

Michael Stump, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:03 pm. Also present were Vice Chairman Sam Mallatratt, Member David Barth, Business Manager Kimberly Mallatratt, Solicitor Gary Swavely, and Township Engineer Michael Reinert. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building. Mr. Stump led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Chairperson Stump asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2019 meeting. Mr. Mallatratt made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Barth and the motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Chairperson Stump asked for approval for the Township payment of bills. David Barth made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$59,760.86 from the General Fund, \$17,650.89 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$1,980.64 from the Septic and Sewer Fund, and \$0.00 from the Liquid Fuels Fund seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion was approved.

**PAYMENT OF PAYROLL:** Mr. Barth made a motion to pay payroll in the amount of \$22,551.09 seconded by Mr. Stump. Sam Mallatratt abstained from the vote per the memo on file. The motion was approved by Mr. Barth and Mr. Stump.

**PAYMENT OF TAXES AND INTERIM BILLS:** Mr. Barth made a motion to pay taxes and interim bills, seconded by Mr. Mallatratt, and the motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** All financial reports were reviewed and there were no questions.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Donald and Ann Gemmiti – Urban Acres – Mr. Gemmiti expressed concern regarding the Elizabeth Ave. and Pricetown Road intersection. Mr. Stump explained that PennDOT District 5-0 has a meeting next month that he will be attending. There are currently PennDOT plans to address this section of roadway. Preliminary engineering is expected to begin in early 2020, but a final timeline has not yet been provided to the Township. The Gemmiti's also asked about recycling and the reason for the increased cost to the Township. They asked that they consider charging residents a fee for recycling. Also asked about an update for the Fire Company.

Bonnie Landis – Pricetown Road – Ms. Landis mentioned that she has magnets available for sale for \$5.00 from Safety net Sanctuary, the company contracted by the Township for animal control services, to assist with their fundraising efforts. Ms. Landis also mentioned the Alsace Heritage Society Dinner which is being held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at noon at Spies Church. Tickets are available for \$25 which include dinner and a talk from George Meiser. Ms. Landis also asked if there were any sewer updates and Fire Company updates. Mr. Stump stated that there is a meeting scheduled for next week to review a specific issue regarding a property. Ms. Landis asked what the Board's plan of action for the Fire Company. Mr. Stump stated that there are items that need to be addressed before the Board would consider putting them back in service. Mr. Barth seconded that statement reiterating that there are items that need to be addressed and the Interim Board is working on those items before the next court date.

A question was asked about when the court date is scheduled. The court date is currently scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom D. Mr. Mallatratt also stated the many of these items are outside of the realm of the Board of Supervisors but that the Board is working with the Interim Board of the Fire Company to move forward. Ms. Landis asked which entity from Berks County was involved. She was told the District Attorney's office is involved. Ms. Landis asked if the

Fire Company has representation. She was told by the Interim Board that they do have representation.

**FIRE COMPANY:** Ms. Debbi Heilman provided an update to the Board on Fire Company matters. She stated that Jonathan Blessing was named the Chief of the Fire Company. There are seven people currently listed as members of the Fire Company. The Interim Board is working on finalizing the proposed budget and bylaws. A new bingo license application has been sent to Berks County and the Interim Board is also developing policies and procedures for various items including financial and operational matters.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Swavely had nothing to report.

**BUILDING AND ZONING:** Mr. Reinert discussed the Kutz Road annexation. Mr. Reinert explained that there is a parcel in the Township that contains a plan note restricting the sale of the property to the adjacent parcel on the west and could only be annexed to the parcel on the east. There are now property owners on the west that would like to purchase this property, but in order to do so, the Board needs to waive the plan note restriction. Mr. Reinert stated that he has reviewed the plan along with Gary Swavely and foresees no issues with this waiver and this would cure a problem regarding this empty lot. Several questions were asked by the Board to Mr. Reinert which were addressed. Mr. Eck from the public asked a question regarding this procedure, however Mr. Stump stated that Mr. Eck's situation was different. David Barth made a motion to waive the current plan note restriction as it exists subject to the approval of the adjacent property owner, Sam Mallatrat seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

- Bamboo Issue – This was a tabled item from the last meeting. Mr. Barth stated that he looked at numerous sample ordinances and information, but he foresees a problem would arise with enforcement. A brief discussion ensued. Several residents asked that this matter continue to be reviewed as it would provide a mechanism to hold up during disputes with neighbors on this issue. Mr. Barth recommended that due to the enforcement concerns, the item be dropped from the agenda. Mr. Barth stated that there is a “natural fence” item in the Zoning Ordinance which could apply in these situations. The Business Manager stated that she will add this item to the agenda for the Planning Commission for their review.
- Open Burning – Mr. Barth stated that he also looked at our current Open Burning Ordinance which is very standard and covers the issue appropriately. All Open Burning events should be called into the Township. Mr. Barth also recommended by this item be removed from the agenda moving forward.
- The Business Manager stated that the office was contacted by the Census Bureau to use the Township Building as a potential training facility. The training would occur during normal business hours in the Township. The Supervisor agreed that the building could be utilized for that purpose.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mr. Stump reported that the road crew has finished the project on Alsace Road. There has been another leak on the water line which is owned by the Muhlenberg Water Authority. Mr. Stump asked the Business Manager to write a letter to the Muhlenberg Water Authority regarding this issue.

Mr. Reinert discussed the Rand Drive Deed of Dedication comments which were received by Gary Swavely and forwarded to Michael Reinert. Mr. Schollenberger, the attorney for the individuals on Rand Drive, forwarded deed information for the properties affected. Mr. Reinert reviewed the letter and additional information and confirmed the outstanding items and that core borings of the roadway still needed to be taken and analyzed. Mr. Reinert wanted to re-confirm with the Board that they still wanted the core borings to be taken. The Board stated that this is correct. Mr. Swavely stated that he will contact Mr. Schollenberger on this matter and advise him to proceed with the outstanding items from the punch list prepared by Mr. Reinert.

**RECREATION BOARD** – A summary was provided by Courtney Harris, Chairman of the Recreation Board. She presented the results from the 2019 Playground program. There was a total of 143 registrants. A tally of the income and expenses has provided a total of approximately \$90 to the good. Ms. Harris has conducted a meeting with the new Board, which includes the two senior playground leaders, and several additional members of the community. They discussed off-season fundraisers, increasing registration fees for the 2020 season, needed capital improvements to the recreation building, pavilion and park area and increasing the pavilion rental. Ms. Harris also noted that the second “Trunk or Treat” event will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Shoppes at Woodside and the Board is looking for sponsors and businesses to participate in the event.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORTS:** Darlene Bartsch stated that she is working on the NIMS questionnaire. Ms. Bartsch questioned whether forms were completed to submit emergency calls in the Township as she received information from the State that they had not been submitted. Mr. Barth stated that our Primary companies have been filing the forms on the Township’s behalf. Mr. Barth asked if Ms. Bartsch can provide her with the documentation or a name of an individual that she spoke with from the State to investigate the matter further. Ms. Bartsch stated she did not have that information in writing and did not have the person’s name.

**SUPERVISORS:** The Supervisors had nothing further to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- **Keith Blankenbiller** – Questioned what may be happening on the roadways around Antietam, Mt. Laurel, Woodside, etc. Mr. Stump stated that we believe that there will be widening that will begin design in 2022, however, the Township does not currently have specific information. Mr. Blankenbiller also stated that he believes it is important to have “No Parking” signs placed on Pricetown Road in front of both Sunoco and Alsace Ales.

Mr. Stump asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Barth made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mallatratt and the motion was approved. Adjournment was at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt  
Business Manager, Secretary/Treasurer