

Michael Stump, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:01 pm. Also present were Vice Chairman Sam Mallatratt, Member David Barth, Business Manager Kimberly Mallatratt, and Solicitor Gary Swavely. 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 October 2, 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 \$62,069.13 from the General Fund, \$18,208.20 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$8,141.58 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 \$23,025.10 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. Mallatratt made a motion to pay taxes and interim bills, seconded by Mr. Barth, and the motion carried.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bonnie Landis – 3220 Pricetown Road – Ms. Landis asked if there was anything new on the sewer. She was reminded that there is a Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 21st to discuss this issue and that Mr. Ebert would be attending that meeting. Ms. Landis then asked a question regarding only having one comment period and if that negates the opportunity to ask follow-up questions on items that are discussed. Mr. Stump stated that there is one official comment period. Mr. Stump then stated that additional questions may be asked during the meeting, but will be addressed at the Board's discretion. Mr. Barth also stated that one comment period is an appropriate way to handle this moving forward. Mr. Swavely also stated that the Board will answer legitimate questions and comments, but not entertain forums to continually re-hash issues that have been discussed.

Gary Michalowsky – 103 Greenwood Drive – Mr. Michalowsky asked if there was an progress on the revising the existing burning ordinance. Mr. Mallatratt stated that he reviewed the ordinance and has spoken with officials in other townships regarding this issue. Unfortunately, as enforcement of additional measures would prove extremely difficult, there will be no action at this time. Mr. Michalowsky stated that DEP and EPA has regulations regarding these issues and believes that code enforcement handles these issues. Mr. Mallatratt stated that Oley Township does have these regulations in their Ordinances, but that they simply refer the matter to DEP as they do not handle this at the Township level. Mr. Mallatratt further explained that these matters need to be enforced immediately as the issue is occurring which is problematic especially when these situations occur on the weekend. A further discussion ensued. Mr. Swavely suggested if a situation occurs that DEP and/or EPA needs to be advised of, that may be the best course of action to pursue.

Keith Blankenbiller – 326 Freeman Drive – Mr. Blankenbiller asked if he could speak at the end of the meeting. Mr. Stump responded that would be acceptable.

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

ADMINISTRATION:

- 2020 Draft Budget – Mr. Barth stated that the 2020 Draft Budget has been prepared and that the summary documents are available at the meeting. He stated that there will be no tax increase for this year. The budgets are in balance and the ending balance is estimated at \$42,636.78. Mr. Barth also explained that there are been several capital accounts started for long-term items that have been identified which is why the surpluses anticipated are lower than in previous years as funds will be moved into the long-term capital accounts. The Business Manager requested a motion to publicly advertise the availability of the draft budget for review. Mr. Barth made a motion to approve the proposed budget and to authorize the Township to advertise notice that the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the Township offices. Sam Mallatratt seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Recycling Issue – The issue regarding Township recycling was discussed. Two specific issues were discussed which included the rapidly escalating cost and the misuse of recycling by residents and non-residents including the dumping of trash and other non-recycling items. The Supervisor's discussed the option available to all residents through numerous private companies. A brief discussion ensued. A recommendation was made to begin to post signs stating the end date of the contract. Mr. Stump made a motion to terminate the recycling contract by the end of December, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion passed.
- Insurance Package – Wastewater Treatment Plant – The Township Business Manager provided the quote received on the three-year contract for \$14,178.38. She explained there is an option included for the Board's consideration to add an additional \$1,000,000 of defense coverage to the policy which had not been available previously for an additional \$1,000.00. Mr. Barth and Mr. Mallatratt stated that they are in favor of adding the additional coverage at this cost. Mr. Mallatratt made a motion to accept the insurance quote as provided and to add the additional option of defense coverage to the three-year policy, seconded by Mr. Barth and the motion carried.
- Architectural Proposal – ADA Upgrades – The Business Manager presented a proposal prepared by Watkins Architects for ADA upgrades for the restroom facilities in the Township Building. Following a brief discussion, the Board asked the Business Manager to reach out to the architects for an extension on the proposal costs for an additional 30-days. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

FIRE COMPANY: Jonathan Blessing stated that there is training scheduled for first aid, CPR and haz mat for seven people. The Rescue Truck is scheduled for inspection and they are working getting other trucks started and running with maintenance and upkeep.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Stump reported that there are currently deteriorating pipes on Cralou Drive. There is money being put in the budget for pipe. There is also pipe failure on Hillview Drive. Mr. Stump asked the Board for approval to receive quotes for a camera to use to view the metal pipes. The Board was in agreement for Mr. Stump to obtain these quotes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORTS: Darlene Bartsch discussed the recent PEMA documentation that was submitted on the natural disaster issues from the summer. There has currently been no movement on this issue. She also stated that the NIMS survey paperwork is complete.

SUPERVISORS: Mr. Barth stated that he attended the last Fire Company meeting and the possible sale of the new tanker truck. All parties appear to be agreement to sell the tanker truck. In the future there may be a possibility to purchase a replacement tanker with a low-interest loan. Mr. Barth stated it currently costs the Township approximately \$34,000 per year for the tanker. It is possible that proceeds from the truck may be used to assist the Fire Company with start-up costs. Currently the Township is looking for local buyers where the truck could still be an asset which is used in the Township. A question was raised about the sale of other equipment and it was explained that the Township is the owner of the tanker truck and therefore is the only item that it can currently sell.

Mr. Mallatratt had nothing further.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Keith Blankenbiller – Mr. Blankenbiller stated that he spoke with the Pennsylvania State Ethics Board who was investigating him and he has been acquitted. He stated he believes that someone from the Board had him investigated and he wants the Board to know that he can run for office again if he desires. He also stated that he wanted to respond to a public comment made at a previous meeting regarding the prior administration's handling of the Fire Company. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that all financial reports provided to him from the Fire Company while he was on the Board had no discrepancies. Mr. Stump stated that the matter is still under litigation. Mr. Blankenbiller reiterated that there was never anything on any reports that gave an indication that there was anything that required additional review. Mr. Mallatratt stated that numerous issues have transpired over several decades.
- Mr. Stump stated he has had contact with PennDOT regarding the road frontage at Woodside Ave. and Pricetown Road owned by Mr. Blankenbiller and some concerns with the PennDOT right-of-way.
- Mr. Barth also stated that there is a radio software upgrade in the works for Berks County. Mr. Barth asked if Mr. Blessing can locate the cables in the Fire Company building so that the updates can be accomplished. Mr. Barth also stated that RMI will be updating the software on the mobile units in the trucks.
- Ms. Landis asked if the Fire Company has been re-instated. She was told that this measure has not been put in place. Mr. Swavely stated that there is still a bit of information that the Board requires including bylaws, procedures, etc., to review prior to making a final decision.

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 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt
Business Manager, Secretary/Treasurer