

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2020

The February 12, 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

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Robert Palmer, Police Chief

Visitors in attendance: Shawn Millen, Sen. Browne's Office

Gary DeRoner

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

POLICE REPORT – Chief Palmer was present to let Council know that the new car is here and in service. It looks very nice and if Council wishes, they can go out and look at it after the meeting. The old 9-02 has been stripped down and is at Total Performance to be painted black. Magnets for Motor Carrier Enforcement have been ordered for it. When the car comes back, maintenance will get the Durango ready to sell.

The new officer is working three shifts per week and is doing very well. He should be able to be on his own in another month.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2020 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 29, 2020, John Aleszczyk 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – FEBRUARY 12, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of February 12, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

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

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Resident, Gary DeRoner, was present to discuss an issue with Borough Council. The contractor doing the sewer line replacements cut his trees and caused damage to them since they were cut incorrectly. His biggest issue is that there was no communication prior to this being done. Sharon was not aware that the trees were being cut until she saw them doing it. She will contact the contractor and have them rectify the issue.

Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project – Recommendation to Pay – Per the engineer’s recommendation, Steve Hill made a motion to pay BP Paterson \$98,634.60 for work completed on the 2019 Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project. The motion was 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed.

State Police – Stephen Kaufman wanted Council to be aware of the fees that Gov. Wolf is proposing for all municipalities to help pay for State Police. Gasoline tax should pay for the State Police, but these funds are being used elsewhere. It is not final yet, but the proposal would include the Borough of Alburdis paying \$13,222 per year. This comes to \$5.04 per person for the Borough. Council questioned why municipalities that have their own police force should have to pay. Shawn Millen from Sen. Pat Browne’s office was present and added that although this is not official yet, the thinking behind having every municipality pay is that the State Police are used for backup in all communities and the State Police Labs are also used by all. It is still going back and forth between all municipalities contributing or just those without a police department. Kathleen Raines believes that those without a department should be the ones to pay.

Spring Creek Road Bridge – John Aleszczyk asked Mr. Millen about the status of the bridge over Spring Creek and was told that he will check on the status of repairs.

Mail in Ballots – Shawn Millen reported to Council that there is a change in mail in ballots this year. If you cannot do an absentee ballot, you have the option to apply for a mail in ballot. He will send information to Sharon for distribution.

Kline’s Island Sewer System Signatory Meeting – Sharon has been attending the Signatory Meetings and they will become more frequent as the Act 537 Plan is prepared. We are under a tight deadline with DEP to have this done.

Church Street Bridge Inspection – The bridge on Church Street has had its biannual inspection. There is nothing critical that needs to be done, but the guardrail should be made to Penn Dot standards at some point.

Spring Creek Properties Lot 9-10 – A construction cost estimate submitted by Liberty Property Trust was reviewed and responded to by the Engineer.

RCN Franchise Fees – Franchise Fees in the amount of \$18,037.60 was received from RCN. This is less than last year due to people opting out of cable TV.

PA One Call – 2019 Refund – The 2019 refund from PA One Call was received in the amount of \$175.02.

Volunteer Tax Credits – A list of fire fighters eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit was received from Fire Chief, Dave Nosal. Kathleen Raines made a motion to approve the list, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Butz Foundation – A check for \$2,500 was received from the Butz Foundation for the Church. Sharon will send a thank you note.

PSAB Conference – Sharon informed Council that the Conference she attends annually is more geared for Police and she recommended that Kathy Palmer attend this year instead of herself. Sharon would like to attend the Fall Leadership Conference this year that is held in October. Hector Vazquez made a motion to allow Kathleen Palmer to attend the Conference in the spring and for Sharon to attend the conference in the fall. The motion was 2nd by Steve Hill and a unanimous vote followed.

Mid-Atlantic Conference for Herpetology and Conservation – Sharon received a letter from Brandon Ruhe of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation. They are requesting permission to survey what reptiles reside within the Sanctuary. Borough Council has no issue with this and requests that they share the results with them.

Lehigh Valley Growth – Gary DeRoner mentioned to Council that he read an article in the paper over the weekend that stated Alburtis is in the top five municipalities for increased growth. This is probably due to the Hills of Lockridge development.

A motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. was made by Hector Vazquez, 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.