

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, Kimberly Mallatratt, and Solicitor Gary Swavely. The meeting was held at the Alsace Township Municipal Building. Mr. Stump led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Chairperson Stump presented the Minutes from the August 1, 2018 Supervisors' meeting. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to approve the Minutes, David Barth seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Chairperson Stump asked for approval for the Township payment of bills. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$61,227.19 from the General Fund, \$20,609.07 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$3,136.73 from the Septic and Sewer Fund, and \$83,972.63 from the Liquid Fuels Fund seconded by David Barth, and the motion was approved. Mr. Mallatratt made a motion to pay taxes, payroll and interim bills, seconded by David Barth, and the motion was approved.

There were no questions regarding the financial reports as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** James Rupp asked a question regarding when Alsace Road will be repaired. Mr. Stump explained that there are also drainage issues that need to be addressed as well as additional utility input. A new design needs to be completed by an engineer. Mr. Stump explained that there will be a scratch done in the meantime.

Mr. Schweikart of Gosling Court asked about the Township taking over the street light at Gosling Court. The Business Manager stated that she spoke with Matt Kemp at Met-Ed. She stated that this light could be replaced with a high-pressure sodium light. This would be done free of charge and the cost to the Township would be approximately \$16.50/month in electricity usage.

The Business Manager went on to explain that Met-Ed currently owns six street lights in the Township. To put a high-pressure sodium light in the Township where there is an existing pole with electric service would be free of charge. To change to an LED fixture would cost \$160. If there is no existing wood pole the charge to install a street light would start at \$2,000 per light, ornamental lights are also \$2,000 and up.

To upgrade the Township street lights to LED, they need to be done in groups of 12. In order to upgrade currently the cost would be \$805 for the existing lights and \$960 for the additional six new lights. There are no currently no grants available to offset these costs.

David Barth made a recommendation to locate an additional five locations in the Township to add street lights. The transition to LED will be potentially budgeted for 2019 if those locations can be found for a full conversion. After a brief discussion it was agreed that this would be the way the Township will proceed.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Swavely had nothing to present to the Board.

**WWTP, SEPTIC & SEWER:** The selection for the Grant for the Sewer Extension has been delayed until September 17, 2018. A letter was provided from Ebert Engineering's office to use as a template for residents to reach out to the appropriate representatives. This letter was emailed and mailed to affected residents. Additionally, a document of "talking points" was also provided for residents that preferred to call the legislators.

The Township has just switched to the new billing software. The Township is accepting payments on line as well as with credit cards. We are also currently set up to accept cards for permits and the recreation program as well as utility bills and equipment.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Brian Heatwole was in attendance and asked some questions about the movement of the dedication of Rand Drive. Mr. Swavely explained that Mr. Kraft had brought some technical issues to the table and that email was provided to Mr. Heatwole to address with Mr. Kraft. Following the addressing of these issues, the process can move forward toward dedication.

Mr. Stump discussed the repaving of Basket and Bull Roads. H&K has been in contact with Mike and will be moving forward with scheduling the final paving. There have been significant weather-related delays and the schedule appears to be early fall for the paving. Per the contract the paving needs to be completed by October 31, 2018.

**ADMINISTRATION:** The Business Manager discussed an email received about the necessity of updating the Township website. The website is currently vulnerable to security threats as well as is due for an update. A proposal from our current website firm was received for \$500. The Business Manager requested authorization to move forward with this initiative. Mike Stump made a motion to move forward with Pam Keeler and Zero Gravity Design on the security and website update at the quoted price as recommended by the Business Manager. The motion was seconded by David Barth and the motion carried.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** The Planning Commission met on August 2, 2018. The Renninger Subdivision Annexation was reviewed. The Planning Commission is recommending Conditional Approval conditioned upon the recommendations of the Township Engineer. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to approve this Annexation, seconded by David Barth, and the motion carried.

**ALSACE MANOR FIRE COMPANY:**

Mr. Barth made an initial statement that there has been no written or verbal communication since the previous Board meeting from any Fire Company Board Members or their Counsel regarding the current status or request for information. He recommended that the Board begin the de-certification process to remove the Alsace Manor Fire Company from being the responding fire company for the Township. He explained that he has been in contact with the surrounding municipal Fire Companies regarding the situation and all are ready to step-in as necessary to provide coverage to the Township.

Mr. Stump asked what this would entail. Mr. Barth explained that Alsace Manor Fire Company would be taken off-line, Run Cards would need to be changed and then a meeting will be held with the surrounding fire companies to choose which of them will serve as the Township primaries. He stated that the issues surrounding the Alsace Manor Fire Company have well surpassed financial issues.

Mr. Barth further explained that there will be no lapse in coverage. There is additional concern regarding equipment that is being held in public trust that needs to be addressed.

Questions were asked by the public regarding the payment of the Legal Counsel for the fire company and whether tax money was being spent on this lawyer. Also, questions regarding the equipment and whether the Township can take possession of this equipment.

Phil Kline asked that the Supervisors verify that if changes in the services to the residents how will it affect the insurance rates. Mr. Barth explained that this will improve insurances due to the access to more equipment and more response.

A question was asked by the Social Quarters regarding what will happen to that entity. The Supervisors explained that there is no intention of this action affecting the operations of the Social Quarters, however, they may need to ask the State to clarify that question.

David Barth made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-10 that the Alsace Manor Fire Company, a volunteer fire company, is hereby de-certified as an approved provider of fire protection and emergency services in Alsace Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, effective Friday, August 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Any fundraising activities conducted by the Alsace Manor Fire Company shall no longer be conducted in Alsace Township and the Alsace Township Business Manager is authorized and directed to notify the Alsace Manor Fire Company of this Resolution as well as to notify any other emergency service providers in the Township as well as the County 911 Department and any other governmental, administrative, or regulatory entity the Township Officers or Supervisors determine to be appropriate. Sam Mallatratt seconded the motion.

At this point additional comments were requested by the public. It was again stressed that this process has been ongoing for over six months with no answers or communication. Steve Rothenberger asked about the duration of this motion. Mr. Barth explained that they are not including an end-date to the Resolution. He also expressed his distress that this situation could not be worked out prior to this decision.

Ms. Ruth Ann Moyer expressed that she believes that this process is moving too fast.

The Supervisors again stated that there are many more issues than simply financial discrepancies. A list of additional issues was read for the public.

Mr. Swavely reported that he has spoken with the State Fire Commissioner and has reached out to the State Attorney General's Office but has yet to speak to anyone directly.

A vote was taken by the Supervisors, the vote was as follows – David Barth-aye, Sam Mallatratt, aye, and Mike Stump, aye. The vote was unanimous and passed.

**RECREATION BOARD:** The recreation program has ended for the year and a final financial report will be presented at the next meeting.

**SUPERVISORS:** Nothing further from the Supervisors.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Darlene Bartsch stated that she heard that the Township does not have any money. Mr. Stump stated that is incorrect information. He also stated that the Liquid Fuels money has been allocated for road projects this year.

Mr. Stump asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sam Mallatratt made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by David Barth, and the motion was approved. Adjournment was at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt  
Business Manager/Secretary/Treasurer