

Phil Kline, Chairperson of the Board, called the October 7, 2015 Workshop Meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Phillip Kline, Keith Blankenbiller, Michael Stump, Township Solicitor Gary Swavely, and Mary Anne Fieux. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building and Phil Kline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT** – Phil Kline stated the Township received a letter from Berks County RATS about future road projects. Chairperson Kline asked the Supervisors for their support for a letter to be sent to PENNDOT expressing the Township's concern about SR 0012 (Pricetown Rd.) and SR 2016 (Elizabeth Ave). Mr. Blankenbiller and Mr. Stump concurred a letter should be sent to PENNDOT.

Chairperson Kline informed the Supervisors the Comcast Franchise Agreement will expire at the end of 2015 and a new Agreement for 2016-2030 is currently under review. Mr. Kline asked Ms. Fieux about a consortium formed by several local municipalities for their Comcast Franchise Agreements. Ms. Fieux explained there is a group of municipalities who have formed a consortium who utilized a law firm to negotiate their Comcast Franchise Agreements; however, the Township is not looking to join the consortium. Ms. Fieux stated she asked direction from Solicitor Swavely regarding utilizing the same law firm to review the Agreement for the Township. She further explained there are several other municipalities have utilized the law firm, are not a part of the consortium, and are happy with the law firm's services. Solicitor Swavely stated he was familiar with the firm's services and at this time, the Township was only seeking information to see if the firm could benefit the Township.

Chairperson Kline explained properties affected by the changes in proposed new Zoning Map need to be advised of these changes via a letter. Mr. Kline stated it has been suggested Kraft Engineering send out letters to the properties affected by the rezoning. Chairperson Kline asked for authorization to utilize Kraft Engineering. Mr. Blankenbiller and Mr. Stump agreed Kraft Engineering should be utilized.

Mr. Kline informed the Supervisors the preparation of the 2016 Budget is currently underway. Mr. Kline reminded Mr. Stump to continue with his section of the budget.

Chairperson Kline said the health insurance quotes are being acquired for the 2016 budget and Township employees who utilize the service.

Phillip Kline explained Ms. Fieux had received quotes on electric supply service for the Township and asked Ms. Fieux to speak. Ms. Fieux directed the Supervisors to review the chart, which summarized the work. Ms. Fieux explained she sent out an email blast to Berks County municipalities and received 11 responses and got further information on the PSATS Forum. A total of six (6) municipalities utilize Constellation.

Ms. Fieux said of the three (3) electric supply quotes, Constellation was the low quote and asked the Supervisors to take action on the matter. Chairperson Kline asked about the current rate, Ms. Fieux stated \$0.082 kWh. She added upon their decision, she would acquire a

contract for Solicitor Swavely to review. Solicitor Swavely asked if the previous contract was a long-term contract and Ms. Fieux said it was. Mr. Stump asked if there was an escalator clause in the contract like a PENNDOT contract. Ms. Fieux stated there was none, the prices remain the same throughout the term. Ms. Fieux also recommended the Township approve the 49-month term with Constellation, since it is the lowest rate at \$0.6309 per kWh. Chairperson Kline asked Ms. Fieux to provide Mr. Swavely with the contract from Constellation.

Chairperson Kline reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2015 budget review and reported that overall the Township was in good shape. He added line item descriptions continue to be cleaned up to be consistent with the Chart of Accounts. Phillip Kline pointed out the income for building permits are higher due to the Reserve at Spring Pointe, and accordingly the Building Code Official expenses are higher. Mr. Kline anticipates the WWTP O & M fund to be close to the budget by the end of the year. Chairperson Kline said the Septic (08) and Liquid Fuels Fund (35) are doing all right as well.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT** – Chairperson Kline asked the Supervisors for their reports. Vice-Chairperson Blankenbiller stated he just received the information from Ebert Engineering prior to the meeting therefore there would be no report on 5- Points sewer project. Keith Blankenbiller reported on the quotes for moving the condenser unit and a good faith effort was put forth by the Township to acquire quotes with the RFQ. Solicitor Swavely agreed the Township put forth a good effort in accordance with the court's direction.

Supervisor – Road Master Michael Stump reported due to the warm weather grass is still being cut. Mr. Stump also report the first load of salt was delivered. He stated the Township received 100 tons of salt. Mr. Stump said they did paving last week and the majority of the Manor project has been completed. Michael Stump added that leaf collection would start when approximately 80% of the leaves are off the trees.

**ALSACE MANOR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** – Fire Chief Wendy Becker was not present due to being on-call at a fire.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS** – Chairperson Kline asked if there were additional comments from the Supervisors or the Public. Judith Treichler asked for an update for 45 Poplar Ave. about the moving of the condenser. Keith Blankenbiller stated he reported earlier in the meeting there were no quotes provided as a result of the Township putting out a Request for Quotes (RFQ) in the Reading Eagle Legal Ads. Solicitor Swavely stated the Township would continue to work to resolve the situation with the condenser.

Chairperson Kline announced he would not be present for the next meeting on October 21, 2015. Phillip Kline added the preliminary budget should be ready for the regular business meeting in November.

Keith Blankenbiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Stump, and the motion was unanimously approved. Adjournment was at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Anne Fieux  
Secretary – Treasurer