actively participate in the program on a regular basis.

**ALSACE MANOR FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** Chairperson Kline noted Wendy Becker was not present to give her report. However, Mr. Kline continued and stated he was extremely impressed with the professionalism he saw at the Reserve at Spring Pointe when the fire crews conducted their walk-thru. Mr. Stump added he too was impressed on how committed the volunteer firefighters are to their job.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** No report.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Phil Kline asked if any of the Supervisors had any more information to report. Mr. Kline asked Mr. Stump if he had any comments, he had none. Mr. Blankenbiller said he had a comment on the Rt. 12 No-stopping/Standing signs proposed for the area of Rt. 12 between Woodside Avenue and Antietam Road. Mr. Stump stated PennDOT has given permission for signs to be placed on Rt. 12, however the Township will incur the cost of the signs. Mike Stump suggested Senator Schwank's office be contacted to see if PennDOT could provide the signs. Chairperson Kline stated the Township should move forward with the signage for Rt. 12.

Mr. Kline stated the Herbein audit has been reviewed by the Township Secretary and compliance continues directives of the report are addressed.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** – Phil Kline asked if there were any further comments from the public. Anna Wingert stated she wanted to compliment the Summer Recreation Program Leaders. She stated she was impressed by the Program Leaders during their First Aid/CPR/AED certification training.

Mike Wingert asked if the Fire Tower radio tower was in Alsace Township. Mike stated the tower is located in Lower Alsace Township.

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. Keith Blankenbiller made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Stump, the motion was unanimously approved. Adjournment was at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Anne Fieux  
Secretary – Treasurer