

Michael Stump, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:02 pm. Also present was Sam Mallatratt - Vice Chairman, Member David Barth, Courtney Harris– Assistant Secretary Treasurer, and Solicitor Gary Swavely. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building. Mr. Stump led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

David Yenser – Had a question pertaining to the status of the workers comp insurance for the Fire Company. Mr. Stump asked if he would hold that question until the Fire Company business comes up on the agenda. Mr. Yenser agreed.

Debbie Heilman – Ms. Heilman asked what the Miscellaneous category was for in the budget. Mr. Stump answered it could be anything that isn't listed under another category. Mr. Barth questioned Ms. Heilman as to what part of the budget she was referencing. Ms. Heilman assumed it was under Fire Company. Mr. Barth said he would look at the budget and would get back to her.

Bonnie Landis – Pricetown Road – Ms. Landis asked if there was any update on the sewer. Mr. Stump stated there was nothing new on that matter. Second question Ms. Landis asked was if the budget was still available for review, but she was not sure if it was 2019 budget or 2020 budget. Mr. Stump replied that it is available, and it is the 2020 budget. Mr. Swavely stated that we tentatively approved the budget for 2020, it has been advertised and is available for inspection. The final approval will take place at the next meeting. Ms. Landis also asked if she could review the budget for 2019 she would like to see the break down in each category. Mr. Stump replied that she could submit a Right to Know request and we would be able to provide her with that information.

Patricia Moyer – Ms. Moyer questioned the status of the Emergency Management Director's employment with the Township. Mr. Barth replied that he took a temporary medical leave of absence. Ms. Moyer asked if a replacement was named. Mr. Barth replied not at this point. Mr. Barth stated that the phone calls and emails are still being received and controlled burns are still being posted. Ms. Moyer asked if the EMD is being compensated for this position. Mr. Barth and Mr. Stump both replied no. Ms. Moyer then questioned if he was receiving compensation via equipment, business cards, and truck lights. Mr. Barth stated the lights and equipment are owned by the Township and it costs money to install and remove the lights, we are waiting to find out if he is coming back prior to having them removed. Ms. Moyer also asked a follow up question that was originally asked by Darlene Bartsch at the September 18th meeting pertaining to the emergency management forms and who was responsible for completing them. Mr. Barth informed her that the primary Fire Companies were handling these forms. Ms. Moyer was concerned that the Township still needed to fill these reports out in order to receive any grants. Mr. Barth reiterated that we do not have our own fire department so there is nothing to file and we are not currently receiving any grants.

Maryann Ohlinger – Ms. Ohlinger had a question pertaining to the fire company and agreed to hold the question.

Darlene Bartsch – Ms. Bartsch worked the voting polls on November 5, 2019 and she stated that we had 403 voters and the new machines lacked privacy. Mr. Stump informed Ms. Bartsch

to notify the Board of Elections or County Commissioners with her concerns. Mr. Swavely commented that he saw on 69 News that the County was going back to the manufacturer to inquire about the privacy issue. Ms. Bartsch also had a comment about the Fire Company but held it for that topic.

SOLICITORS REPORT: Mr. Swavely had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATION:

- The board was presented with the request to renew the Highmark health insurance for 2020 for Township employees. There was a 4% increase on the health insurance and 0% increase on the vision insurance. Mr. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the renewal of the Highmark insurance followed by Mr. Barth who seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- The board was informed of dates in 2020 where the closure of Oak Lane would occur for a gravity race. The board agreed those closures would be acceptable. Mr. Barth made a motion followed by Mr. Mallatratt to accept the dates as proposed and the motion carried.
- Rockland Township presented the idea of a joint committee in which they asked us and Ruscombmanor Township to be a part of in order to work on traffic and speeding issues within the Townships. Mr. Mallatratt made a motion to accept our involvement with the committee, Mr. Barth seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bonnie Landis- Made a comment about the employees of the Township not contributing to their health insurance costs. Ms. Harris reminded Ms. Landis that last year Ms. Mallatratt found an insurance policy which saved the Township over \$40,000. Ms. Landis then questioned who gets to pick the policies and who gets to vote on the approval of the policies. Mr. Stump informed her that it is all done internally. Mr. Barth confirmed that we studied multiple plans and we selected a plan that had significant savings. Ms. Landis also questioned the approval of salaries. A brief discussion ensued on this matter.

BUILDING CODES / ZONING

- 2023 Reservoir Road - The board reviewed a waiver requested from the normal setbacks for a driveway. After a brief discussion, Mr. Barth made a motion to accept that waiver, Mr. Mallatratt seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
- A stormwater Memorandum of Understanding for 104A Skyline Drive was presented to the Board for approval for a new home. Mr. Barth made a motion to execute the Memorandum, followed by Mr. Mallatratt and the motion carried.

FIRE COMPANY:

David Yenser, President of the Fire Company Board asked about an update on the workers compensation insurance for the new fire crew. Mr. Barth stated that he spoke with Kevin and SWIF and said when the corporation has a new EIN then they can obtain workers compensation insurance directly and that the Fire Company will need to obtain that new policy. There were some questions regarding who is required to pay for the workers comp insurance. Mr. Barth

stated that there is no law that says the Township must pay for workers comp. The Fire Company can turn their own policy on in order to get trained and it does not need to be a full policy just a minimum of 25%. Mary Monosmith was under the impression that the Township had to initiate the policy, but Mr. Barth stated that now that they have the EIN number they are able to do it themselves. Mr. Barth stated that when the Fire Company is providing a service to the Township, then the Board will re-evaluate payment of the policy.

Debbi Heilman provided a brief update to the Board. She stated that they had three more applicants for the Fire Company and Mr. Barth presented an additional applicant totaling four applicants. Ms. Heilman had some questions about fundraising and fire tax. Mr. Swavely reminded them of the Ordinance that was passed stating they were currently unable to fundraise. He said there would need to be some clarification from the State if the new Board was able to fundraise or if the ordinance would need to be rescinded before the Board would approve the fundraising. Mr. Swavely stated that this issue is part of the litigation and is connected to a cease and desist order that remains to be cured with the State prior to resuming fundraising activities. To the best of Mr. Swavely's knowledge, this cease and desist remains in effect and the Township Board would need information in writing that this has been addressed and the matter closed by the State. Mary asked for a listing of residents so they would be able to prepare a mailing following the curing of the State order.

Ms. Landis asked a question about the previous fire tax. Mr. Stump stated that the fire tax no longer exists and explained that the money was split. Mr. Barth explained that the Fire Company received more money than the Township General Fund for several years. She then asked if there is money in the budget for the Fire Company and how that was broken down. Mr. Barth stated there is money in the fire company budget and gave a general overview of the breakdown.

Darlene Bartsch - A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Mallatratt and Darlene Bartsch regarding the Fire Relief money as the audit is being held up in the Auditor General's office. She stated that she thought that money should have gone to the Alsace Fire Relief account this year. Mr. Barth stated that he had hopes that this could have occurred this year, but due to the delays the money needed to be distributed elsewhere. Mr. Mallatratt further stated, following additional comments, that the FFA Board is currently not in existence and therefore a check cannot be written to that organization. Ms. Bartsch also mentioned the air packs and the previous grants.

Ms. Heilman made a statement that its not the new Board's fault that they are trying to move forward.

At 7:43 p.m. the President of the Alsace Manor Fire Company walked out of the meeting Mr. Swavely asked that it be noted in the Minutes that this is the second occasion in which the President of the Alsace Manor Fire Company has left the meeting walking out in disgust, shaking his head, and showing that he is unwilling to engage in a meaningful conversation with the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Bartsch continued making comments under her breath in disgust. Mr. Swavely told Ms. Bartsch to stop making derogatory comments. Mr. Mallatratt then stated that anytime Ms. Bartsch has had enough she may present the Board with her resignation as the Emergency Management Coordinator.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Mr. Stump stated that they will not be doing leaf collection for residents, we are only focusing on drainage areas around swales and drains that clog. Ms. Patty Moyer asked about the grass cutting from the DPW. A brief discussion ensued.

SUPERVISORS REPORT – Neither Mr. Mallatratt or Mr. Barth had anything further to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mary Ann Ohlinger commented on the report from Josh Shapiro. She stated that she believed it was generated from the Township office because it referenced Mr. Becker and Ms. Becker as mother and son. Mr. Swavely asked her to check the last page of the document to see who signed it stating that everything in the document was true and correct. Ms. Ohlinger stated that it was Michael Foerster who signed the document. Mr. Swavely explained it was created by the Attorney General's office and not this Board. Ms. Ohlinger then questioned the difference between the Becker family running the fire company and Mr. & Mrs. Mallatratt. The Board stated that the Township has a three-person board and no one has sole authority over any financial transactions or other decisions. Mr. Mallatratt stated that the Township has numerous policies in place which were lacking with the Fire Company. Mr. Swavely stated that for Ms. Ohlinger to compare the situations and to make an accusation like that to an employee or member of the Board is inappropriate and out of line.

Mr. Stump stated that the one side of the room is always negative and we want to be able to move forward. Mr. Monosmith apologized to Mr. Swavely and the Board for the President of the Board walking out of the meetings, he stated that he has just been frustrated. Ms. Bartsch made a comment that there was a lot of activity at the Fire Company and stated that they did not solicit for money, they used a municipal marketing company who solicited with forms and envelopes.

Mr. Swavely asked Ms. Bartsch if she would be willing to sit down with the auditors for this case and discuss some of these issues, she replied that she would. Mr. Swavely asked if the rest of her family would be willing to also, she replied that she would not speak for them.

Mr. Barth made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Mallatratt seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. Adjournment was at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Harris
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer