

Borough of Alburdis

Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2019

The January 30, 2019 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, Alburdis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Steve Hill	Sherryann Oels	Stephen Kaufman	Hector Vazquez
Kathleen Raines	Ron DeIaco	Vanessa Taggart	

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor	Robert Palmer, Police Chief

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner	Ashley Lorah, East Penn Chamber
Phil Armstrong, LC Exec	Robert George, LM Fire Dept.
Dave Nosal, LM Fire Dept.	Ryan Trexler, LM Fire Dept.
Jim VanWert, LM Fire Dept.	

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

POLICE REPORT – Chief Palmer was present and informed Council that his computer died and he is in need of a new one. Sherryann Oels made a motion to allow the Chief to purchase a new computer up to \$600, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Chief Palmer told Council that since the State has passed the law allowing all trucks to travel on four digit SR Routes, they are unable to make as many traffic stops. The only signs that are enforceable are the ones coming in on Spring Creek Road. There are no signs on Penn Avenue, therefore, they cannot cite them for entering the Borough from that direction if they stay on Franklin Street. A traffic study will need to be done by Penn Dot.

The Lehigh County Police Consortium was on the Agenda and Dave Knerr recommended to Council that they wait to join the Consortium since we have an active list through 2019. The Chief was told that a Memorandum of Understanding was not needed because the Chiefs Association would be handling it. The Civil Service Rules would need to be changed to state the Chiefs Association will handle the testing and the advertisement to say when the testing would be done. Dave Knerr stated that we would still have to advertise on the Borough's behalf. A lengthy discussion followed and Steve Hill said if the Chief feels this strongly about the Consortium, then we should go through with it and spend the \$400. Council agreed, but Hector noted that he would like more clarification of the costs. It was decided to table this for now and have a group from Council meet with the Chief and Dave Knerr before placing this on another Agenda. The group that will meet will be Sherryann Oels, Steve Hill and Kathleen Raines.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2019 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2019, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JANUARY 30, 2019 – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to pay the bills of January 30, 2019, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comments – None

Lower Macungie Fire Department – Lower Macungie Fire Department Chief Dave Nosal was present to give an update on the merger. Operationally, the departments acted as one department for 2018 although the merger is not yet complete on paper. Chief Nosal introduced new officers that were present. These included Robert George, Asst. Chief for Station 1, Jim VanWert, Asst. Chief for the Wescosville Station and Ryan Trexler, Deputy Chief 30-03. Ryan Trexler gave an update on the Alburdis Station. The coverage area has been broken down into four districts: the Borough of Alburdis, the Alburdis District, the Wescosville District and the Brandywine District. There were 295 calls in the 2018 for the Alburdis Station. This is an increase of 90 calls from last year. Prior years were included in a handout so that Council could see the growth. The average response time for this station is 6.74 minutes and this brings an average of eight firefighters per call. Ron DeIaco asked how much time is devoted to training and was told there were over 800 hours for training.

Chief Nosal gave an update on the entire Department. There were a total of 605 calls in 2018. 501 were in Lower Macungie Township and 104 calls were elsewhere. This included 206 false alarms. Overall, they average seven firefighters per call and had 12,775 man hours for the year. Ron asked how many firefighters are needed on a truck and Chief Nosal replied that it varies. He prefers four, but can get away with less due to the fact that both Departments are Gold Certified. The only other Department that has this level is a station in Upper Macungie. Gabe McNabb and Ryan Trexler recently traveled to South Dakota to check on the production of the new Pumper Tanker that will be housed in Alburdis. The goal is to have this truck in service by June. The existing tanker will be sold and in 2023, two Rescue Engines will be ordered. One to be housed in Alburdis and the other in Wescosville. The Alburdis Station is in need of replacement and the timeline for this is seven to ten years. Ron DeIaco asked where the station will be and Chief Nosal replied that Plan A is for it to remain on the property where it currently is. Chief Nosal explained how the call boxes work and who goes to each call type. Lehigh County Executive, Phil Armstrong informed Council that he is asking the Lehigh County Planning Commission to consider the burden the warehouses are putting on Fire Companies in the Area. Council thanked the Fire Department for their dedication to the Borough.

East Penn Chamber of Commerce – Ashley Lorah from the East Penn Chamber of Commerce Liaison was present to give an update on the Chamber. Sharon sits on the board and recently met with Ashley to discuss how the Chamber can have better communication with the Borough. A lot of focus is on Emmaus and they would like to change this. Ashley reminded the Mayor of the upcoming Mayors Reception. The main speaker is Tom Wolfe and the date has been changed to accommodate him. On Thursday, there will be a Master Your Membership program at the House and Barn. Council thanked Ashley for the update.

562 Thomas Street – An email was received by the resident questioning the shipping costs to have his meter tested. He is now asking to split the cost of the testing and the shipping. Council is not willing to do this and instructed Sharon to give him a time limit for maintenance to swap out the current meter.

Park and Recreation – Kathleen Raines told Council that last year the basketball court was repainted and the hockey sign repaired and painted. She is now looking for a see saw for the playground. She would like it to have a back and sides on it so that it is safe. It was suggested that she check with the school district and resident, Gary DeRoner, provided her with a contact name and number. Kathleen Raines also noted that the committee has discussed a potential Eagle Project for the Bird Sanctuary. They would like to have a walking path, bird houses and trees identified. Council is not interested in doing anything in the Bird Sanctuary at this time. The next Park and Recreation meeting will be on April 15.

Park and Recreation (cont.) - Sherryann Oels informed Council that there is no hot water in the snack stand at the upper ballfield. Someone has agreed to donate a small water heater to have installed. Kathleen Raines made a motion to allow the donation of a water heater, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Planning Commission Resignation – Vanessa Taggart made a motion, with regrets, to accept Ben Servagno’s resignation from the Planning Commission, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Macungie Ambulance Corps – The monthly report was reviewed. There were eleven calls in the Borough in December.

DEP – Response Letter – DEP’s response letter to Lehigh County Authority and the signatories was reviewed. A reply is currently being worked on by the group.

PSAB Conference – Sharon attended this Conference last year and would like to attend again. Hector Vazquez made a motion for Sharon to attend, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Recycling Event – The Recycling Event being held with Macungie Borough will be on Saturday, November 9th this year. Council asked Sharon to check into having a shredding event in the Borough. Phil Armstrong suggested contacting our Representatives office for help.

Lower Macungie Library – The Library will be holding their Board Meeting at Borough Hall on Thursday.

Interviews – Ron, Donnie and Sharon held interviews on Monday and have narrowed the search to three candidates. Personnel will meet with these three candidates on Monday, February 4th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An Executive Session was called for possible litigation at 8:48 p.m. No action will be taken and the Executive Session ended at 9:10 p.m.

A motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. was made by Steve Hill, 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.