

Keith Blankenbiller, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:01 PM. Present were Vice Chair, Michael Stump, Board member Kimberly Mallatratt, Township Business Manager Jan Moore, Solicitor Joan London, and Michael Reinert from Technicon Enterprises. The meeting was held as a hybrid with no residents attending remotely.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2023 Business meeting and the November 1, 2023 Workshop meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF: Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$342,838.52 from the General Fund, \$54,493.14 from the Sewer O&M Fund, \$2,233.82 from the WWTP Fund and \$39,531.27 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Financial reports were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting with no additional comments made at the meeting. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to accept the financial reports as submitted, seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Robert Kutzler of 3142 Pricetown Road stated that he purchased a controller from the Township and that it had failed. He then purchased another controller from a third party and was requesting a refund from the Township for the original controller that went bad. Mr. Stump requested that Mr. Kutzler return the bad controller to the Township to determine if the part was under warranty.

Joanne Hotzman, 3116 Pricetown Road stated that she had contacted the Township to file a complaint against the owners of 16 Cottonwood due to burning after hours and for burning items that created a noxious smell. She also stated that the Blandon Fire Department had been at that same location on several occasions. She requested that the Township provide some assistance in the matter. Mrs. Mallatratt requested Mr. Moore to see if he could obtain copies of the fire calls from the Blandon Fire Company. It was also agreed to direct Technicon to issue a NOV against the property owner.

SOLICITOR: There was no Solicitor's report provided

ADMINISTRATIVE: Mr. Moore presented the 2024 budget for final approval. He stated that the budget was advertised as required and that he received no comments during the advertised period. Mr. Moore stated that there was one lateral adjustment to the budget, moving funds from one line item to another based on the fact that the Township made the decision not to replace the existing server and migrate to a cloud-based platform. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the 2024 draft budget as the 2024 final budget, seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Moore stated that there was nothing to report on in the request from Oley Township concerning the Agricultural Security Area request. Ms. London had contacted Oley Township to inquire about approving the request via the default method but had not heard back from Oley's Solicitor.

Mr. Moore presented a proposal to implement the CodeRed program for the Township. This program would allow the Township to notify residents who signed up for the program via text message as opposed to relying on the existing website. This system could be used for disaster information as well as Township events. The three-year Agreement would be at a cost of \$11,546.99, or \$3,849 annually. The cost is based on Township population. Following Mr. Moore's presentation and request for approval, Mr. Stump stated that he felt that the cost was too high. He also stated that he would like to know how many residents would sign up prior to making the commitment. Mrs. Mallatratt stated that there was no way of determining that. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that he would like to review to see if there is a more efficient method of contacting Township residents. The matter was subsequently tabled.

Mr. Moore then deferred to Mr. Reinert, from Technicon Enterprises, to present a request for approval of the Rowe Tract Development by Metropolitan 10, LLC. Following a brief conversation including comments from the developer, Mr. Blankenbiller asked for a motion to accept the recommendation and approval of the Alsace Township Planning Commission for the Rowe Tract project. Mr. Stump made a motion to approve and accept the Planning Commission's recommendation for the Rowe Tract project, seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Moore presented Resolution 2023-06 for approval. This Resolution was to formally adopt the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation Plan which was previously adopted by Berks County. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2023-06, seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously.

The last item presented was a proposal from Technicon Enterprises to review the Township's existing SALDO Ordinance to bring it current and to eliminate inconsistencies between the existing Zoning Ordinance and SALDO. The proposal was in the amount of \$8,250. Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to approve the proposal from Technicon in the amount of \$8,250, seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SEWER: Mrs. Mallatratt initiated a brief discussion on the proposed changes to the Township's sewer policies and stated that Mr. Stump responded during the comment period and that no additional comments were received. She also stated that the recommendations of the Township Solicitor, Ms. London, were also included in the new policy wording. Mrs. Mallatratt stated that most of the wording changes were made for clarification purposes. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that he had one comment. He stated that he feels that any existing residential use property in a commercial zone should be grandfathered and not subject to the revised policies. Mrs. Mallatratt and Mr. Stump stated that they did not understand his request and that they did not understand how you could grandfather a residence that was not an existing sewer client. Mr. Blankenbiller further stated that he did not feel that the policy was fair and that the Board had been discussing and debating this matter for months. Mr. Stump made a motion to accept and approve the sewer policies as presented, seconded by Mrs. Mallatratt. Mrs. Mallatratt asked if there were any dissenting votes, to which Mr. Blankenbiller stated that he was casting a dissenting vote. Mr. Stump stated that Mr. Blankenbiller, as Board Chair, still needed to vote, even if it was a dissenting vote. Mr. Blankenbiller then asked for all those in favor, to which Mr. Stump and Mrs. Mallatratt responded as approving votes, with Mr. Blankenbiller casting the sole dissenting vote. The motion was approved with a 2-1 vote.

Mr. Kutzler of 3142 Pricetown Road had previously requested that his EDU usage billing be retroactive to the date of his original request of August 28, 2023. Mrs. Mallatratt made motion to approve the

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retroactive request, seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously. The adjustment will be made effective with the September 2023 billing.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Stump provided a brief update on the salt shed project. He stated that the project is complete except for interior work. The Township was holding the final payment of \$10,000 to ensure punch list items are addressed.

SUPERVISORS REPORT: Mrs. Mallatratt had no report. Mr. Stump stated that the clog in the sewer line at Route 12 has been opened.

ADJOURN: Mrs. Mallatratt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Stump and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan G Moore, Business Manager