

SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

Mr. 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 Chairperson, Kimberly Mallatratt, Member Keith Blankenbiller, Business Manager Jan Moore and Solicitor, Gary Swavely. The meeting was held as a Hybrid meeting with no residents attending remotely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Stump led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion made by Mrs. Mallatratt to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2022 Business meeting and the January 31, 2022 Special meeting, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Mr. Blankenbiller made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$32,312.74 from the General Fund, \$23,293.48 for the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$123.44 from the Septic Fund. Motion seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt and the motion carried.

APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES AND INTERIM BILLS: Motion made by Mr. Blankenbiller to approve the payment of taxes and interim bills, seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt and the motion carried.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bonnie Landis thanked Mrs. Mallatratt for her Supervisor's report at the January meeting. She also asked about the 5-year plan was made available to the public. Mrs. Mallatratt explained that the Township is required to prepare and approve an annual budget. The purpose of the 5-year plan is to project anticipated revenues and expenses to plan for potential future purchases and to see what the overall financial picture looks like for more major items, to identify the need for a possible tax increase. The 5-year financial plan is for the internal use of the Township and is not part of the budget that is required to be made available to the public prior to approving.

John Theodossiou introduced himself from the Mount Penn Fire Company. He wanted to provide a face to the name and provided a financial report for 2021. John also commented that they were involved with dividing up the equipment located in the Alsace Manor Fire Company building. He stated that nothing was removed at this point to his knowledge. Mrs. Mallatratt stated that no equipment can be moved out of the Alsace Manor Fire Company building prior to the Attorney General clearing its removal. John stated that a spreadsheet was created to itemize the equipment and what was designated to go to which fire company, Mount Penn, or Blandon. He also stated that some equipment would be designated as other if not going to either Mount Penn or Blandon. Mr. Stump asked who had contacted John concerning the equipment. Mr. Theodossiou stated that Attorney Jim Sher had contacted him. Mrs. Mallatratt again stated that all disbursements of equipment must go through the Attorney General. Mr. Swavely again asked who had contacted Mr. Theodossiou who again stated , Jim Sher. Mr. Swavely stated that Attorney Shurr has no authority to authorize the distribution of equipment as the matter is still in the courts. Mr. Theodossiou said that a large amount of time has been spent going through the equipment and wants to be 100% transparent and not get caught in the middle between the Alsace Manor Fire Company and the Township. Mr. Swavely instructed Mr. Theodossiou to have Attorney Sher contact him prior to any further action concerning the disbursement of fire equipment.

Mr. Blankenbiller asked if the equipment in the engine room was being sold at Fair Market Value or being simply given to the respective Fire Companies. Mr. Swavely stated that since the Fire Company is a

charitable organization, the equipment cannot be sold. Mr. Swavely further stated that the Social Quarters must have a charitable plan established. Mr. Theodossiou stated that when the equipment is eventually distributed, it is a one-way street and no entity can then request the equipment be returned later.

Darlene Bartsch asked if residents of Mount Penn pay a fire tax. Mr. Theodossiou stated that they did.

Mrs. Mallatratt stated that the Township supports the fire companies that provide primary coverage to the Township financially and that a contract has been signed between all parties to that affect.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Swavely had nothing to report

STORMWATER: Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to execute the MOU for 50 Skyline Drive, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller, and the motion carried.

Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to execute the Stormwater O&M for 174 Wanner Road, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller, and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Moore reviewed the proposal from Stratix Systems that was tabled at the January meeting. Mr. Moore recommended not moving forward with the proposal as the Township has security measures already in place that are satisfactory. In addition, the Township only has two workstations and felt that the benefits did not support the increased costs. Mrs. Mallatratt agreed with Mr. Moore's comments and felt that the items in the proposal were not necessary at this time. No further action was taken.

Mr. Moore presented the renewal invoice for Zero Gravity Designs and stated that the cost was approximately \$300 dollars higher than the prior years due to increased security features being monitored. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the renewal quote at a total cost of \$920 dollars, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller, and the motion carried.

A request was received by Jonathan Wise at 3023 Buck Run Road to extend the deadline to comply with a Cease-and-Desist order to April 15, 2022. Mr. Blankenbiller made a motion to extend the compliance deadline to April 15, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt, and the motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Mallatratt to appoint Nate Pletscher to a 2-year term on the Alsace Township Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller, and the motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Mallatratt to appoint Business Manager Jan Moore to the MP3 board. Mr. Moore stated that he would accept the appointment. Mr. Blankenbiller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC SEWER: Mr. Stump reviewed the quote from CW Sales for the septic pumps. Mr. Stump stated that he felt it was prudent that the board approve the quote and move forward as there is an 8-10-week lead time on receiving the pumps. Mr. Stump stated that the vendor was an approved Costars vendor, and he would prefer purchasing the pumps as he was familiar with them, and they have had good history with their reliability. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that he agreed that it would be good decision to stay with the same pumps. Mr. Stump provided some background on several aspects of the pumps. Mr. Blankenbiller asked if the same controllers would be utilized. Mr. Stump confirmed that the controllers would be the same. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that he did not like the fact that the 5-year

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warranty is from the date of purchase and would have preferred it to be from date of install. Mr. Blankenbiller made a motion to approve the quote and purchase the pumps from CW Sales for a total cost of \$121,015. This would consist of thirty Simplex pumps and one Duplex pump with the 5-year warranty cost on all equipment. Mrs. Mallatratt seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bonnie Landis asked how it was decided when duplex versus simplex pump was determined. Mr. Blankenbiller provided a brief explanation on the matter.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Stump stated that they are working on the demolition of 6 Kegerise and that he is utilizing a local dumpster company for hauling debris. Mr. Stump also stated that they are on par for salt usage so far for the year.

SUPERVISORS REPORT: Mrs. Mallatratt provided a brief overview that Berks County has hired an outside consultant who is evaluating the overall County and how the County can move forward in various matters including transportation, housing, employment, etc. She mentioned that the County is working with employers to utilize mass transit where feasible. She was hopeful that this would include Deka and other major County employers.

Mr. Stump stated the Elizabeth Avenue is scheduled for widening by PennDOT. There recently was a 7 - vehicle accident there and that the newly installed guard rail was already torn up. He stated that he was planning on contacting Senator Schwenk's office to see if the timeframe for the work could be pushed up. He also stated that he is trying to avoid having to close Route 12 during the slated work.

Darlene Bartsch made a comment concerning a clogged drain on Alsace Road. Mr. Stump stated that it is running open again but that he would revisit the location to come up with a better plan of keeping it open.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Mrs. Mallatratt to enter an Executive Session to discuss current litigation issues, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the motion carried. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:42 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:27 PM.

ADJOURN: Mr. Stump made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM