

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 16, 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. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$56,632.60 from the General Fund, \$46,595.79 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$1,945.84 from the Septic and Sewer Fund, and \$0.00 from the Liquid Fuels Fund seconded by David Barth, and the motion was approved.

PAYMENT OF PAYROLL: Mr. Barth made a motion to pay payroll in the amount of \$30,324.36 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:

Michael Moore – 120 Old State Road – Mr. Moore asked if Old State Road is in the upcoming schedule for road repair. Mr. Stump replied that it has been included in the 2020 budget as an upcoming road project.

Tom Lotz – 3059 Pricetown Road – Mr. Lotz discussed the on-going issue with his neighbor regarding bamboo and his concern regarding both the health and nuisance issue of this situation. Ms. Mallatratt stated that the Planning Commission is currently working on language to include in the next Zoning Ordinance amendment to include bamboo plantings, setback requirements from property lines and maintenance issues. A further brief discussion ensued on the subject as well as discussion of additional code violations in which Mr. Lotz's daughter, Sara Bernhart participated. The Board asked the Business Manager to have the Code Enforcement Officer visit the property in question to assess existing code issues.

Donna Quinter – 147 Bingaman Road – Ms. Quinter asked about the possibility of saving the recycling service. After a brief discussion, Ms. Quinter was told that there are numerous private recyclers that provide service to Alsace Township.

Keith Blankenbiller – 326 Freeman Drive – Mr. Blankenbiller asked if he could speak at the end of the meeting. Mr. Stump responded that he would like Mr. Blankenbiller to speak during the official comment period. He asked if he had comments during a particular issue discussion if he could make comments or ask questions. Mr. Stump reminded Mr. Blankenbiller that the Board is open to legitimate questions and comments during the discussion of issues on the agenda, but that for open comments there is only one official comment period.

Patty Moyer – 56 Woodside Ave. Ms. Moyer had a question regarding the movement of the tanker. Mr. Stump stated that the tanker has been moved and the item is on the agenda to list with a broker. He reiterated that this has been discussed at previous meetings.

Bonnie Landis – 3230 Pricetown Road – Ms. Landis asked a question regarding where the money will go when the tanker is sold. Mr. Barth stated that the money will be put back into the fire department budget. The intention is to put into an interest bearing account that has already been established for this purpose.

Mary Lou Kline – 71 Antietam Road – Ms. Kline asked additional questions about the recycling issue and voiced her displeasure with this decision. Ms. Kline expressed her disappointment that the Board did not ask for public input into this issue. The Board stated that this matter has been discussed at several recent meetings and public input was welcome and received by the Board. Ms. Kline further asked if she would be able to ask questions regarding the budget. She further asked how much the Board is anticipating receiving for the tanker truck. Mr. Barth stated that the Broker will be asking approximately \$320,000. Ms. Kline asked if this decision was made in conjunction with the Fire Company. Mr. Barth stated that there have been several discussions about this issue at the Fire Company meetings and all are in agreement that this is the best financial option. Ms. Kline then asked how the personnel issue is going. Mr. Blessing, the current Fire Chief, responded that there are currently 11 fire crew members on board. Ms. Kline then asked about the progress of re-establishing the fire company. Mr. Stump stated that would be discussed later on the agenda.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Swavely stated that he only recently received an email from the Fire Company's Council, Attorney Sher, advising that the new set of By-Laws had been approved and adopted by the Fire Company, a copy of which Attorney Sher included. Mr. Swavely stated that he was disappointed in this news as the Board of Supervisor's had requested on numerous occasions to review the proposed By-Laws prior to their adoption for comment and analysis. Mr. Swavely then stated based on a preliminary review he has several questions and concerns and urged the Board to review the By-Laws and share any concerns that they have with this document. Mr. Swavely then asked the Board for their approval to have a meeting with himself, Mr. Sher, an individual from the Fire Company and the Township Business Manager to ask questions and get input on this document and answer questions. The Board agreed that this meeting with those individuals should occur.

ADMINISTRATION:

- 2020 Budget Approval –
 - Liquid Fuels Budget (35) – Anticipated income \$160,565.83; anticipated expenses \$160,000.00; balance anticipated \$565.83. David Barth made a motion to accept this budget, seconded by Sam Mallatratt. Hearing no questions, a vote was taken and the motion passed.
 - Septic Budget (08) – Anticipated income \$27,610.00; anticipated expenses \$22,130.00; balance anticipated \$5,480.00. Dave Barth made a motion to accept this budget, seconded by Sam Mallatratt. A question was asked regarding this fund and if it includes the sewer extension. It was explained that this fund is for private sewer systems, the public sewer system is the "06" fund. A second question was asked regarding what happens to the balance that remains in the fund. The Business Manager explained that any overages will be carried into the next year as a beginning balance. Following these questions, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

- Sewer Budget (06) – Anticipated income \$464,550.00; anticipated expenses \$429,785.00; anticipated balance \$34,765.00. David Barth made a motion to accept this budget, seconded by Sam Mallatratt. A question was asked about the difference between the 06 and 08 budgets. The Business Manager explained that the 06 Budget is the public sewer system and wastewater treatment plant and the 08 Budget is the private sewer system for on-lot septic systems and those properties that are currently hooked up to the Exeter sewer system or the Muhlenberg sewer system. A question was asked if these budget figures include the grant money that has been awarded to Alsace Township. The Business Manager stated that the \$125,000 grant is included in the budget. A question was then raised about the additional funds necessary for the sewer extension. The Business Manager stated that she and Mr. Barth have been working on figures so that the project can be financed internally with a payback plan to ourselves rather than seek outside financing. A follow-up question was asked regarding if this money will be used from the accounts that were established previously to provide a buffer for the sewer building. Ms. Mallatratt stated that those funds are being held separately and that it is not the intention to use those funds for this purpose. Ms. Mallatratt further explained that there is another grant that is being applied for and until that is finalized as well as the construction bids, the numbers are fluid and will be re-analyzed. Following these questions a vote was taken, and the motion passed.
- General Fund (01) – Anticipated income \$1,008,235.00; anticipated expenses \$1,006,409.05; balance anticipated \$1,825.95.
 - The first motion is to approve Line Item Account Number 01.405.122 – Administrative Salary - \$97,834.80. David Barth made the motion to approve this line item, seconded by Mike Stump and the motion passed. Sam Mallatratt abstained from the vote as he is married to the Business Manager whose salary is included in this line item and in accordance with the abstention memo on file with the Township.
 - The second motion is to approve Line Item Account Number 01.430.140 – DPW Crew Member Salary - \$147,688.00. David Barth made the motion, seconded by Sam Mallatratt. A question was asked about who is the DPW Crew. It was stated that they are the three people that comprise the road crew. A second question was asked regarding whether this number includes any part-time people. It was stated that this number includes money for some seasonal part-time help. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Supervisor Stump abstained from the vote as he is a member of the DPW Crew and his salary is included in the line item.
 - The third motion, made by Sam Mallatratt, was to adopt the remainder of the General Fund 01 Budget excluding the two line items that were voted on previously. David Barth seconded the motion. A question was raised regarding whether accounts are kept in a year-to-date manner. The Board responded that they are. A second question was asked about the Fire Company budget and if an analysis can be provided on expenditures between years. Mr. Swavely stated that this information can be provided, but the question is not relevant to this particular motion. Mr. Barth explained the current Fire Company budget is \$120,994.25. This includes EMS dispatching, ambulance services, fire department dispatching. A follow-up question regarding whether an analysis

was done before putting the budget together. Mr. Barth explained that we review all of the items on the budget and account for cost increases and analyze expenditures. The Business Manager stated that if there are specific analytical questions, that they will need to be presented to the office. Ms. Kline then asked how the expenditures for the Fire Company budget compare to previous budgets. Mr. Barth stated that the total expenditures are basically the same, however, some line items have shifted. He then explained the differences in certain line items. A question was asked about workers compensation insurance and whether that figure is included. Mr. Barth stated that it is not in the 2020 budget as we are currently contracting out the service. Following the questions a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

- Resolution 2019-11 – Berks County Tax Collection Delegate. This Resolution was presented to the Board for the naming of the Berks County Tax Collection Committee Delegate. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to execute this Resolution, seconded by David Barth and the motion passed.
- The Dallas Data Systems Annual Maintenance Agreement was presented and the Business Manager requested authority to execute the contract. The cost is \$4,350.00. David Barth made a motion authorizing execution, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion carried.
- An updated contract for Comcast services for the Township was presented by the Business Manager. The Comcast rates were going up, therefore the Township office proactively reached out to Comcast to negotiate a new contract. The savings moving forward will be \$20.00 per month. The Business Manager requested authorization to execute the contract. The motion was made by David Barth to execute the contract, seconded by Sam Mallatratt, and the motion carried.
- A Memorandum of Understanding for Stormwater was presented for 104A Skyline Drive. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to execute the Agreement, seconded by David Barth, and the motion carried.

FIRE COMPANY:

- A Broker Agreement was presented for sale of the tanker truck. Mr. Swavely suggested that a time limit be added to the Agreement, for six months commencing on November 20, 2019, he also suggested language that states that the commission would only be paid upon the final completion of the sale and that Bernville Fire Company would be excluded from the contract. David Barth made the motion that the Broker Agreement be executed, provided that the three amendments suggested by Mr. Swavely be added to the Agreement. Sam Mallatratt seconded the motion and the motion carried. Darlene Bartsch asked a question about whether the \$25,000 that was originally paid by the Fireman's Relief Fund would be paid back following the sale. Mr. Barth stated that this issue is a legal matter as that information was never included on the title and would need to be dealt with separately.

Jonathan Blessing stated that the training was held first aid, CPR and haz mat for seven people. Patty Moyer asked if the Township residents would be getting a list of the new firefighters. The Board stated that this decision is up to the Fire Company. Ms. Mary Lou Kline asked if the Fire Company would be continuing as an all-volunteer Fire Company. The Board responded that it will remain all-volunteer. Mr. Barth reminded the public that the Fire Company is its own corporation and is not affiliated with the Township. A further question was asked regarding if there was a date set for re-

opening. Mr. Barth stated that the goal is 2020, but there are still numerous items that need to be addressed and that the Fire Company may not be responding to all calls, but only those that they are ready to respond. Ms. Moyer asked that when the Fire Company is back up and running if they will be the sole provider and the other surrounding companies would only come through mutual aid. Mr. Barth stated that the intention is to keep two Primaries for the Township at this time. Ms. Landis asked if there is a requirement for background checks on the new firefighters. Mr. Blessing stated that background checks are part of the process that they are following. Ms. Kline then asked the Board if they believed that this situation was "worth it". Mr. Barth stated he firmly believed this was necessary as there were so many financial and additional issues that were, and continue to be, uncovered that this was necessary, and that he would not have changed anything. Ms. Kline mentioned response times in the Township. Mr. Barth stated that all calls are reported on the County website for all agencies. Anyone has the right to look at and analyze that information. He further explained that you can look at the spreadsheet and see that response times dropped to coincide with the contracting of services from other Fire Departments. Mr. Mallatratt reminded the public that this is what the Board was elected to do. When faults and deficiencies were uncovered, they needed to be addressed in the correct manner. Mr. Stump asked Ms. Kline if she had read the documents that were prepared by the State Attorney General's office. Ms. Kline stated that she was unaware of any documents. The Board asked Ms. Kline to read that information as the issues are presented in that document. The Business Manager then stated that the first fine has been levied by the Department of State for \$2,000 for previous fundraising issues.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Stump had nothing to report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORTS: Ms. Bartsch stated she attended the recent pipeline dinner.

SUPERVISORS: Mr. Mallatratt and Mr. Barth had nothing further.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A brief discussion ensued regarding when the official Comment period should be held. Mr. Swavely stated that the Comment period should continue where it is in the agenda.
- Ms. Bartsch stated that at the previous meeting she had stated she was willing to meet with Mr. Goss to answer questions and wondered if that meeting had been scheduled. Mr. Swavely stated that he had not been able to speak directly with Mr. Goss on this matter and would be reaching out to him to ascertain his interest in a meeting of this nature. She further expressed that the District Attorney's office has reached out to her and that she has attempted to contact them. Mr. Swavely stated that this is a separate issue and the District Attorney's office handles items of a criminal nature.

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 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt
Business Manager, Secretary/Treasurer