

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

The March 11, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburtis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Steve Hill	Kathleen Raines	Hector Vazquez
John Aleszczyk	Stephen Kaufman	Ron DeIaco
Vanessa Taggart		

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
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Visitors in attendance:	Cole Poniktera, Troop 72	Dave Kutzor, Troop 72	Walter Malewicz
	Faith Andrews	Hope DeIaco	Nancy Malewicz
	Gary DeRoner		

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2020, John Aleszczyk 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2020 – No meeting due to Covid-19

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – MARCH 11, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of March 11, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Kathleen Raines made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – The monthly report was reviewed. There were eight calls in the Borough in February.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Resident, Walter Malewicz was present because he understands that an Eagle Scout wants to make changes to the Bird Sanctuary. He has no objection to the scout, but he would rather not have anything done to the Bird Sanctuary. He would like to see the Bird Sanctuary kept as is. Resident Faith Andrews agrees with Mr. Malewicz. Her property abuts the Bird Sanctuary and this piece of property is the only virgin land left in the Borough. Lockridge Park is in desperate need of projects. Dave Kutzor, on behalf of Troop 72, noted that, yes, we have Lockridge Park, but the trails being proposed for the Bird Sanctuary, would not be new trails. They are old existing trails. The Bird Sanctuary is full of history and it is not fair for only the residents whose property abuts the Sanctuary to enjoy it. The trails would not lead up to the bog areas. The bog areas can be observed from a distance. Resident, Hope DeIaco, feels that the land should stay in the natural state that it is in now. If the trails are installed, too many people would be in the Sanctuary. She is worried that people have no respect for the property, and this is the last piece of untouched land in the Borough. Dave Kutzor argued with this and stated that if kids are educated and are told that this is an environmentally protected area, they would begin understanding.

Public Comment(cont.) - Resident, Nancy Malewicz, stated that the Lockridge Park Bluebells were featured in a Pennsylvania magazine and people still do not respect them. We are close to losing the bluebells and she is afraid the same thing will happen to the Bird Sanctuary if trails were allowed.

Cole Poniktera - Troop 72 – Cole is a Life Scout with Troop 72 and is proposing a project to Council to earn his Eagle. The project he is proposing is in the Bird Sanctuary and would consist of clearing the existing trails, placing mulch down and identifying the different trees and shrubs. The trails would not be near the ponds. He would like to make benches out of the fallen trees for people to observe. Stephen Kaufman believes this is a fantastic project but is worried about the cease and desist order we received a while back. Kathleen Raines said that was just to stop digging for graves. Kathleen Raines has been trying to have a scout do a project in the Sanctuary for the last five years. Faith Andrews states that a Bird Sanctuary is a natural habitat for birds and Hope DeIaco asked what would happen to the animals that live there. Hector Vazquez thanked Cole and agrees that it is an area that needs to be protected, but it is public property and open to all residents. It would be great to have it cleaned up and have proper signage, including, no dogs allowed, etc. It is only a matter of time until more residents know it is there with or without a project. Ron DeIaco suggested that we put this on hold and have those who have not seen the property go walk the area. Hector Vazquez suggested that a committee be formed to help with this. Ron DeIaco also added that we first need to straighten out the boundaries with the properties abutting the Sanctuary per the Quit Claim Deed. Stephen Kaufman stated again that this is a fantastic project, but maybe it could be moved to the park. John Aleszczyk suggested we contact the Wildlands Conservancy for their advice. The subject has been tabled for a future meeting.

Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project – Recommendation to Pay – Steve Hill made a motion to pay BP Paterson \$104,073.22 as recommended by the Engineer, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and the balance were as follows:
Kathleen Raines – Aye Vanessa Taggart – Opposed John Aleszczyk – Aye
Hector Vazquez – Opposed Ron DeIaco - Aye

Kline’s Island Sewer System Signatory Meeting – Sharon attended the monthly meeting and gave Council a schedule to have the interim Act 537 Plan approved, adopted and submitted to DEP.

Green Acres Land Development – Correspondence was received from Lehigh County Planning Commission regarding Land Development plans in Lower and Upper Macungie Townships.

Small Games of Chance Tax – The Borough received \$185.90 from the Tavern’s Small Games of Chance Tax.

Act 66 - Correspondence – Correspondence was received from the Lehigh County Assessment Office indicating no new Act 66 was to be reported for the Borough.

Main Street Lehigh Valley Grant – The new round of grants is open and due on May 31, 2020. Kathleen Raines made a motion for Sharon to apply, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Sharon will look into solar lighting for the Borough Welcome signs and will also look into military flags.

Liquid Fuels – The Borough will be receiving \$66,059.98 from Liquid Fuels this year.

Crime Victim’s Council Annual Plant Sale – Correspondence was received regarding the annual plant sale. Orders will be taken until March 27th.

A motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.