

Michael Stump, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Alsace Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:02 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 stated that there were no minutes ready for approval at this meeting.

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 \$41,673.73 from the General Fund, \$14,177.91 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$0 from the Septic and Sewer Fund, and \$1,391.05 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.

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Stump stated that a letter was received from Ruth Ann Moyer announcing her retirement from her position as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer from the Township effective September 19, 2018. Mr. Stump asked for a motion to accept this retirement letter, Sam Mallatratt made a motion, seconded by David Barth and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Stump opened this topic by stating that the Supervisors would be taking comments but would be limiting comments to 3-4 minutes per individual. He also requested that all individuals please sign in and also to stand when speaking and state your name.

Philip Kline – Mr. Kline stated that he had reviewed Township audit reports for the past five years and read various budget line items from previous budgets to the audience. He asked of the Chairman what steps and plans they have for the Fire Company budget moving forward.

Mr. Stump then stated that the Supervisors do have intention of answering questions during the meeting due to the current situation. They will take comments only.

Mr. Swavely reiterated that there would be no questions answered regarding the Fire Company at this meeting.

Mary Lou Kline – She stated that she hopes that the Supervisors are in serious discussions regarding the reinstatement of the fire company. She further stated that she wanted to remind the Supervisors that they were elected to protect the entire Township and that should be taken into consideration and doesn't know why it hasn't been resolved and this is an overreaction.

Bonnie Landis – Asked if there was any news about the sewer extension project. Mr. Stump reported that the Township has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$125,000. Ms. Landis asked how that money would be appropriated. Mr. Stump stated that the Township will be reaching out to Mr. Ebert of Ebert Engineering to discuss costs and how the grant money must be spent on the project. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Keith Blankenbiller – He is asking since this money conceivably cannot be used to offset tap-in fees, if the money can be utilized toward the transmission lines. Mr. Stump reiterated that

discussions and designs need to move forward with Mr. Ebert. Mr. Blankenbiller asked if this will start the second train. Mr. Stump stated that the second train is already in but is not currently in use. Mr. Blankenbiller asked additional questions regarding the start-up of the second train. Mr. Stump stated that there will be some additional costs with lighting the second train, but many of those costs and equipment have already been addressed.

Bonnie Landis – Asked about the timeframe of discussions and when Mr. Ebert will be available. Mr. Stump stated that we will schedule a Town Hall meeting with Mr. Ebert soon for public input. Ms. Landis asked about the previous Block Grant that was provided in Alsace Manor. Mr. Stump stated that this information was confidential information.

Marybeth Butchko – Discussed the article that was written by the Reading Eagle. In the article it stated that per Wendy Becker “the Township has always been generous with funding”. Ms. Butchko then stated if you read Meeting Minutes from previous years, in 2005 that there “was a breakdown in communications”. The three Supervisors at the time had asked for a Memorandum of Understanding as there were statements made that there were concerns about financial information. She is questioning why previous Supervisors are not remembering the issues from the past.

Larry Kunkle – Stated he has heard that there is an individual setting off false alarms in the Township on businesses along Route 12 for the purpose of recording response times. He also discussed his concerns regarding other roadways in the Township.

Gloria Timmons – Asked whether any of the Supervisors are Certified Public Accountants. She stated that the Supervisors should not be reviewing the statements and that CPAs should be reviewing them. Ms. Timmons also expressed her concerns with response times. Stated that the Supervisors should not be objecting to using tax money to support a fire company.

Jamie Lucas – Mr. Lucas stated that he appreciates the Supervisors trying to get the budgets and previous report rectified. He had information regarding money that was paid to previous Supervisors and their companies for work that should have been publicly bid, but was not. He requested records of the Township showing where the projects were publicly bid, but those records didn't exist. He wants to know why there are no records as these were amounts in excess of \$500 each and this practice is over a multi-year timeframe. Mr. Stump stated he was unsure what he was referring to. Mr. Lucas stated specifically Security First and Blankenbiller Plumbing and Heating. Mr. Lucas then referred to the Second Class Township Code and the regulations regarding Supervisors and businesses where they have a financial interest. Mr. Stump stated that the appropriate course of action would be to bring this before the Ethics Commission for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg.

Wayne Becker – Stated that he is the Liaison between the Fire Company and the Township Supervisors with hopes of building a better relationship moving forward. He stated that the Fire Company was recently awarded a federal grant to be used for hoses and appliances and is a \$157,000 grant and is between three Departments. He stated that if the Fire Company is not re-certified that the money will be dispersed between those two companies. There is also a state grant is currently open and they were planning to use that grant for debt consolidation for the tanker and would most likely be a 12-month consolidation. He also discussed last year's federal grant which was used to purchase 12 air packs and 24 cylinders and 21 masks. If they are not recertified the air packs will need to be returned to FEMA. Asked about the Fire Companies that

were put into service and have a tanker with 3,000 gallons of water and is concerned about response times of other Departments with the same amount of water. Mr. Becker then said he heard there are “management concerns”. He believes we can work those details out and would like to do so following re-certification. Also would like to know if the Board has done anything with the bank statements so that they can be clear about what the questions are so they can be discussed.

Zack Moore – Mr. Moore stated that he understands why the Supervisors are not answering questions because there may be an investigation. They are here to receive comments. Their job is also to protect the well-being of the entire Township, this needs to include the financial well-being of the Township and should be a priority. He believes if there are concerns by the public, the Meeting Minutes reflect that since 2005 the Fire Company has not provided requested information. Mr. Moore believes the onus is on the Fire Company to come to the table to correct the situation.

Mary Ann Ohlinger – Ms. Ohlinger stated that she has been notified by her insurance company that her rates are going up. Ms. Ohlinger also stated that she doesn't believe that any Supervisor objected when the Fire Company purchased the new tanker and that someone signed the check. She also believes that someone from the outside should be brought in to look at the information that has been presented to get this matter settled. Ms. Ohlinger then asked about the 5-year plan and that the Township doesn't want to give as much money as they have in the past. She stated that she would like to see a reduction in the wages paid to Township employees. She also stated that the Supervisors should not be critical.

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

WWTP, SEPTIC & SEWER: 240 Skyline Drive – requesting a waiver for a re-drill of a well due to the setback being closer to the line than the current Ordinance allows. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to approve the waiver request, seconded by David Barth, and the motion carried.

Mr. Stump reiterated that the Township received a \$125,000 grant for the sewer extension project.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Stump discussed that the re-paving of Bull & Baskets Roads is scheduled to take place on October 15, 2018 by Landis Deck (H&K), weather permitting.

Rand Drive Dedication – Mr. Stump has discussed this issue with Brian Heatwole and it discovered that the road is still in Frank Randazzo's name. This issue needs to be corrected. Mr. Heatwole was directed to speak with John Hoffert to work on this project.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Darlene Bartsch, Emergency Management Coordinator stated that she disagrees that there were any issues in 2005. She stated that there was only a problem when the Township Supervisors asked for bank statements. Ms. Bartsch stated previous situations and Mr. Stump again thanked them for their service.

Ms. Bartsch stated that there are various people that have come to her stating that they are going to sue the Township and that are going to sue the Fire Company.

SUPERVISORS: Nothing further from the Supervisors.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Phil Kehlen – Mr. Kehlen had a comment about potholes on Blankenbiller Road. Mr. Stump stated that DPW is planning to scratch the road and refill but that is weather dependent. Mr. Kehlen also asked about a culvert on his property on Wanshop Road. Mr. Stump stated he would be in touch with Mr. Kehlen about the issue later in the week.

Mary Lou Kline – Ms. Kline stated that she is disappointed that the Supervisors accepted the retirement of Ruth Ann Moyer, a long-time employee, without acknowledgement of her service. Mr. Stump stated that we did appreciate her service, and Mr. Stump further stated that he was planning to say something at the end of the meeting.

Bonnie Landis – Asked if there was consideration given regarding helping people in distress without the Fire Company. It was explained that the Good Samaritan Law protects individuals in that situation.

Jim Oswald – Stated that he is a Supervisor for 12 ½ years in a neighboring Township, has run fire for 30 years and EMS for 28 years. He said they have issues with getting information from their Fire Company as well and that it is state law. He said their EMS uses the same accounting firm as the Township so that the firm has access to all of the information. He pointed out that if the Township Supervisors “squandered” the taxpayer money that the residents would be very upset, but if the Fire Company “squandered” money, we should not be upset. They should be prudent in their review to be confident in their questions.

Kelly Brown – Ms. Brown stated that the Township pays bills directly and that there is a full accounting of that money.

Michael Moore – Mr. Moore stated he is very satisfied with the efforts by the Supervisors to get agreements from adjacent Fire Companies to cover the Township. Mr. Moore stated that he was in attendance at the meeting in 2005 when serious questions arose, and the Township requested documents from the Fire Company. The Fire Company didn't respond, and the matter lingered for years with stonewalling by the Fire Company. He stated that the questions were not only about tax money, but all of the money that the Fire Company had available. He further stated that as the Fire Company is a non-profit it should be an open book with all financial information. He believes that all of the issues will come out to the public.

Heath Edwards – Had several questions regarding the response time from the surrounding Townships and what are those response times vs. Alsace Manor Fire Company. He stated that there are other fire companies that have always had quicker response times in certain areas of the Township. Mr. Edwards was also concerned about the lack of cell tower coverage for 911 and other calls on certain areas of Pricetown Road and Skyline Road, in particular.

Wayne Becker – Stated that his understanding is that the Board is not considering re-certification at this meeting. Mr. Stump stated that this understanding was correct.

Phil Kline – Mr. Kline posed a follow-up question regarding when this would be considered by the Board. Mr. Stump stated that this is currently uncertain.

Wayne Becker – Mr. Becker then asked what additional information was necessary as he is unclear what else is being requested.

Gary Swavely then stated that as the Township would not be discussing the matter further at this time.

Suzanne Bauman – Ms. Bauman also stated she has been monitoring response times with a scanner and believes response times are delayed.

Mr. Stump then thanked Ruth Ann Moyer for her 10+ years of service to the Township and wished her the best in her retirement.

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 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt
Business Manager/Secretary/Treasurer