

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
September 25th, 2024

The September 25th, 2024, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburtis, PA. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco	Steve Hill	Hector Moss	Chad Atkins
Mehmet Birtek	Ashlynn Rivera	John Aleszczyk	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr- Solicitor, Kathleen Palmer- Mayor, East Penn Press

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Mike Gerhart, Steve Werley, Ray Ricketts, Jason Bartos, Chris Caras, David Lorenzo, Alessandro Giacobbe, Rick DeIaco, Debbie Jack- Lower Macungie Library

Visitors on Zoom: Tom, Brooke

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public comment was made

MAYOR’S REPORT

No Mayor Report.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 11th, 2024

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 11th, 2024, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – September 25th, 2024

Hector Moss made a motion to pay the bills of September 25th, 2024, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed, motion passes with a 7-0 vote.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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FISCAL CONSULTANT’S REPORT

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant’s Report of August, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ADMINISTRATION

Bid Opening- Solid Municipal Waste

Mehmet Birtek asked Is there any way we know what our last years. Dave Knerr mentioned Last year's number was 387,133 for the year. Dave Knerr mentioned the lead page is just going to show what you need to do to compare the bid, so that on your 3 to 4 years. Option is going to be their 4-year total cost, and for the 5 to 6 month is the 6-year total cost. But if there are further pages that you'll get in the email that will show you the breakdown on a year-to-year basis.

Dave Knerr read the bid of Whitetail disposal. LLC. John asked They've all the bids are for 4-year contracts, 5-year contracts, Dave mentioned says, 3-year contract with an option for a 4th and a 5-year contract with an option for 6. Dave read the contract amount as 1,786,000 on the 3-to-4-year contract. Don't get me wrong. This is supposed to be the one-year cost for 2025. Now then, the increased amount. If you have the central leaf, grass and trap and brush pickup is 157,242 and that's for the 3-to-4-year contract. and for the 5, 6-year contract. It's 245,117. Then the increase If okay, and just go back to the last item that you added that you wanted to have them bid on was if they were to come in and replace the recycling bins that you had last year with new recycling bins up front. If they're going to go to having the toters or the carts to collect garbage and recyclables and it seems, you know, from talking with bidders before the process that that's what they were going to be going to do. Shouldn't be buying this at any, because they must supply those as part of part of their regular bid for cleaning up, for picking up the stuff. In their 1st place, this is only if they were. you know, if they were, going to stay with what your existing system was. either the people could use the ones that they have now, or whether you wanted to see what the price would be if they were to get a whole new set of.

Dave then read the bids of JP Mascaro. 3-to-4-year contract 506,880 and the 5-to-6-year contract 528,252. The increase for twice a week. The increase for central leaf grass waste, 350,160 and under the 5-to-6-year contract it's 370,140. The increase for 2025, 2026 is increase over the 25 year is 4%, and under the 5-to-6-year, contract is 3 and a half percent. The increase from 27 over 26 is 4 and a half percent under the 3-to-5-year contract and under the 5, 6-year contract is 4%. The increase for 28 over 27 is 5% your contract and for 20 for the 5-to-6-year contract, it's 4 and a half percent. The increase for 29, over 28 is 5%, and the increase for 30 over 29 is 5 and a half percent. They do not propose using toters lot of people. I spoke to what's happening into. Dave then read out the bid of waste management. For the 3 or 4 years 494,431 for the 5 to 6 years contract its 494,431. The increase for twice weekly garbage collection is 309,448. Under both options the increased weekly collection of recyclables is 119,618 under both options. 119,618 the increase for central leaf grass and the increase for required recycling bins is 85,000 for both options. Percentage increase from year to year is 5% period. Waste management does propose to select it with the automated equipment. Ron Mentioned We will not be doing be awarding the bid tonight, which will be at the next meeting.

Lower Macungie Library

Debbie Jack, executive director of the Lower Macungie Library, and I haven't had an opportunity yet to introduce myself to all of you. I've been here for about a year. and so, I wanted to introduce myself and tell you everything that the library has told. So, we are no longer just books We are not your grandmother's library anymore. We're not a warehouse for books anymore. We are a community place, community center. We serve all ages, all demographics, all income levels, visible abilities. We bring free access to everyone. We serve Lower Macungie residents, but we also serve Alberta's borough residents. and I think that's something that it's been difficult to get the word out about, because it's not called the Albertus Borough Library. It's called the Lower Macungie Library. So that's been something on which I've been working. So, want to talk a little bit today about what is available to you if you get a library card with the lower country library. So, what you see. I have a little bit of pictures to show you. These are some of the things you can come into the children's room and bring your little ones. We have a train table, we have toys. We have educational games on an iPad that they can play. We have a teen space. There's a nice teen lounge for the tweens and teens to come and hang out in. But we also have a lot of different items. DVDs. We still have music, CDs magazines, newspapers We have books on. CD, we have puzzles. We have digital books for kids. They're called box books. and we have a board game collection that's coming very soon. But we also have digital collections. And so, for those of you who have an audible subscription, or you have, you're on an eBook site. You can get all of that for free at the library with your library card. We have some downloadable services. We also have downloadable magazines and videos. And we also have a lot of different databases that I'm going to show you a little bit later. And they're all available on our website at lowermaclib.org. So, some of the things that we offer we have free. Wi-fi. if you do

not have a printer or your printer is on the Fritz, and you really need to print something out. We have a printer, photocopier scanner in the library that you can actually use an app and print from your home and just come pick up your printout. We also book a librarian service which you can make an appointment with a librarian if you need help learning how to use Libby, which is our downloadable eBook and audiobook software. We also have Hoopla, which is another one. and you know anything. If you need to learn how to use the catalog, how to use any of the databases. You can make an appointment even just to learn how to use your iPad. You can make an appointment, and we'll show you how to do things. We also proctor exams. and we also have 2 notary publics on staff, so you can make an appointment if you need something notarized, and we do that for free. I have to buy the cat game, boy. If you're in the library. And you're using a computer. We have large print keyboards. We also have jaws, software and zoom text. If you have a hearing or sight. these are all the databases that we currently have. Libby, Hoopla and canopy are for books, audio books and videos that you can download right to your phone or your iPad we have ancestry and my heritage. If you're doing some genealogy brain views which can help kids, we have a lot of They have a lot of test prep on. There they have. You go in by grade and by subject. and you can pull up all sorts of things to help you, you can pull up flashcards, anything to help you study. We also have free access to the morning call. So, if you're currently paying for the digital version of the morning call. Just get a library card. You can read it every morning for free. I do every morning for free We have a Chinese collection. We're the only one in this area that has a Chinese collection. We have a lot of programs and events. So, what you see up there are programs that we have every month for kids and adults. Story times. So, within the past 5 or 6 years we now all the libraries in Lehigh and Carbon County share one library catalog, so you can borrow books from any of us, return them to any of us with the one library card. We recently expanded this. So now it also includes Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton public libraries, Monroe County libraries, and Bangor Library. We partnered with the Alburdis Area Community Center we now have a book drop. so, if you come and check out items at the library. You can return them at the community center, so you don't have to come all the way back over to drop off your items. Still, that it would be due, or you must drop off the beginning of the week. It doesn't. We don't have fines anymore. There's no fine. So, and honestly, your item will renew twice. So even if you had it for the 3 weeks, it's still going to automatically renew. So, it'll get returned when it gets returned. You don't have to worry about that. And you know, so you can, you can access a lot of the things that I was showing you like any. For example, like digital borrowing. You click on that, and that'll take you to everything that we have on Libby and the audio books and the eBooks. So, it's straightforward. Some statistics that I wanted to share with all of you Alburdis Borough card holders. We currently have 953. Since 2019, we've had 405. Which I think is great. This year, Alburdis elementary students. We had 64 participate in the summer reading program and just so you could see items were checked that are checked out by Alburdis Borough card holders. They're borrowing a lot of items. So, if you look 2020, 7,376 this year. We're not even through. This year We're not even through the year, and we have almost 10,000. National Library card sign up month and so I partnered with Steve. He helped me get addresses for everyone. And so, we mailed out postcard to every household in Alburdis, encouraging them to come and get a library. So, we're really hoping our numbers go up. Ron sked When you said you could read the morning call for free. how do you do that? Could you do that from home? Yeah, you can do it from home. So, if you go on the website on the bottom, you'll see different tiles. One of them says Morning Call it looks like a newspaper. Just click it. Put in your library. Barcode number you're in. Thank you. Thank you so much. Mehmet Birttek asked how the library gets funded, Debbie Jack responded by saying receives a library tax from Lower Macungie residents that was voted in 2019, I believe, and we also get money from the State, and we get money from you every year you designate.

Fire Relief Fund- notice of allocation- \$15,149.19

Just informational, no comment was made.

Pension State Aid- notice of allocation- \$61,945.56

Just informational, no comment was made.

State Pension Aid and Minimum Municipal Obligation

Dave mentioned, What's in the State pension aid and what the recommendations are for it. The net result is the only thing you need to take tonight is to say that you want to. The only other thing with that MMO, we just need to state on the minutes of this meeting today. The MMO. Would present it to you. It was and that is all we're done, and that email tells you what you need to put in your budget.

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to approve the MMO Obligation for 2025 Hector Moss seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Ron DeIaco mentioned that we will be going into an executive session for personnel, he then asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Hector Moss and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

APPROVED