

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 asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting. Mr. Mallatratt made that motion, seconded by Mr. Barth and the motion carried.

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 \$67,344.90 from the General Fund, \$26,490.54 from the WWTP Operations and Maintenance Fund, \$901.16 from the Septic and Sewer Fund, and \$0 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:

- Following a brief presentation on the 2019 Budget, David Barth made a motion to accept the 2019 Budget as Final, Sam Mallatratt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The 2019 Budget presents no tax increase to the residents and property owners in the Township.
- The engagement letter was received from Herbein + Company regarding the audit of the Alsace Township 2018 financials. The quoted fee is \$8,900. Sam Mallatratt made a motion to execute the engagement letter, seconded by David Barth, and the motion carried.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was received to provide access to the Berks EMS CAD System. David Barth made a motion to execute the MOU, seconded by Sam Mallatratt and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Keith Blankenbiller – Mr. Blankenbiller expressed concern over a recent emergency response situation involving a motor vehicle accident along Pricetown Road and alleged damage to his property. Mr. Blankenbiller showed photos to the Board and to Mr. Steve Rothenberger who was a respondent at the scene. After a brief discussion the Board asked Mr. Blankenbiller for his permission to enter the property for a determination of the extent of the damage. Mr. Blankenbiller provided his permission. The Business Manager also requested that a copy of the photograph be sent to the Township Office.

Sue Blankenbiller – Mrs. Blankenbiller stated that during the emergency response, that her daughter's driveway was open and available for necessary parking of emergency vehicles. She asked that additional training be provided to other fire companies on directing traffic.

Darlene Bartsch – Briefly discussed her view on the response to the incident.

Keith Blankenbiller – Stated that he has had communication with the Attorney General's Office and that he was told that it is the decision of the Board of Supervisors as to whether the Alsace Manor Fire Company remains closed. Mr. Swavely responded stated that this information is correct and the decision to recognize the Alsace Manor Fire Company rests solely with the Board of Supervisors. The Board is the only entity that can re-instate the Fire Company. Currently, the Board has chosen to keep the Fire Company in a de-certified status due to the on-going investigation and other issues. Mr. Blankenbiller then asked the Board if they were willing to sit down with the Fire Company for discussions. The Board responded that they have done so on several occasions previously to no avail.

Mr. Blankenbiller then asked the Business Manager if she could provide budget information regarding fire company expenses paid during 2018.

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Mr. Kline had previously signed in to speak but was missed and was invited to speak.

Phil Kline – He wanted to point out a correction from the November 2018 meeting. He discussed the situation between the previous Board and the Fire Company in 2006 and the negotiated settlement at that point. Mr. Kline believes that the current Board should consider a new arrangement with the Fire Company because of the difficulty of attracting volunteers.

Mr. Barth stated that there is sufficient service currently in place.

Sue Blankenbiller – Stated that she was in contact with Matthew Hathaway of the Attorney General's office by email who stated that they could not confirm or deny that there was anything happening with the Attorney General's Office and the Alsace Manor Fire Company. She asked him if there is any law or statute that someone who is under investigation needs to be kept from performing their duties. The answer was that there was not. Mr. Barth stated that the Board is aware of that and that they have chosen to keep the Fire Company in a de-certified status.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Stump had nothing on this topic.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Darlene Bartsch, Emergency Management Coordinator discussed her concern about bus transportation along Pricetown Road. There was discussion regarding having the Business Manager speak with the State Police and Safety at Deka.

Bonnie Landis – asked that the Supervisors call the State Police to ask for more surveillance.

SUPERVISORS: Both Mr. Mallatratt and Mr. Barth had nothing further to report.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Wendy Becker – Stated that all statements and Fireman's Relief Minutes are at the Attorney General's Office. Ms. Becker stated that the Social Quarters is now involved and she does not know where they stand with their documents.

Patty Moyer – Also wants the Supervisors to call the State Police regarding Oley Road.

Keith Blankenbiller – Mr. Blankenbiller asked about providing reports on permits, inspections and other daily matters during public meetings.

Nancy Cawley – Suggested that the Township reach out to the head of Deka Battery.

A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding water and ice on various roadways in the Township.

Phil Kline – Would like the Board to contact PennDOT regarding water going down his driveway regarding accumulation of garbage and leaves on Antietam Road

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 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Mallatratt
Business Manager/Secretary/Treasurer