

## **Borough of Alburtis**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**June 14, 2023**

The June 14, 2023, 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:**

Ron DeIaco

Chad Atkins

Hector Moss

John Aleszczyk

Mehmet Birtek

Ashlynn Rivera

#### **Associates of Alburtis in attendance:**

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Stephen Nemeth, Manager

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner

Steve Werley

Eli- boy scout rep

Thomas M

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Eli mentioned that he was here for his citizenship badge for boy scouts. The council welcomed him; no further comment was made.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Palmer mentioned that she seen the House of Reps have agreed to make more grant funding opportunities available through the CBDG program. Ron DeIaco mentioned this is great news, we have been very fortunate in the past to have Senator Browne help get us grants; now we must work to create a new bond with the new senator. Mayor Palmer mentioned the next thing we need to discuss is the burn ban, she is very worried with how dry it's been and with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July coming up. Ron asked Kathy if she was recommending a burn ban; Chad asked if we could set it up like a snow emergency. Dave Knerr mentioned that the process is very similar to the snow emergency; Mayor declares an emergency as a result there is a burn ban. The only thing is, it can't last longer than 7 days, unless the council extends it. Mehmet mentioned since he lives on the border of LMT would we be able to work with LMT on a burn ban. Hector Moss mentioned that he is glad that the mayor has the ability to just call it. Kathy also mentioned that she hopes everyone makes it out to community day on Saturday.

**POLICE REPORT**-. Motion to accept the Police report was made by Chad Atkins and seconded by Mehmet Birtek, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-0

**MEETING MINUTES OF May 31, 2023** – Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 31, 2023, Ashlynn Rivera 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-0

**BILLS FOR PAYMENT** – June 14, 2023 – Hector Moss made a motion to pay the bills of June 14, 2023, Ashlynn Rivera 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-0

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – John Aleszczyk asked Mehmet Birtek if he had any questions, Mehmet mentioned that he still doesn't see the future cash flow listed, will save for further comment next meeting. Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-0

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** – Ron DeIaco mentioned that we have a lot of projects going on. John Aleszczyk questioned since he missed the last meeting, how did our engineers miss the trench drains from the original bid. Mehmet mentioned that Mike did admit it was an error on their end and that was accepted. John mentioned that it is personal property, and we are paying more. Kathy mentioned that it was mentioned that mike agreed that we would be able to discuss the differences in prices. John mentioned that he believes that we really should start doing that we are very over budget and losing money left and right. We can't afford to do everyone's personal property and fund it. Ron mentioned that the work that is being done through the grant, Ron said yes, we are

over the grant, two years ago this grant was out to bid, prices have changed. John said the original bid didn't have.

it, claims this one is over, chestnut st was over, Bicentennial is going to be over, and the borough keeps footing the bill. This is why taxes are going to need to go up. Ron mentioned that there have been other times the borough could have received funding, but it didn't. Ron mentioned that it's been over a decade since we have raised taxes and doesn't foresee needing to do so. John mentioned he believes that we will need to, but we can discuss that at another time. Ron mentioned that we are improving the community. Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-0

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – The Macungie Ambulance Corps report was reviewed. There were four calls in the Borough in May. Ron DeLaco mentioned that Macungie ambulance held an open house at the Macungie Institute and that Macungie Ambulance wanted to know if this was something we would like to do. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that he believes this would be a great benefit to the borough to host an event for the ambulance corps for an open house. Ron requested that Stephen set the event up with Macungie Ambulance and report back.

### ADMINISTRATION

Sewer flow meter- request to purchase – Stephen Nemeth mentioned this was originally brought up in 2017; this will provide us getting most accurate flow rate readings from the borough. This data would then help us in talks with LMT to move from our pump station to their gravity system. Ron DeLaco mentioned that Stephen tried borrowing one from Macungie but the ones they have are currently out for repair. We would be purchasing one for ourselves. Mehmet mentioned that this would be a benefit of the borough by getting a correct reading. Steve mentioned if we purchase it, we would be able to move it to other locations in the borough if we identify issues. Ron mentioned that John is correct that we need to watch the cash flow, we can always add into budget for next year. John Aleszczyk mentioned that he would like to table this for the next meeting to allow him to review finances, believes this is really needed. Ron said on John's request to let table this. Hector Moss mentioned that we are paying 21,000 to do this reading, when we were informed a few months ago that LMT doesn't want our flows at this point we are just taking a chance that LMT may still not want our flows. Steve Nemeth mentioned that he has been in discussions with both LMT and LCA about the project and both still would like to see this project happen. Dave Knerr said ultimately if the flow is too high, they have the right to say no. Ron mentioned that we don't know this until we get the data to provide them.

York hoist- Originally 2 months ago it was approved to with a quote under 3,500; since then, this is the updated quote for 4685.06 which has the capability to lift the lid and basket at the same time along with labor. Mehmet asked what the original quote was, Stephen Nemeth mentioned 2800.00 which didn't include labor or installation. Mehmet mentioned seems like a good deal. Hector Moss mentioned not quite being that the price increase, he would like to see two more quotes. Kathy Palmer mentioned that must remember that the last quote didn't include labor. Hector stated still this is one quote with how our cash flow is we cannot overspend on anything; Kathy mentioned that we cannot overspend on anything. Kathy mentioned that we are not going to be able to afford to pay if somebody gets hurt by us not doing this. Hector mentioned he knows that, but this is something that should have been addressed when the project was completed. Ron asked Steve if he could locate two more quotes if they are the same or lower. John Aleszczyk made a motion to go ahead not to exceed 5,000.00; this is something that is a health and safety matter, we will pay more if something happens, this is important. Hector Moss 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-0

Franklin street recommendation to pay application no 1- Hector asked if the change order of 12,000 was for the trench drains, Stephen mentioned that the change order associated with this is the change is prices. Hector made the motion to pay application number 1, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, John Aleszczyk was a no vote, Chad Atkins, and Ron DeLaco voted in favor of the motion, motion passed 5-1

ARPA Funds –John Aleszczyk mentioned that he requested this item on the agenda. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that the total provided with the packet doesn't include the allocated half of the well pump. With the allocated half it would bring the ARPA fund to 43,013.48. John mentioned that he would like to pay the entire bill of the well pump replacement from ARPA. John mentioned that he would like to use what we can of ARPA before the federal government requests it back. John Aleszczyk made motion to pay for well pump replacement out of ARPA, Hector Moss 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-0

Project updates – John Aleszczyk mentioned that he requested Stephen add this to provide a general update on the projects currently going on. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that Chestnut Street is finalizing the draft package to submit for reimbursement by the end of the week. The Sanitary Rehab grant we submitted the final documents today to begin reimbursement of 192,472.61. Bicentennial Village we are hoping to request to advertise for bid at the first meeting in July. Mehmet Birtek requested that a grant spreadsheet be provided.

PSAB Conference recap – Stephen Nemeth mentioned that he was thankful that the borough allowed him to attend the conference, and that he looks forward to attending again next year. Stephen mentioned that the conference was very educational and recommends the mayor and a council rep attend next year also since there are roundtable discussions for each position and concurrent sessions which could be good if we had more ears in the room.

Harold Frey Bench – Stephen Nemeth mentioned that the bench is place. Stephen Nemeth wanted to make sure to thank all of those that donated to the cause. Council agreed, Ron DeIaco also mentioned that Raines Park will be officially dedicated to Kathy Raines on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1 pm.

Cold Nose Lodge/ GLVC - groundbreaking ceremony. - Stephen Nemeth mentioned this event will take place on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm-1:30pm, to ground break their addition. Ron DeIaco mentioned that he wanted somebody to attend, if possible, to show how important this company is to our borough.

Executive session with no vote to be taken after executive session.

A motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. was made by Chad Atkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mehmet Birtek and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.