

Phillip Kline, Chairperson of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order. Present were Phillip Kline, Michael Stump, Sam Mallatratt, Township Solicitor Gary Swavely Jr., and Kimberly Mallatratt. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building and was called to order at 7:00 pm. Chairperson Kline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Chairperson Kline presented the Minutes from the July 19, 2017 Supervisors' Workshop meeting. Mike Stump made a motion to approve the Minutes, Sam Mallatratt seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Chairperson Kline asked for approval of the Township payment of bills. Mike Stump made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$52,719.31 from the General Fund, \$6,485.86 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$397.52 from the Septic and Sewer Fund, and \$0 from the Liquid Fuels Fund seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion was unanimously approved. Vice-Chairman Stump made a motion to pay taxes, payroll and interim bills, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** There were no questions regarding the Financial Statements. A motion was made by Mike Stump to approve the financial reports, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING - POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN REVIEW** (Gary Kraft)

The public hearing was started at 7:08 p.m. This public hearing and plan review period has been advertised appropriately for the purposes of public comments on the Pollution Reduction Plan. The PRP has been available for public viewing in the Township office beginning on August 1, 2017 and will be available through August 31, 2017. Mr. Gary Kraft provided an overview of why Alsace Township is part of this program as well as the Pollution Reduction Plan which was prepared based on MS-4 requirements. There are seven watersheds that flow from Alsace Township, one is impaired – Laurel Run – and must be addressed in this plan. Our goal as stipulated by PADEP is to reduce the sediment by 10% for this stream.

There are several areas that have been identified in the Township which contribute to the sediment load of this watershed – Beacon Hill area, Cralou Drive and Fox Road which encompass approximately 120 acres. The current sediment load to the Laurel Run watershed from these three areas is 60,000 pounds/year. Based on this calculation Alsace Township needs to eliminate 6,000 pounds of sediment per year.

Mr. Kraft explained that there are several available options for the sediment load reduction. The option that is being considered is to use an existing stormwater basin in Beacon Hill, and to modify it as the cost is more reasonable. This can be done as a single project over a five-year period. Mr. Kraft is suggesting that the Township proceeds with the investigative and design work in the first year, and then perform the work in the subsequent years. The timeframe for the entire project must fall between September 2018 and September 2023. The project would entail taking the existing stormwater basin and sumping the bottom of the basin. By doing this work, we create a settling area, promote groundwater recharge and improve water quality. Mr. Kraft then showed a graphic of this area.

A gross estimate of the project at this time is \$150,000. This would be a budget of approximately \$30,000 per year.

Questions and comments from the public were then requested.

Michael Stump – Explain why this needs to be done.

Gary Kraft – This is a mandate from the EPA from 2002. In most states this work is done on a county-wide level, however, in Pennsylvania as we are municipality driven, it is done at the local level.

Michael Stump – Could we do some of this work in-house, or must it be done by outside contractors?

Gary Kraft – There is no requirement that we use outside contractors. We can explore the possibility of using in-house forces through the planning process for the project. A required element of the Pollution Reduction Plan was the development of a project estimate, which was why that number was included.

Michael Stump – Pointed out that these stormwater basin which were approved on installation from the PADEP, are no longer adequate by their own standards and the Township now needs to do more work on them at the Township's cost. There are potential fines should these projects not be completed appropriately.

Gary Swavely – He provided an example of another municipality and the costs that are experienced.

Phil Kline – Explain why Cralou Drive is not a factor in this.

Gary Kraft – Cralou is a factor because they generate sediment. We selected the area that we believe will be the simplest and most cost effective to do initially. There is a stormwater basin at Cralou that has some flow. Because of this, the permitting would be more complicated. We are trying to avoid this initially. This may be the next candidate.

Phil Kline – You talked about the Fox Road area. How to you do a project like that?

Gary Kraft – You would probably need to do something along the side of the road. Right now there is a hillside that flows to a series of inlets and something would need to be done upstream of the inlets. Perhaps a small basin. This would require land acquisition, considerable grading as there is not enough room in the right-of-way. On Cralou it is already a defined structure which make the project straightforward.

Phil Kline – Mr. Kline expressed that it is his understanding that these will be projects that will most likely be targeted in the future as the requirements will certainly not become less moving forward.

Gary Kraft – Mr. Kraft stated that there is no information on what will be required in the next five-year permit cycle. He has heard the statement from DEP that they will not back off of these mandates until there is improvement in the watersheds. Mr. Kraft then

explained why sediment in these watersheds is a problem which includes the inhibition of macroinvertebrate growth in the area, which has an effect on the fish. This is what contributes to a “non-attaining” stream.

Phil Kline – Asked a question about the sediment coming from State-owned roads, how are they addressing this issue.

Gary Kraft – Gary had no answer for this question.

Michael Stump – To his knowledge, PennDOT is just getting information about this and he has also heard no information from them at this point.

Gary Kraft – Stated that the Township does not need to account for their water. Mr. Kraft reiterated that we are only required, at this point, to include sediment from these three small areas, not the total sediment into all watersheds. That would be a far greater number and consequently, a far greater project.

Mike Stump – Mike discussed PennDOT not being proactive in having something move the water efficiently, but rather dealing with it storm-by-storm.

Darlene Bartsch – Explained that she and Kim Mallatratt worked on the hazard mitigation plan for the County. In that were questions regarding monitoring of stormwater. They were answered as they were on-going monitoring situations and did not provide a finite date for completion. These answers were accepted by the County.

Kimberly Mallatratt – Explained more fully the questions that were asked on that form and our responses of “on-going monitoring”.

Darlene Bartsh – Discussed a pamphlet she received from the Berks County Conservation District regarding floodplain mitigation.

Gary Kraft – Expressed that this sounds like a FEMA survey.

William Foreman – What if our proposed project doesn’t achieve 10% reduction? Would that mean that we would need to do another project? How do you know it is 10%?

Gary Kraft – We get asked this question often. We utilize methods that are approved by the PADEP. The premise is that we will achieve the goal by completing the project that we have outlined. The project that we have outlined will actually over-achieve our goals. The project is based on averages.

Phil Kline – This becomes a maintenance cycle.

Gary Kraft – There is required maintenance. What we will need to negotiate with the property owner who is responsible for maintaining the pond is a cost to do so. A rule of thumb is 10%; a 10% stipend for maintenance. Ultimately it is the Township’s responsibility to ensure that it is maintained.

Phil Kline – Maintenance then needs to be considered. Not sure if it has been considered up until this point.

Gary Kraft – It is easier on some projects than others. It is more difficult in stream bank restoration as opposed to stormwater basin.

Michael Stump – Commented that curbs, boxes and pipes were the preferred method. The current preference is no curbs, swales, narrower streets, so that water runs into the grass and regenerates through the ground.

The public comment portion for this hearing ended at 7:29 p.m. Mr. Kraft reiterated that the plan is still available for comment in the Township Office until August 31, 2017.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Bonnie Landis and Carey Ireland were in attendance to hear about the Sewer Extension project and would like to be able to ask questions at that time.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Swavely reported that the Zoning Hearing Appeal that was filed by Larry and Tina Lill has been withdrawn in July and that matter is concluded.

**WWTP, SEWER & SEPTIC REPORT:**

- There was no activity through LTL Consultants
- Final Holding Tanks are being pumped – 3 have pumped, 6 still need to be done, 1 has obtained a permit for an on-lot system.
- Sewer Payment Agreement on the Woodside Avenue property. After a brief discussion and several questions by the public present, a motion was made by Mike Stump to accept the proposed Payment Agreement and to authorize Phil Kline to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Township, seconded by Sam Mallatratt and the motion carried.

**SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT:** Mr. Kline introduced Mr. Ebert. The purpose of this discussion is simply to provide an update on the status of the plan and answer any preliminary questions on this project. DEP is requiring that the Township begin to address other areas of the Township that need to be part of the existing sewer system. The Board has decided to take a pro-active approach to this issue and has identified the northern end of Pricetown Road from the existing Alsace Manor area to the Township boundary as the next area to be addressed. This will affect approximately 30 properties, 15 on each side of the roadway.

A letter will be sent to all affected homeowners to inform them about the project and to set up a time for an open Town Hall Meeting to discuss the project and answer questions from the public, primarily the affected residents. The plan is to do the west side first. The residents will be asked to provide an easement through their properties, as opposed to utilizing Pricetown Road, to reduce costs. A connection time plan will need to be established for the west side giving residents time to connect and replenish the funds, and then using the existing pipeline on the east side. We are also exploring the possibility of using Township forces for the installation. If not, the construction will need to be publicly bid.

After a Town Hall meeting is held and we receive public input, the Act 539 Plan will be finalized and will be available for public viewing and comment for 30-days.

Mr. Ebert asked for authorization to work with the Business Manager to draft a letter to go to the affected residents and to schedule a date for a Town Hall meeting which was granted by the Board.

Questions and comments were addressed as follows:

Michael Stump – Can you provide a brief overview of anticipated costs?

Fred Ebert – We are anticipating a tap-in fee of \$6,300, at that point they can immediately connect. However, the other alternative would be an initial payment of \$2,000. The resident would then have an additional four years to pay the balance of the \$6,300 and connect. If in the interim they sell their house, they would then need to pay the balance of the tap-in fee. There will be additional costs that will be incurred by the resident to connect to the sewer.

Michael Stump – This timeline is to give residents time to save the money for their property as there is no grant money available for this portion of the project.

Fred Ebert – The Board applied for a PA Small Water and Sewer Grant. We were not funded in the first round and have applied for all available grants.

Bonnie Landis – If they go across the back, it will provide a longer connection for most residents. Is there any idea of cost per foot for the connection?

Fred Ebert – An estimate would be \$10-15 per linear foot. Fred also reiterated the substantial cost savings by going through properties with easements as opposed to using Pricetown Road. Mr. Ebert then explained the issues that will be encountered if the project is constructed on Pricetown Road.

Bonnie Landis – How many EDUs are available?

Fred Ebert – We are currently using about 50% of our plant. We have plenty of capacity.

Carey Ireland – This line will go down both sides of Pricetown Road, or only one?

Fred Ebert – It will do down both sides of the road. We would just prefer to say off of Pricetown Road.

Bonnie Landis – How long do these last?

Fred Ebert – Generally the pumps are lasting between 8-15 years. We actually purchase slightly more expensive pumps, however the failure rate has been very low.

Drew Eck – Has anyone been keeping track of the failures?

Fred Ebert – Yes, we do know the failures. We are keeping a chart of this information and can provide that if someone wants to see it.

Bonnie Landis – Have you been on any of the properties?

Fred Ebert - I will ask for specific permission during the Town Hall meeting. I have walked along the front of the properties. During my walks moving forward, I will stake out a potential line and have a surveyor with me as well. We will need numerous visits.

Carey Ireland – Is it cheaper to do two individual lines rather than go up Pricetown Road?

Fred Ebert – Yes, it is still cheaper to do it this way rather than Pricetown Road. There is also a much larger liability to do the project this way. Additionally, should there be a failure on the line at some point in the future, the ability to fix the line would be extremely expensive.

Carey Ireland – Is there any danger of sewer backing up into the house?

Fred Ebert – We have check valves in specific places that will prevent this. There are also alarms in place that monitor the water levels. There are also traps that are in place to prevent it coming into your house.

Mr. Ebert also explained about the Capital Reserve account that was set up to pay for on-going maintenance of the plant.

The Town Hall meeting should be held outside of the general meeting dates so that more specific information can be shared with the affected residents.

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

- The Heritage Society will be meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. The group will be finalizing the 2018 calendar. Phil also requested any pictures or additional documentation that anyone is willing to share for this group.
- Mt. Penn Preserve Executive Meeting was recently attended. Berks County Commissioner Barnhardt will be at our Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting on October 4, 2017 to discuss this initiative. Mr. Kline encourage the public to ask questions of Commissioner Barnhardt at that meeting.

**BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT:** 11 permits were issued for 7 applicants by Kraft Codes in July.

Plumbing permits will be turned over to Kraft Codes beginning on September 1, 2017. All current plans underway will be closed out by Mr. Brian Sands. A motion to appoint Kraft Codes as the Township Plumbing Inspector starting on September 1, 2017 by Mike Stump, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion carried.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

- Ordinance 2017-1 for speed restriction on Reiff Road (20 mph) and Skyline Drive (35 mph). A motion was made by Mike Stump to pass this ordinance, Sam Mallatratt seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

- The Skyline Drive project is complete.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** No report.

**RECREATION BOARD REPORT:** Preliminary numbers are in and it is projected that the playground program will end with a surplus of approximately \$2,800. There were 141 registrations for the year. The playground program was successful and a close-out meeting was held to preliminarily discuss next year.

**ALSACE MANOR FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** Wendy Becker reported that they applied for a FEMA Regional Grant with Greenfield and Central Fire Co of Laureldale. They were successful and the Alsace Manor Fire Co. share of the grant will be \$92,914.00. The money will be used for 12 new airpacks. The Fire Co. will need to pay \$4,419.00. Ms. Becker also made the offer for the use of the Bingo Hall for any necessary Town Hall meetings.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** no report.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT –**

Mr. Kline asked about the flashing speed limit signs for areas in the Township. Mr. Stump is working on this issue with the office.

Mr. Kline reminded everyone that we are approaching budget season, so for those that participate, please begin planning your budget items and submit to the Township Business Manager.

Mr. Kline then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Stump made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion was unanimously approved. Adjournment was at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt  
Business Manager/Secretary/Treasurer