

SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING, MAY 18, 2022

Mr. 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 Chairperson, Kimberly Mallatratt, Board Member Keith Blankenbiller, Township 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 MINUTES:** Motion made by Mr. Blankenbiller to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2022 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt and the motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$36,693.57 from the General Fund, \$25,025.85 from the Sewer Plant O&M account. Motion was seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the motion carried.

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Heath Edwards asked a question concerning water testing at the former quarry in the township. Mr. Stump stated that they do not report on water testing unless there is an issue and at that point the township could be involved. Mr. Blankenbiller also stated that the DEP is under no obligation to issue a report to the township.

Kelly Kauffman mentioned a few questions regarding a right of way between the Moyer's property and hers. Solicitor Swavely stated that this was an unopened paper street that has remained unopened for more than twenty-one (21) years. Mr. Swavely asked if it was ever utilized by the public and Mr. Stump stated that it was not. Mr. Swavely stated that the property boundary line in her deed description may extend to the middle of the paper street. Mr. Swavely stated since the Township has not maintained the paper street in any way and never accepted any dedication of it, nor was it ever used by anyone as a street, the street does not legally exist and the property owners on both sides of the paper street now own the entire unopened street by operation of law. In the event of a dispute between the property owners, such would be a private issue between them. Mr. Blankenbiller asked how the split process would work for a piece of mind. Mrs. Mallatratt stated that a real estate attorney could change the deed. Mr. Swavely stated recording the ownership of the paper street it possible, but it would involve a complicated process with the assistance of a qualified engineer.

Bonnie Landis asked if the township had considered what happens if a fire company that provides primary coverage to the township decided that they no longer wished to do so. Mrs. Mallatratt stated that the two fire companies are under a five- year contract to provide coverage to the township. If an existing company did not want to extend that agreement, the township would approach other area fire company's to provide primary coverage for the township. Ms. Landis also stated that some of the fire department guys do not like responding to minor calls. Mr. Stump stated that he sees regional fire companies on the horizon to address some of these issues.

Darlene Bartsch made a comment about a septic problem at the bottom of Pricetown Road. Mr. Stump stated that that area is currently being looked at and reviewed.

Patty Moyer asked how a resident knew that trees were being taken down on the playground and they could take the wood. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that the township allowed residents to take and remove wood from trees taken down by the township which saves the township money as they do not have to haul it away. Mr. Stump stated that moving forward, any wood that would be available to residents would be stacked along the side of the road. Mr. Stump also stated that all a resident must do is call and ask if wood is available.

Kelly Kauffman stated that the tree across the street needed to be looked at. Mr. Stump stated that he was having it removed.

**SOLICITOR:** Mr. Swavely reported that the civil complaint filed against the property owner of 2094 Mt. Laurel Road was dismissed by Magisterial District Judge Chieffo without prejudice as the property was determined, at the time of hearing, to be compliant with the applicable terms of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Business Manager presented a MOU for execution from the Berks County Conservation District. This MOU detailed how the BCCD would respond and report any matters to the Board. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to execute the MOU, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the motion carried.

Business Manager present Resolution 2022-03 for approval. This resolution designated the Board to execute a Loan Modification Agreement for the truck purchase. Motion made by Mrs. Mallatratt to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the motion carried.

Business Manager presented the Tompkins Community Bank Note Modification Agreement. This modification extended the initial draw period on the loan from May 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022. All other agreements and covenants from the original loan note were unchanged. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to execute the Note Modification Agreement as presented, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the motion carried.

A brief discussion was held concerning the issuance of a building key to the Tax Collector. Mr. Stump stated that the Tax Collector position is not a key holding position for the township and therefore, a building key would not be provided. Mrs. Mallatratt offered that if the Tax Collector wanted to, she could collect taxes during the regular monthly board meeting. There was not official acceptance of this offer by the Tax Collector. Mr. Moore added that he did inquire on this matter when he attended the recent PSATS conference. From the approximately 15 township representatives that he spoke with, none provided a building key to the tax collector stating that the position was not considered as a key holding position. They also stated that their respective tax collectors could post sitting hours during the regular business hours for the township and that a drop box was provided for afterhours payments.

**STORMWATER:** The Business Manager presented a MOU for 3585 Kegerise Drive. Prior to the approval, Kelly Kauffman stated her concern for runoff issues with this property. Mr. Stump stated that any runoff matters will be addressed by Technicon during the building process. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to execute the MOU as presented, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller and the matter carried.

Business Manager presented a MOU for 325 Skyline Drive. Motion made by Mrs. Mallatratt to execute the MOU as presented, seconded by Mr. Blankenbiller, and the motion carried.

Heath Edwards asked where the MS4 regulation had come from. Mrs. Mallatratt stated that it was developed by the Department of Environmental Protection agency.

**PUBLIC SEWER:** Mr. Stump reported that the Route 12 sewer extension project is ready to go. Eight of the 30 pumps had been delivered on 5/19/22 with the remaining 22 expected by the end of May. All pump serial numbers are being recorded for tracking purposes by the Business Manager.

Mr. Stump further reported that he wants to bury any exposed pipe tails until residents decide to hook up to avoid any vandalism or accidental damage.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mr. Stump asked for a motion to advertise the old truck on Municibid. Mr. Blankenbiller made a motion to advertise the truck on Municibid, seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt and the motion carried.

Mr. Stump stated that he wanted to investigate purchasing a portable flashing speed limit sign to use in the Township where speeding is an issue. He also wanted to ask the state to put it on Pricetown road. Mr. Blankenbiller requested Mr. Stump to provide information on the actual sign to him so he could consider the purchase. Mrs. Mallatratt added that the signs store information electronically and can be downloaded and provided to law enforcement. Mr. Blankenbiller asked if we have access to the state cameras and Mr. Stump stated that we have access to the traffic cameras.

Mr. Stump stated that he will be obtaining quotes for a new salt shed and numbers for a zero -turn mower to replace existing mowers. He will look at using Costars vendors where possible. Patty Moyer asked why the township does not sub out the mowing versus using township staff.

Ruth Ann Moyer asked if the playground program was happening this summer. Mr. Moore stated that the program was on course to open on June 13, 2022. The Rec Board has been receiving corporate donations and regular registrations are ongoing.

Darlene Bartsch made a comment that there was miscommunication concerning the opening of the township building on election day. She stated that the building needs to be opened at 6 AM to allow election staff to be ready to open the polls at 7AM. Mr. Stump stated that he would prefer that any requests of this nature are communicated to the appropriate individual via email to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Mrs. Mallatratt stated that she has had a discussion with Gregg Hoffman concerning the township's account held at Franklin Templeton. The discussion concerned looking at other investment options due to the current economic and rate environments.

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Blankenbiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jan G Moore, Business Manager