

Council President Seiss called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

Council President Seiss announced that adequate notice of the meeting was given to the Star Gazette and/or Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board in the Clerk's office satisfying the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act:

NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given. On January 8, 2014, the Municipal Clerk delivered to Star Gazette and/or Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, a notice containing the date, time and place of this meeting of the Alpha Borough Council. Also, said notice has been mailed to persons requesting the same.

Council President, Tom Seiss led prayer and the salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Present: Councilman Cartabona, Councilman Rooks, Councilwoman Schwar, Councilman Schwar, Councilman Seiss and Councilman Zikas. Also present, Attorney Christopher Troxell, Laurie Barton, Clerk and CFO, Lorraine Rossetti. Absent: Mayor Hanics.

Public Comment

Presentation by members of AFLAC Insurance presented a proposal for benefits for the employees to join. Kristen Fowler, representative, gave handouts summarizing the benefits AFLAC has to offer.

Councilman Schwar stated he will set up an employee meeting and have them meet with the representatives from AFLAC for anyone who would be interested.

Mike Savary, Park Ave., expressed his concerns of what the DPW employees do during their work hours. Mr. Savary states that there is no reason why snow piles are around the municipal building.

Mr. Savary discussed the issue of a TV being in the DPW garage. Councilman Seiss stated he gave the permission as long as it wasn't abused.

Mr. Savary inquired about employee, Pete Pursel using his personal phone during work hours.

Mr. Savary inquired about enforcing the snow ordinance, due to cars not being moved so that snow can be plowed.

Mr. Savary expressed his desire for the Borough to decide on whether they are going to finish the road at the quarry.

Chris Dragotta, Lyons Ct., stated that he was thrilled with the DPW and stated that they do an excellent job.

Tracy Grossman, 7th Ave., commented on the DPW employee that lives next to her and stated that it curdles her stomach of things she sees him doing regularly. Mrs. Grossman stated that someone should be paying attention of the poor behavior that is displayed by this employee.

Attorney Troxell interjected and stated that if Mrs. Grossman has concrete evidence regarding the alleged behavior it should be turned into the Department Head of the DPW. Mr. Troxell added that accusing someone in public is not fair to the person who is not present.

Mrs. Grossman reported that she will have information from the pool committee but is waiting for documents from the borough that are needed.

Joey Fore, Morris St., stated that the DPW is atrocious and does not believe in having a TV in the DPW garage.

Mr. Fore asked if shared service is being considered with another town for the DPW?

Councilman Seiss stated that they are looking at all angles.

John Schmidt, Schley Ave., inquired about the street sinking near his house and informed Council of the fence in deteriorating condition at the park (Circle Field).

Joey Fore, Morris St. made Council aware of the vandalism going on at the old post office building.

Ordinance

Motion made by Councilman Zikas to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2014-05, motion seconded by Council Cartabona, all were in favor.

**ORDINANCE 2014-05
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of the Alpha in the County of Warren, finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2014 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha hereby determines that a 3.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$49,336.24 in total, which is \$42,288.20 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha hereby determines that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the

CY 2014 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Alpha shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$49,336.24, and that the CY 2014 municipal budget for the Borough of Alpha be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed by the Clerk with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed by the Clerk with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilman Zikas, all were in favor. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-05 made by Councilman Zikas, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar, Seiss and Zikas. Nays: none.

Motion made by Councilman Zikas to introduce Ordinance 2014-06 with public hearing scheduled for April 8, 2014, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks. Questions: Councilman Cartabona stated he intends to vote no citing the ranges are too high for the job. Roll call: Ayes: Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar, Seiss and Zikas. Nays: Cartabona.

Minutes

Motion made by Councilman Zikas to approve minutes from 01/01/2014, motion seconded by Councilwoman Schwar, all were in favor.

Department Reports

Administration, Councilman Harry Zikas: Councilman Zikas stated a representative from the Libray is here before Council to formally introduce herself. Library Board President June Heyer thanked the Council for being placed on the agenda. Ms. Heyer announced ongoing activities with the library.

In closing, Councilman Zikas approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Finance, Councilman Michael Schwar: Councilman Schwar reminded Council of the online training the Council can take through the insurance company and receive a deduction from the premium. An in-person class for the same training is being offered in Belvidere with an evening session. In closing, Councilman Schwar approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Health and Welfare, Councilman Millard Rooks: Councilman Rooks stated that the leaf dump area will be closed until further notice and a sign has now been posted.

Councilman Rooks elaborated more on the leaf dump area stating that the area will open up on certain days in the upcoming season. Councilman Rooks detailed the position of a monitor to be hired to work at the leaf dump area to monitor and check who is coming in and dumping.

Councilman Rooks advised anyone seeking to be on the list for the Helping Hands of Alpha can email him. In closing, Councilman Rooks approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Property, Councilwoman Carol Schwar: Councilwoman Schwar reported on the door to the municipal building being found ajar by the cleaning lady.

Councilman Seiss stated he will have the DPW look at it to see that it doesn't get stuck anymore.

Councilwoman Schwar stated that the roof and spouting will be repaired by the contractor who temporarily fixed the leak.

Councilwoman Schwar reported on the doors being off of the shed at Benke field.

Councilwoman Schwar stated she met with JHM Signs to go over the new Industrial Park sign. A letter will be going to the businesses for their preference of font and name to be placed on sign.

In closing, Councilwoman Schwar approved bills, salaries and wages for her department.

Public Safety, Councilman Louis Cartabona: Councilman Cartabona reported on the gas company coming out to Flirt Alley for a small gas leak on a service line to a house.

In closing, Councilman Cartabona approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Works, Councilman Tom Seiss: Councilman Seiss reported that the backhoe had a minor repair and is back in service.

In closing, Councilman Seiss approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Discussions of having the DPW temporarily fix the fence at the ball field ensued.

Committee Reports

Pool- Councilman Cartabona stated that the first pool committee was held last night.

Professionals and Officials Reports

Police Chief James Faulborn: Gave the report monthly police activity report for February.

Fire Department, Chief Sean McDyer: Chief McDyer gave the fire department report for the month of February. The Cat in The Hat breakfast was held on March 2nd, and stated that it was a success. The firehouse is hosting a fish and pizza dinner every Friday night.

Donation letters have been mailed out. Chief McDyer expressed his concern over the gas leak Councilman Cartabona reported on, stating the department was never made aware of the leak. Chief McDyer stated he will speak with the county 911 on the issue.

Emergency Squad, Kyle Weston: Mr. Weston gave the report for February stating 19 calls were received.

CFO, Lorraine Rossetti: Ms. Rossetti reported on the Note sale that was held today and is looking for wording for the offering statement to go with the bond sale.

Clerk, Laurie Barton: Mrs. Barton stated she attended the insurance online webinar and received credit. The Clerk also reported that she had attended online webinars for her office also.

Recycling Coordinator, Tom Fey: Mr. Fey reported that he obtained all but one report from the Industrial Park. Mr. Fey stated he needs contact information for Waste Management.

Public Comment

Tim Mellert, North Blvd., Mr. Mellert stated he would like to see the Borough keep some mulch leftover for those who want to use for their gardens. Mr. Mellert stated he will pick it up and deliver to his neighbors who all have gardens.

Discussions of access to the grass dump area ensued.

John Schmidt, questioned if leaves would be able to be brought to dump area.

Beth Toth, South Blvd., asked when the Christmas trees would be picked up since being buried under the snow.

Mike Savary, Park Ave., inquired about having a tax book placed in hallway for the public. Mr. Savary inquired about the bond and asked if it goes before Council for a vote.

John Schmidt, inquired about the tree ordinance and informed Council of a sink hole under the tree at his neighbors house.

Sean McDyer, Fire Chief, asked if anything will be done about the trees hanging too low and preventing fire equipment from passing through on the streets safely.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Motion made by Councilwoman Schwar to have the director's reports part of the minutes, motion seconded by Councilman Zikas. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar, Seiss and Zikas. Nays: none.

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to have the CFO authorized to pay all bills approved by the director's, motion seconded by Councilman Zikas. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar Seiss and Zikas. Nays: none.

Motion made by Councilman Rooks that the CFO be authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by the Directors, motion seconded by Councilman Zikas. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar Seiss and Zikas. Nays: none.

March 10, 2014 10:36 AM		BOROUGH OF ALPHA Bill List By P.O. Number				Page No: 1	
P.O. Type: All		Open: N	Paid: Y	Void: N			
Range: First to Last		Rcvd: Y	Held: Y	Aprv: N			
Format: Condensed		Bid: Y	State: Y	Other: Y		Exempt: Y	
PO #	PO Date	Vendor	PO Description	Status	Amount	Void Amount	PO Type
13-00701	11/20/13	HAMILTON	HAMILTON KENT, LLC.	7th Ave/Indus Reconstruction	Open	16,755.00	0.00
14-00015	01/01/14	FEDEX	FEDERAL EXPRESS	12/16-1/2 Fed Ex Fees	Open	173.50	0.00
14-00037	01/06/14	EXPRES	EXPRESS-TIMES	Jan 2014 Tax Assmt List Ad	Open	391.53	0.00
14-00043	01/02/14	ATLSA	ATLANTIC SALT	Inv #044567 1/2-1/7 Road Salt	Open	2,765.33	0.00
14-00052	01/23/14	VITAL	VITAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC	2014 ModIV Tax Collectr Update	Open	100.00	0.00
14-00057	01/30/14	VITAL	VITAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC	2014 T/C Binder - Tax Collecto	Open	73.70	0.00
14-00069	01/01/14	REMINGTO	REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS	2014 water utility Operator	Open	1,500.00	0.00
14-00070	01/01/14	VERI DSL	VERIZON ONLINE	2014 DSL Online Services	Open	91.99	0.00
14-00072	01/01/14	TRITE	DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SERV	2014 Copier Equip Lease	Open	159.49	0.00
14-00074	01/01/14	TOWNP	TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG	2014 Police Coverage	Open	32,917.00	0.00
14-00075	01/01/14	TROXE	CHRISTOPHER M. TROXELL, ESQ	2014 Municipal Atty Services	Open	3,750.00	0.00
14-00076	01/01/14	AQUA	AQUA NEW JERSEY	2014 Hydrant Rental Fees	Open	62.49	0.00
14-00078	01/01/14	WASTE RO	WASTE MANAGEMENT ROLL OFFS	2014 School Dumpsters	Open	100.00	0.00
14-00080	01/01/14	BARANSKY	DANIEL BARANSKY	2014 N2 Operator	Open	833.30	0.00
14-00084	01/28/14	HACHC	HACH COMPANY	Inv #8670895 Pocket pH Meter	Open	335.47	0.00
14-00085	01/17/14	EXPRES	EXPRESS-TIMES	1/17-1/31 Legal Ads	Open	782.25	0.00
14-00086	01/17/14	HUNDE	HUNTERDON COUNTY DEMOCRAT	1/17 Legal Ads	Open	135.37	0.00
14-00089	01/30/14	METZE	METZ & SON ELECTRICAL, INC	1/30 GFCI Receptacles Install	Open	364.24	0.00
14-00092	01/01/14	EDMUN	EDMUNDS & ASSOCIATES, INC.	2014 Mun Softwar Maint Pkg	Open	10,229.00	0.00
14-00113	02/02/14	EXPRES	EXPRESS-TIMES	2/2 Help Wanted DPW Ad	Open	850.97	0.00
14-00121	03/04/14	HOME	HOME DEPOT/GEFC	Pipe Cutter, Keys, Drill Bits	Open	183.43	0.00
14-00123	03/05/14	HOME	HOME DEPOT/GEFC	Pack of Easy Outs - Nips,Valve	Open	40.42	0.00
14-00124	03/01/14	WASTE	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NJ	2014 Solid Waste/Recycling	Open	16,723.00	0.00
14-00126	02/03/14	NJPDES	TREASURER-STATE OF NJ	DEP Solid Waste Fees	Open	4,065.00	0.00
14-00127	02/24/14	PENNB	PENN BOWER	Emerg Rpr - Ringwood H2OBreak	Open	5,172.00	0.00
14-00128	02/01/14	JCP&L	JCP&L	1/23-2/21 Electric Bills	Open	626.32	0.00
14-00129	02/25/14	TCTA	TCTA OF NJ MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	2014 TCTA Fees - Tax Collector	Open	37.50	0.00
14-00130	03/01/14	PAYRO	PAYROLL AGENCY ACCT 751561	Empl Approp Bill - NJ Pensions	Open	48,989.00	0.00
14-00131	03/01/14	AMGAS	AMERIGAS - CLINTON 7510	Remaining Fees - Propane Inv	Open	17.21	0.00
14-00132	03/01/14	HEALTH	STATE OF NJ HEALTH BENEFITS	2014 State Health Benefits	Open	10,623.63	0.00
14-00133	03/06/14	PAYRO	PAYROLL AGENCY ACCT 751561	3/7/14 Current Fund PR	Open	16,066.89	0.00
14-00134	03/06/14	PAYRO	PAYROLL AGENCY ACCT 751561	3/7/14 utility Fund PR	Open	4,186.94	0.00
14-00135	02/25/14	ACTION	ACTION DATA SERVICES	Feb 2014 Payroll Services	Open	1,553.59	0.00
14-00136	02/21/14	EAS	EAS BY ACTION DATA	Jan/Feb 2014 Payroll Services	Open	356.14	0.00
14-00137	02/28/14	TOWNP	TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG	2014 1st Qtr Sewage	Open	62,817.42	0.00
14-00138	02/21/14	QC	QC, INC.	Feb 2014 Water Testing	Open	65.00	0.00
14-00139	03/04/14	POHAT	TOWNSHIP OF POHATCONG	Ph2 2013 Wat utility Improvem	Open	3,000.00	0.00
14-00140	02/14/14	GIBBO	GIBBONS P.C.	Jan 2014 Legal Fees	Open	36.52	0.00
14-00141	03/05/14	PURS	LEO PURSEL JR.	Plowing/Meal Money- Pursell	Open	60.00	0.00
14-00142	03/05/14	OLAH	CHARLIE OLAH	Plowing/Meal Money - Olah	Open	90.00	0.00
14-00148	01/01/14	RK	RK OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENT.	Oct 2013 Mold Remed Testing	Open	8,761.25	0.00
14-00149	01/01/14	SUPERI	SUPERIOR FENCING	Tree Removal Svc-Metering Pit	Open	2,475.00	0.00
Total Purchase Orders: 43				Total P.O. Line Items: 129	Total List Amount: 258,316.92	Total Void Amount: 0.00	

Old Business

Attorney Troxell stated he emailed everyone on council a revised Snow Emergency Ordinance with a different proposal and for council to review and come back at next meeting to discuss.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the snow ordinance and revising it.

New Business

Motion made by Councilman Zikas to approve the following pavilion permit:

- Approval of Pavilion with alcohol for: Nicole Amey-Fund Raiser 5/17/14
(Request waiver of fee)

Motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, roll call: Ayes: Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar, Seiss and Zikas. Nays: none. Abstain: Cartabona

Motion made by Councilman Zikas to approve funding for no more than \$1,000.00 for the Easter Egg Hunt for April 12th, motion seconded by Councilwoman Schwar. Roll call: Ayes: Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar, Seiss and Zikas. Nays: none. Abstain: Cartabona.

Councilman Cartabona discussed the problem with tenants moving out of the Borough that are dumping furniture and garbage out on the curbs.

Executive Session

Motion made by Councilman Zikas to approve the following resolution to go into executive session for 30 minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion(s) of the hereinafter specified subject matter(s).
2. The general nature of the subject matter(s) to be discussed is: Personnel, Litigation and/or Contractual,
3. It is anticipated at this time, that the above stated subject matter(s) will be made public when it is no longer a matter of confidentiality.
4. Action may or may not be taken after executive session.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Borough of Alpha that the public shall be excluded from an executive session for approximately 30 minutes, allowing for a five (5) minute recess between the regular session and the executive session.

Return to Regular Session

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to return to regular session, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to waive the administrative fee, gas and electric for the Library for a period of two years (2014 and 2015) and revisit in 2016.

Motion seconded by Councilman Seiss, Questions: Councilman Cartabona stated his opposition to the waiver except for the administrative fee. Roll call: Ayes: Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar, Seiss and Zikas. Nays: Cartabona.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, on motion made by Councilman Cartabona and seconded by Councilman Zikas this meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Barton, R.M.C.