

Michael Stump, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:04 pm. Also present was Sam Mallatratt - Vice Chairman, Member David Barth, Kimberly Mallatratt – Business Manager, and Solicitor Gary Swavely. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building. Mr. Stump led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Sam Mallatratt made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2019 meeting, David Barth seconded, and the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Ann Ohlinger – 19 Woodside Dr. – Stated that she spoke with Mr. Gavin and was told that all the Fire Company needed to get going again was money. Ms. Ohlinger also stated she is concerned about the lack of Fire Police directing traffic and that the Township Road Crew should not be directing traffic. Mr. Stump stated that the Township Road Crew has been trained in traffic direction and take classes on a yearly basis. Ms. Ohlinger also asked what happened to the development of the 5-year plan. Mr. Barth stated that we have developed a 5-year plan and during this year's budget time that it will be adjusted. Ms. Ohlinger also asked if the Business Manager is planning to hand in her resignation. There was no response from the Board to this statement.

Patty Moyer – 56 Woodside Ave. – Ms. Moyer also expressed concerns with the traffic in the Manor during accidents. She asked if we the Township could install additional signs on Stop Signs to direct traffic back to Pricetown Road.

Keith Blankenbiller – 326 Freeman Dr. – He stated he was in possession of the 6th Report of the Receiver and wanted to know what comments the Board had to this report. He is requesting that the Board be as transparent as possible with information and wants to know where the Board is at on this matter. Mr. Stump explained that there are a number of items outstanding including bylaws, equipment, staff, new procedures, etc. A list of requests is being prepared by both parties. Mr. Stump further explained that the Township has finalized the purchase of the tanker for over \$200,000.00. Mr. Swavely explained that there are a number of issues that are being handled that the Township has not been involved with or made privy to. Mr. Blankenbiller asked how much has been paid to Mr. Gavin. Mr. Blankenbiller was told it is approximately \$60,000.00 which has been paid solely by the Social Quarters to this point.

Mr. Blankenbiller then asked what has the Township paid to date for fire service since the de-certification. Mr. Barth stated that we are paying \$65,000 annually and we have currently paid ¾ of this amount. Mr. Blankenbiller asserted that the Township is paying that fee for substandard service. Mr. Barth stated this is not the case as the response times have improved and invited anyone to review the Berks County website independently for this information. Mr. Mallatratt further stated that the Township's ISO rate has dropped and there is more manpower and equipment to draw from for emergencies.

Jason Kline – Vice President of the Interim Board of the Fire Company. He reported that the Board is working to develop a plan to bring back the Alsace Manor Fire Company. The Board is currently working on a yearly agreement and is actively looking to recruit firefighters. Mr. Swavely asked if David Yoch (sp) is helping to put together policies. Mr. Kline stated that he is and he is working with the Board without charge.

Debbie Heilman – member of the Interim Board. She further elaborated that the Interim Board is conducting interviews for Fire Fighters. Ms. Moyer wanted clarification that anyone from the previous Board cannot be part of the new organization.

Mr. Kline then stated that the previous Fire Company was not run appropriately previously and that this Board has put forth a lot of money and working with lawyers and other consultants to be sure that the new company is run “by the book”.

Ms. Darlene Bartsch asked why she has not been allowed to attend these meetings. Mr. Kline stated that these Interim Board are not public meetings.

Mr. Stump asked if there were any lists of requirements that were available to provide to the Board. Mr. Kline stated that they are working on them and also anticipates having new Bylaws completed by the next meeting to present to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Heilman further asked if the Board of Supervisors had any list of requirements available for the Fire Company. Mr. Swavely stated that he is speaking with Mr. Sher and will have a preliminary list sent to him by the end of the week.

Mr. Blankenbiller – Thanked the Board for the exchange of information on the Fire Company issues.

Debbi Heilman - Clarified that the Social Quarters and the Fire Company will no longer be operating as separate entities and that the goal is to function as one entity in the future.

Phil Kline – 71 Antietam Road. Mr. Kline stated that it was always his belief that the Fire Company and the Social Quarters should be separated because of liability. Mr. Swavely stated that this new structure is being mandated by the Attorney General’s office. Mr. Kline stated that he believed the trend was to separate these entities. Mr. Swavely reiterated that this is not the decision of any of the individual entities, but a demand of the Attorney General’s office.

Darlene Bartsch – Ms. Bartsch reminded the Board that this all began with a request for bank statements. Mr. Stump stated that all entities are far beyond this singular issue. Mr. Swavely instructed Ms. Bartsch to review the Citation filed in the Court of Common Pleas.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: Mr. Swavely had nothing further.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Resolution 2019-10 – 47 Heffner Lane. This Resolution is to include 47 Heffner Lane into the Agricultural Security Area of Ruscombmanor Township. Mr. Barth made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-10, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion carried.
- Bamboo Issue – After a brief discussion it was decided to table this item until the next meeting after the Board has had an opportunity to review sample Ordinances on this matter.
- Radio Sale – Keystone Water Rescue (Company 16) has offered to purchase two radios – one mobile unit and one handheld unit for \$1,200.00 each. David Barth made a motion to sell the radios to Company 16 for \$1,200.00 each for a total of \$2,400.00, seconded by Sam Mallatratt and the motion passed.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Mr. Stump stated that there have been new drains put into Wedgewood Heights.
- Mr. Stump asked the Board for approval to speaking with Muhlenberg Water Authority on the various breaks that currently exist along McKnights Gap Road to Reservoir Road. Mr. Stump stated that he doesn't want to do the overlay with this issue being fixed. Mr. Stump made a motion to reach out to the Muhlenberg Water Authority by both phone and letter requesting this item be fixed along this roadway. Following a question by Mr. Blankenbiller regarding the procedure and possible penalty to ensure that the overlay wouldn't be broken moving forward for a specific length of time by other entities. Mr. Stump answered his question regarding the current ordinances and the UGI annual agreement. The motion was seconded by David Barth and the motion passed.
- Jackson Drive – The Township is required, through the current G-1 permit application, to have a wetland and bog turtle study conducted on this roadway. The cost is estimated to fall between \$2,000 and \$2,500. David Barth made a motion to approve moving forward with this study, seconded by Sam Mallatratt and the motion passed.

SUPERVISORS: Mr. Barth and Mr. Mallatratt had nothing further to report. Mr. Stump stated that he has reached out to the appropriate individual regarding the repair of the capacitor pump but has not yet received the quote back at this point.

Mr. Stump made a motion to adjourn the meeting, David Barth seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. Adjournment was at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt
Business Manager/Secretary/Treasurer