

Michael Stump, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 pm. Also present were Vice Chairman Sam Mallatratt, Member David Barth, Business Manager, Kimberly Mallatratt, and Solicitor Gary Swavely. The meeting was held virtually via a Zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chairman Stump asked for approval of meeting minutes from February 17, 2021. Mr. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Mr. Barth seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

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

Mr. Stump then stated that we would move the Public Comments portion of the meeting to the end of the meeting as Mr. Fred Ebert was participating to discuss the upcoming Pricetown Road Sewer Extension. Due to Mr. Ebert's schedule, he asked to move the item up on the agenda.

PRICETOWN ROAD SEWER EXTENSION – Mr. Fred Ebert of Ebert Engineering provided a brief overview of the current status of the project stating that the project has received PADEP approval and Facility Planning approval. PADEP has requested, and we have submitted, the Part II information. Mr. Ebert will be requesting an extension of the grant funds that were allocated for this project. He also stated that the alignment has not changed since the last mapping provided. He explained that the main will go up the east side of Pricetown Road and will directionally drill the laterals under Pricetown Road to the west side of the roadway. Mr. Ebert further stated that it is his understanding that all of the Easements have been obtained from the affected property owners and have been recorded with the County. There is a remaining property on Alpine Lane that is undergoing legal proceedings.

Mr. Ebert then discussed the three versions of the construction cost estimates provided to the Board. The three estimated are based on the construction encountering no rock, 70% rock and 100% rock. Mr. Ebert believes that the best estimate will be in the 70% rock range. The cost includes prevailing wage and at this point only includes unit costs. The estimate that Mr. Ebert is using at this point is \$348,000 which includes a 10% contingency. With the \$125,000 grant that we have received, that leaves a cost of approximately \$225,000. He is suggesting that we get quotes for both no rock and 75% rock. There is currently no way to do a meaningful rock excavation on this project. This should be bid as a unit price quote as it limits risk for both the contractors and the Township. The impact of rock is expected to be approximately \$125,000. There are various techniques to be used when rock is encountered and those judgements will need to be made in the field at the time of drilling.

Mr. Ebert then asked the Board if they wish to have the project publicly bid or what portion they are considering using in-house forces, if any. Following a brief discussion, the Board stated that they would like to use some in-house forces where possible without adversely affecting the grant. Mr. Ebert provided several options for consideration. The Board agreed to go out to bid for the directional drilling and use in-house forces to connect the laterals and install the manholes. Mr. Ebert also suggested that the Township's Public Works Department have a backhoe and operator available on site if rock is encountered during the directional drilling phase. This should take approximately 3-7 days for any emergency digging. Mr. Stump stated that he didn't believe that would be an issue. This would just need to be scheduled. Mr. Stump asked about thorough

marking being done while the line is installed so that current and future excavating will not encounter issues. Mr. Ebert stated that there will be tracer wire and markings that will be done immediately as well as video markings that will be done by Mr. Ebert. Mr. Stump also asked a question regarding what material will be used to re-fill the excavation. He would like them filled with stone.

Mr. Ebert will provide the Board with a Scope of Work based on this decision within the next month for the Board to review. Mr. Ebert then stated he wanted to discuss the purchase of the grinder pumps. Mr. Ebert presented three options:

1. Publicly bid a bulk purchase
 2. Purchase the pumps from CoStars which is a state-approved contract
 3. Have the specifications and have residents purchase the pumps directly from a supplier.
- Mr. Ebert stated that if this option is selected that the options should be limited to two pumps that match the specifications that are necessary for the Township's existing system.

Mr. Ebert stated that the three major pump companies are E1, Barnes and Myers. E1 has great customer service and is well supported in the area. Using them on this section is less of an issue that in the first phase of the project because of velocity. The negative would be if the Township purchases there is an ability to defer the cost.

Mr. Barth stated that he is looking separate the EDU cost from the equipment cost.

Mr. Ebert asked that the Board consider the following: what options the Board wants to provide for tap-in fees, what is the amount, when will property owners be notified and time period for connection and any financing. After updated materials an analysis can be conducted and then calculated done in accordance with Act 57 of 2003. This will be a Special Purpose portion of the tapping fee. The second train of the treatment plant will need to be turned on which will be a second project.

Mr. Ebert asked if any additional information is needed from a construction and engineering perspective to let the Business Manager know and she will provide to Mr. Ebert. The project can be bid without the Part II permit in-hand, but construction cannot commence without the Part II permit.

Mr. Ebert and the Board agreed to meet again at the next Workshop meeting to discuss the open items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SEWER:

- Mr. Blankenbiller asked for a clarification of the route that is being taken. Mr. Stump stated that the route has not changed from the last discussion on the extension and that the route will be parallel to Pricetown Road. Mr. Ebert stated the line will be 10' to 20' off of the right of way based on existing trees, rocks, etc. Mr. Blankenbiller also asked about a second 2" tap-in available for his property for potential future expansion. Mr. Ebert stated there are two ways to handle this that the Board would need to approve. It can be done in the Highway Occupancy Permit and then Mr. Blankenbiller would need to contract directly with the low bidder, or it is bid as a separate line item and then a reimbursement would be due for that amount to the Township. After a brief discussion it was discussed to make this as

simple as possible. Mr. Blankenbiller asked what a 2" line could handle. Mr. Ebert responded "9 EDU's" for a 2" line. A further discussion ensued about what would be necessary for expansion in the future.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mr. Robert Stichter stated that the Fire Company is trying to get back in service as quickly as possible. He stated he briefed Attorney Sher and the Emergency Services parties about the previous meeting that he attended with the Board. Mr. Swavely stated that any proposed action by the fire company would need to be approved by the Attorney General as there is still action pending in the courts. Mr. Stichter referenced an email written to Mr. Stump regarding a new entity entitled the Alsace Community Fire Company and wanted to know if the Board would be willing to entertain this idea and whether they can be certified. This would likely involve a separation between the fire company and the social quarters. Mr. Stump stated that both the Attorney General and the Auditor General would need to approve, and then show to the Board, and only then would this be considered, in his opinion. Mr. Stump stated that he would not likely be in favor of this. Mr. Barth stated that simply changing the name does not solve the issues. The fire company runs like a business that provides fire service. Mr. Barth stated that for him, the new company would need to prove that they are worth funding. Currently the Township has good services, response time is down, and he would not recommend funding simply because they are located in Alsace Township. Mr. Mallatratt stated that it is his understanding that, given any recertification, that the existing Social Quarters would be providing a good deal of funding for this service. His question is that if they are separated, how is this funding stream ensured? Mr. Barth and Mr. Mallatratt also stated that the judge and Attorney General have both stated that this is one entity.

Mr. Stichter stated that the fire side and the social side continue to push to be separated. He acknowledged the statements made at the last meeting by Mr. Mallatratt that the fire side can exist without the social side, but the social side cannot exist without the fire company. Mr. Swavely then stated that ultimately the Board of Supervisors does not have the authority to make that decision, it is an issue that needs to be addressed by the Attorney General. The Court is currently in control of these particular issues. While there is a pending lawsuit, both the Attorney General and the courts need to decide on the issue before the Board of Supervisors can take any further action.

Mr. Barth asked if any of the members have reached out to Blandon or Mt. Penn to discuss merging? Mr. Stichter said that he had heard that this was an idea but that of the people he has spoken with from Alsace that they don't want to do that. Mr. Barth stated that if this is just a pride issue that needs to be changed. Mr. Barth said he has had some basic discussions on the matter. Both Blandon and Mt. Penn run exceptional finances and there is no need to run duplicate and sometimes triplicate pieces of apparatus. Mr. Barth stated perhaps Mt. Penn or Blandon could oversee Alsace operations for some period of time. He believes it will be almost impossible for Alsace to start from scratch. The equipment is now outdated.

- Darlene Bartsch wanted to thank the Board for getting Blandon Fire Company to serve the Township. She feels they are very active, very fast and very well trained. She believes the same of Mt. Penn Fire Company. Ms. Bartsch also thanked Mr. Swavely for the clarification on terms that were used in the previous discussion. She also expressed concern regarding the fire tax imposed by other municipalities.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Stump discussed the recent snow events. Mr. Stump reported that the Township is getting the first new sewer pump tomorrow. This will be the first replacement at the WWTP that will need to be put in the manhole.

SUPERVISORS REPORT: Mr. Barth and Mr. Mallatratt had nothing further to report.

Mr. Stump asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Barth made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sam Mallatratt and the motion was approved. Adjournment was at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt
Business Manager/Secretary/ Treasurer