

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2020

The February 26, 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	Vanessa Taggart
John Aleszczyk	Stephen Kaufman	Ron DeIaco

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
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Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner	Julie DeRoner
Susan Nenstiel, LM Library	Jerel Gade, LM Library
Therese Schweyer, LM Library	Erica Dreabit, LM Library
Zack Bernhart, Boy Scout Troop #86	George Bernhart

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2020 Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – FEBRUARY 26, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of February 26, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – John Aleszczyk made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Residents, Gary and Julie DeRoner, were present with a concern. On February 17th, the contractor repairing the sewer lines pulled the electrical service line off their house and left a hole in the residence. The contractor and engineer on scene apparently did not notice and a neighbor came over and told him. Council President, Ron DeIaco, and Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott, both told the DeRoner's that this would be corrected. Gary met with Borough Manager, Sharon Trexler, and she told him the contractor must take care of the repairs. He has still not heard from the contractor. Ron DeIaco stated that it was not only his home that had wires off and that the contractor was here for a meeting today and said he would contact Mr. DeRoner today. Mr. DeRoner stated that the contractor did call him today on his personal cell phone, but he was not available. He was told that another local contractor would be making the repairs, but he does not want anyone doing anything until he is told what is going on. He has shingles that probably cannot be matched. Steve Hill suggested that we withhold payment to the contractor until something is done. John Aleszczyk suggested that Mr. DeRoner contact his insurance company to file a claim and then his insurance company will contact the contractor's insurance company. Vanessa Taggart stated that we cannot change what happened, but we can change what happens from here on out. Sharon will ask the Chief for a copy of the police report tomorrow so that Mr. DeRoner can contact his insurance company.

Lower Macungie Library – Alburtis Library Representative, Therese Schweyer spoke on behalf of the Library to update Council on the happenings at the Library. 2019 was a big year and February 27th is the one-year anniversary of the expansion done at the Library. Almost \$130,000 has been raised by the Library to enable them to pay for their expenses for the additions, which included new furniture and computers.

Lower Macungie Library (cont.) – Lower Macungie Township passed a referendum for a Library Tax which will generate \$584,000. This is \$50,000 more than given to them by the Township in previous years. Last year, they joined the Lehigh Carbon Library Co-Op. This allows you to use your card at eleven different Libraries. Steve Hill stated that we are lucky to have access to the Library and the e-books are easy to download.

Police Pension Plan – Dave Knerr informed Council that the State Aid is usually split between the two Pension Plans, but last year it all went into the Police Pension Plan. Dave did not remember this when the allocations were made and so an additional \$7,000 went into the Police Plan. This can be taken out, but since the Plan is underfunded it can stay in the Plan if desired. Steve Hill and Ron DeIaco recommend we leave it in the Plan and Council agreed.

Maple Court – Garbage Issue – Sharon sent a letter to all residents and landlords regarding unsecured garbage. Public Works spends a couple of hours on a Friday cleaning up trash. The Chief was given a copy of the letter.

Spring Creek Road Bridge – Sharon received a reply from Pat Browne’s office regarding repairs to the bridge. Based on the response, it is believed that the answers were regarding the bridge on the other side of Route 100. Sharon will reach out to their office again. John Aleszczyk asked Sharon to check on the status of the Sauerkraut extension and Kathleen Raines would like to see a larger “No Trucks” sign on Spring Creek Road.

Fire Police – A letter was received from Lower Macungie Township stating that Fire Police will no longer do private functions. This was sent after a meeting with the Fire Department.

Personnel Meeting – Vanessa Taggart reported that the Personnel Committee met last week to discuss Council’s suggestion of Performance Evaluations. Currently, if an issue arises, a document is signed and then placed into the individuals personnel file. The Committee is unsure of what Council is looking for, but believe, since we are very small, evaluations will just cause hard feelings. They believe the way things are handled now are working fine. Ron DeIaco said that this comes up every couple of years and stated that evaluations are usually perceived as more of a punishment. Council agrees that this is handled appropriately the way it currently is.

Water License – Donnie Derr – Maintenance Supervisor, Donnie Derr, received his Water License from DEP. Per the Ordinance, he will receive a \$1,000 bonus.

Toshiba – Sharon will be meeting with a Toshiba representative this week and asked if she could make the decision for a new copier lease if it is similar to what we pay now. Vanessa Taggart said that the machine should be upgraded every couple of years and Council has no problem with an upgrade.

Bartlett Tree Experts – A proposal was received from Bartlett to treat the trees in Maple Court and along Church Street for the Mimosa Webworm. The quote is in the amount of \$847.00. Vanessa Taggart made a motion to sign the quote, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

PSAB Voting Delegate – Sharon is the current Voting Delegate for PSAB. Since she is not attending the Conference this spring, she recommends Kathleen Palmer become the Delegate. Kathleen Raines made a motion to appoint Kathleen Palmer as the Voting Delegate, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Congress of Governments (COG) – Sharon attended the COG Meeting on Tuesday, February 27th and copied the information given out for Council.

A motion to adjourn at 7:48 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.