

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 March 4, 2015 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 \$72,284.15 from the General Fund, \$4,157.47 from the Sewer Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$6,229.27 from the Septic Fund, and \$0 from the Highway Fund (Liquid Fuels) 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 REPORT FROM THE TREASURER:** Chairperson Kline directed the Supervisors to review each of the four (4) accounts' financial reports. Mr. Kline pointed out the reports are in a new format which compares year-to-date income and expenditures to the 2015 Budget and includes the variance between the two.

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

Keith Blankenbiller asked a question about a check paid to Petro Choice in the listing of checks paid through the General Fund. Ms. Fieux pulled the invoice, associated check stub from the office files, and informed the Supervisors the bill was for a 55 gallon drum of 15W40 motor oil purchased through the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Phil Kline asked Mike Stump about the salt supply from the winter. Mr. Stump stated the Township was in good shape and all loads have been received. Chairperson Kline asked if all salt bills have been paid and Mike Stump stated there might be one (1) outstanding salt bill. Mr. Stump continued stated the bought the majority of the salt from the State Costars program which was cheaper than the Berks Cooperative Purchasing Program (COOP). Mike Stump added the quality of salt from Costars was better quality than the Berks COOP.

**MS4 PRESENTATION:** Kate Keppen from the Berks County Conservation District introduced herself, passed around a sign-in sheet for proof of the presentation as part of the State MS4 Program requirements, and continued with her presentation on stormwater and keeping waterways clean. Ms. Keppen explained stormwater can cause extreme erosion on land and waterways. Kate Keppen continued by stating excessive run-off carries with it dirt, pesticides, and fertilizers which can affect water quality and the food chain.

Ms. Keppen explained "MS4" stands for Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems and gave the MS4 portion of her presentation. Kate Keppen stated the MS4 Program started as a result of the Clean Water Act passed in the 1970's. Ms. Keppen explained the Clean Water Act addresses industrial sources of pollution, but does not address feces from farm animals, road salts, domestic pet waste, and other materials such as litter. Kate Keppen stated MS4 is

required for systems which convey only stormwater and includes urbanized areas as designated the U.S. Census. Municipally owned curbs, gutters, swales, ditches, streets, and pipes are all included in the definition of MS4 as a means of conveyance of stormwater. Ms. Keppen explained the MS4 program requirements and how they are implemented.

Ms. Keppen continued by giving the public tips on how to help address stormwater and the environment. A few of the examples Kate Keppen suggested was decreasing watering lawns during heavy rain cycles, insure vehicles have no leaks, utilize car washes who recycle their water, and rain barrels for downspouts.

Ms. Keppen announced PA DEP has a new emergency phone number for spills etc. She stated the new phone number is 866-825-0208. Ms. Keppen asked if there were any questions. Mike Stump asked about farmers and the pollution created by farms. Ms. Keppen stated some streams have limits set by the State. Ms. Keppen continued and stated regulated streams have limits set, such as "x" tons of nitrogen per year. Ms. Keppen stated Alsace Township does not have any streams with limits set by the State. The farmers do have other regulations they are required to follow, as required by the State. Ms. Keppen stated the State needs to do more work regarding pollution created by the farming industry.

Gary Kraft explained that the teams of professionals who are conducting public presentations throughout Berks County municipalities are doing so as a cooperative effort with the MS4 Steering Committee. Mr. Kraft continued by explaining the Township would have had to pay for a presentation from another source to comply with the public education element of MS4. Gary Kraft stated part of the Township paid MS4 fees pays for the evening's presentation.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Chairperson Kline opened the public comment section of the meeting. Heather Hurley presented her request to have fawns on her property. Mrs. Hurley explained she has 13 acres of property and the property was previously a sheep farm. Heather Hurley stated her property is located in the R-2 Zone. Phil Kline stated R-2 restricts certain uses such as the fawns and therefore zoning may be an issue. Solicitor Swavely explained she would have to seek relief from the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mrs. Hurley said she was informed the Zoning Ordinance was in the process of being changed. She stated Joe Neidert, Kraft Code Services, had informed her the proposed new Zoning Ordinance had not been advertised. Chairperson Kline confirmed the Ordinance had not been advertised. Solicitor Swavely explained Mrs. Hurley's intent is to have her property rezoned in the new Zoning Ordinance to allow for her proposed use of the property since the Ordinance has not been advertised.

Chairperson Kline instructed Mrs. Hurley to attend the next Planning Commission meeting on April 2, 2015. Mr. Kline explained the Planning Commission steers changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Planning Commission Chairperson Ned Brumbach explained to Mrs. Hurley that the Game Commission said they were going to get tough on domesticated deer due to chronic wasting disease. Mr. Brumbach said the Game Commission governs farm raised wild animals. Mrs. Hurley stated she had already received information from the Game Commission. Chairperson Kline directed Mrs. Hurley to attend the April 2 Planning Commission meeting and present her proposal to the Planning Commission. Mr. Brumbach stated he would contact the Game Commission prior to the April 2 Planning Commission meeting. Chairperson Kline

further explained that the Planning Commission submits their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Solicitor Swavely concluded by clarifying for Mrs. Hurley her proposed use would require a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board, per the current Zoning Ordinance. Solicitor Swavely stated that if she wanted immediate relief she would have to request a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board by making application for the variance and paying the required application fee.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Swavely stated he had no report.

**SEWER REPORT:** Chairperson Kline asked Ruth Ann Moyer is she anything to add to the Sewer Payment Status Report from Datte's office. Mrs. Moyer stated a payment plan has been established for the property Mr. Kline was referencing. Mike Stump asked if the Township or Datte's office was sending the payment plans. Chairperson Kline indicated the Township had always sent the payment plans. Ruth Ann Moyer stated she was agreeable for either she or Datte's office to send the payment plans. Mike Stump suggested perhaps the paper could be notarized to make it more official. Chairperson Kline explained to the public the Township tries to work with its residents, however, if a resident gets too far behind in a sewer bill the Township must take action.

Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller stated he had cross-referenced a couple of the properties in his Building and Zoning Report with the Sewer Payment Status Report. Mr. Blankenbiller stated some of the properties who have applied for permits are in the arrears with their sewer bills. Mrs. Moyer addressed Mr. Blankenbiller's questions that the properties in question have been taken care of and some are bank owned. Mrs. Moyer stated Datte's office asked for additional background on the bank owned properties to bring those properties up-to-date regarding their sewer payments.

Chairperson Kline continued the discussion regarding the property previously occupied by Muddy's BBQ on Pricetown Road. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller stated the problem with some of the sewer arrears bills is the tenants are being billed and not the property owner. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller made a motion for sewer bills to be sent to the property owner's address for all rental properties and the owner is ultimately responsible for all sewer bills, Mike Stump seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller asked about tracking tenants in properties. Ruth Ann Moyer stated she called the Oley School District's Census Coordinator who stated there were no other municipalities who had requested names for properties. Mrs. Moyer continued and said the Census Coordinator would try to work with Alsace Township. Mrs. Moyer added that the school goes by names rather than addresses which makes obtaining the information from the schools difficult. Emergency Management Coordinator Darlene Bartsch and Fire Chief Wendy Becker mentioned this would help with their 911 calls. Keith Blankenbiller requested Ruth Ann Moyer call Rose Ellen Mull at Ruscombmanor to see how Ruscombmanor addresses this situation. Phil added Ms. Fieux suggested polling other municipalities via email to acquire further information.

Phil Kline asked the Supervisors if there were any questions on the LTL report. None of the Supervisors had any questions on the Datte report.

Chairperson Kline asked the Supervisors to review the Septic Pumping Update and asked if there were any questions about the report. None of the Supervisors had any questions about the Septic Pumping Update report.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Phil Kline announced there were two (2) Girl Scouts from the Township who won the highest Girl Scout award, the Girl Scout Gold Award. Chairperson Kline stated the Supervisors signed Certificates of Appreciation from the Township for Gabrielle R. McCartney and Julianna Perdomenico who won the award.

Chairperson Kline presented an update on the Spring Cleanup. Phil Kline stated Boy Scout Troop 508 will be assisting with the cleanup helping with offloading resident's items and doing traffic control if needed.

**BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT:** Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller reported on the property located at 3023 Buck Run which went before the District Justice due to not submitting proof of having their septic system pumped as required by Act 57. The property had their septic system pumped but had not submitted their pumping slips to the Township as required by Act 57. Mr. Blankenbiller stated if the resident had submitted their pumping slips the situation would never have occurred and associated costs to the Township.

Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller continued and reported on various properties within the Kraft Code Services report and certain properties which are of concern. Keith Blankenbiller reported two (2) properties did not obtain building permits and will be charged double permit fees, as required by the Township. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller continued to provide a summary of the Kraft Code Services report.

Mr. Blankenbiller reported on 2868 Pricetown Road and the appearance of a fire at the property due to smoke coming out of the house near the chimney. Fire Chief Becker reported there was no fire at the property. Wendy Becker continued by explaining the smoke was a result of wet wood being burned in the stove. Mr. Blankenbiller stated his concern about the heating situation at the property. Ruth Ann Moyer stated there was a heating system at the residence, but no oil in the oil tank. Phil Kline added that the Township's Mechanical and Code Enforcement Officers have been on-site. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller stated he follow-up with both officers.

Keith Blankenbiller stated the Township was given a good review by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry after they conducted the spot inspections at several commercial properties in the Township. Mr. Blankenbiller added this shows Harrisburg the Township inspectors are doing their job.

**ROAD MASTER REPORT:** Road Master Mike Stump gave a summary about a call he received from Lower Alsace Township regarding a grant for Skyline Drive off of Oak Lane. Mr. Stump stated the grant would include walking paths on the shoulder of the road. Mr. Stump explained he would acquire more information about the grant from for the Supervisors.

Mr. Stump reported Alsace Road was in bad shape and that this was due to five (5) water main breaks along the road. Mike Stump stated the harsh winter was blame for the deteriorating condition of the roads.

Mike Stump added that the Township received money for restitution for the damaged stone wall in the amount of \$2,395.50. Mr. Stump stated the slope at the area is steep and engineering services would be required for proper design for the new wall.

Road Master Mike Stump reported most of the equipment held up well during the winter. Mr. Stump continued stating a new backhoe and truck should be considered to be replaced.

Mr. Stump said he will meet with Township Engineer Gary Kraft next Tuesday to discuss asphalt and drainage repairs in the Manor. Mike Stump said they will discuss a proposal utilizing pipes and "u-drains".

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** Chairperson Ned Brumbach reported the March 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to snow.

**RECREATION BOARD REPORT:** Phil Kline reported an ad for Playground Leaders for the Summer Recreation Program will be placed in the Reading Eagle on March 7, 8, 14, and 15.

**ALSACE MANOR FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** Wendy Becker stated she had no report.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Darlene Bartsch stated she had no report.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Phil Kline asked if any of the Supervisors had any more information to report and there was no further information to report.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** – Phil Kline asked if there were any further comments from the public. Don Rettew from 2020 Mt. Laurel Road complained his property being affected by the operations of the quarry near his property. Mr. Rettew stated the water runs through to the bottom of his driveway and during the winter often turns into ice. Mr. Rettew continued and stated the water flow through his property has been diverted three (3) times. Chairperson Kline suggested Mr. Rettew should contact Eric at Highway Materials at the quarry, advise them of the problem, and request help to resolve the problem.

Dave from Highway Materials was present and stated they were willing to help Mr. Rettew's situation. Dave stated they have installed a silt fence and berm to help prevent water flow from exiting the new area being mined.

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 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Anne Fieux  
Secretary – Treasurer