

**Borough of Alburtis**  
Meeting Minutes  
May 28th, 2025

The May 28th, 2025, 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. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco, Steve Hill, Ashlynn Rivera, Chad Atkins, John Aleszczyk

Council member in attendance via zoom:

Hector Moss

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Stephen Nemeth- Manager, Kathleen Palmer- Mayor, David Knerr- Solicitor,

Associates of Alburtis in attendance via zoom:

Tony Alsleben- Police Chief, East Penn Press

Visitors in attendance:

Steve Werley, Gary DeRoner, Mike Gerhart, David Kutzor, Felicia Martin, Carl Rotenberger, Jason Stefano, Ray Ricketts

Visitors in attendance via zoom:

Tom, Brooke, Mary

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Felicia Martin mentioned I would like to bring up. I don't know if this is the format I bring it up in, but, as you can all see, I don't walk very well, and I, have been to 2 events at the Recreation Center, and ever since they put the benches out and everything else out. I can't. You can't park up there, and I can't walk up that hill very easy. Ron DeIaco yeah, I have no idea it's the rec hall, that's all I know. That's not owned by the borough. Chad Atkins I know if you do park along, you can park alongside like we're kind of like garages. People park alongside there and then walk up the walkway there. I can't walk up the walkway. That's what I'm telling you. The side one. It's hard for me to walk up the hill at all. Well, no, I'm talking like inside. So you have in the front you have up the hill, and then on the side where, like the garages they have. That walkway there push comes. If push comes to shove. She could drive around in the back, ask permission to drive around in the back and walk in the back. That's all. Yeah. You can do that, too, as well. Felicia asked Who do I ask that permission to? I would just need to know how to contact the person so I can ask them. Ron mentioned Would you give your phone number to Stephen, and he will get back to you with the phone number.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 14th, 2025**

Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, John Aleszczyk 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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**BILLS FOR PAYMENT – May 28th, 2025**

Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of May 28<sup>th</sup>, Ashlynn Rivera 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed, motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Kathy mentioned Everybody remembers the incident that happened in Macungie on May the 14, th the Macungie Borough Police Departments, and N Our chief and the officers that were involved from our department who went over there actually, very, very fast. I understand one of our officers was the 1st one on there. Act as the EMT. To anybody else. Got there to the victim that was shot. They stayed there as long as they needed to. They did whatever those guys asked them to, including when State police came, so they wanted to acknowledge and give their thanks for everything that they did that night, and I think it's an example of what our officers do when everybody thinks they're sitting on a street corner, or they're sitting in this office doing nothing at It's a second, and you gotta fly. Our times are changing greatly between here Emmaus and Macungie. And people think it's gonna sit and be quiet. It's not gonna be the party towns anymore. We're not gonna have that anymore. Those days are gone for all of us. You know. We used to sit with our doors unlocked. You didn't have to worry about that. How many people sit with your doors unlocked anymore? If I'm out back? Well, that's if you're up front, I'm out back. The front door is locked. If I'm out front, the back door is locked. why do you hear about everybody putting all these cameras up around their houses? I see what comes across my desk every single day at work and although you might not hear about it from here, I know what I see and that doesn't lie. Those are things that are coming through the court systems, and if you think they're just civil cases, forget it. I do nothing but criminal and the case loads not going down, it keeps going up. So I commend our officers for how they jumped into action. I commend them for being alert and ready to help, and that's what our mutual aid agreement stands for. They would do the exact same for us if something happens in this pro. With that mutual aid agreement. They are here in a heartbeat. If there's ever a domestic situation here, these officers are not allowed to go into any homes alone anymore. You never go into home unless you have backup and the same thing from a Macungie. That's how we have to work together, and that's what I commend these officers on. They've done a fantastic job and our police officers in particular, but all police officers in general, they're constantly being trained and retrained every year to to the latest of what's going on so that when they get out there it's just rote learning. They just do what they need to do. Sometimes, if you think it's sometimes they don't have a chance to stop and think or catch your breath. Look at what happened in South Whitehall this afternoon. Does anybody really know their neighbors anymore? We have no mental health help around here? We have done. You see it every day. Where are you going put them? Throw them into jail, and come back out there twice as bad. Now they're really acting up. And what do you do for those poor people. If they're not medicated, they're out on the street in these little campsites and everything else. It's a sad situation. Keep your eyes open, your ears open, and when you see it do me a favor, call the guy he loves to talk to anybody. That's what they're here for. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone. I don't know why everybody goes and runs to social media. What good does putting it up on a Facebook or some kind of comment somewhere else do? When you have a police officer here, tell me what it does. How does that help?

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

John Aleszczyk asked about the Bicentennial project. What's going on with that for me, the sidewalk there. It's been like that for a while. Now then, 2 properties has anything. What's the date? Again? They are supposed to be addressing that. I will get the date, though that's what we said before, and nothing's been done as long as and PPL. Or they can fix that where the plywood is almost a year since this is done. Those properties weren't fixed. And also that the Bicentennial village on the engineer's bill there was amount for putting in Robert Street sidewalks and curbing. What, Ron, do you have? Anything? What's going on there? Cause, as far as I know, we're done with that, and I don't know why we're spending more engineers work done. From what I understood, all the engineering work was done previously, but the engineering work was done so engineering work this this would have been done to apply for the grant. Ron DeIaco mentioned It's more so. Consultation to apply for another round of the grant. If we can get a grant to finish that road. John mentioned That's gonna be more expensive we've already we're incurring more engineering bills just for sidewalks. That's why I'm concerned that we had that. Ron mentioned Well, we told the people down there that they would. That was phase 2 that we would do. Phase 2. We're just looking to see if we can. John mentioned every time we look We're spending 2, 3,

\$4,000, and we don't have that budgeted That's my concern. Steve Nemeth mentioned We budgeted highway engineering at 30,000. We're currently at 4,000 we're halfway through. Ron mentioned Well, we can talk that, we told them. Oh, you had talked. I don't know who told the people. Well, we don't have the money to do it. There's no grants. John mentioned We're not going to spend or borrow money to put in sidewalks. Ron mentioned You're absolutely correct. So we're looking, getting a grant. John mentioned just a point that we have to watch the engineering bills, and everybody's got a copy of them, so be sure to look at them.

Chad Atkins made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant's Report of February, Ashlynn Rivera 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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### **FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT**

Chad Atkins made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant's Report of April, Steve Hill 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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### **New Business**

#### **Raines Park infield rehabilitation**

Well, we got some estimates of what some of the quotes would be like for our in house maintenance to install the dirt and mound Clay. You'll see that on this spreadsheet on the map also. They provide it today. Donnie and I went up there. We're thinking about. If you go up to that line from the dugout to the line that I drew. We're thinking about changing that over to grass that will help alleviate all the erosion that takes place up there. So you'll see that on both sides I'm working on getting quotes from like for topsoil and seeds and stuff for that. But in the meantime this is the approach for the mound, play and infield. Mix. John asked What did you think about the address inside the dugouts. Steve mentioned that there's about like 20 yards of extra in field mix that should not be there. John asked Okay, how will that be maintained? With a tractor. John asked and this pictures mound is just to raise the pitchers, mound and not crown the field right? Steve mentioned It's the long term. I think we need to crown that field. that'd be the major thing. Then my next question is, if, as John says we crown the field. Dave Kutzor mentioned You won't be raising home plate, so the elevation pitches. Mound won't have to be an elevated mound as high of elevated. Steve Nemeth handed out quotes showing best case scenarios and Worst case, because we won't know until we actually dig into the mound. That's there. But we don't want to do that till their season's over. So we're hoping for like July. Ron mentioned So you're gonna continue to pursue this. Yeah, okay, so you're not going to get a vote today but lets plan to have one before the fall. Steve Hill asked if we were able to locate the drain? Steve Nemeth mentioned No, but that's why we're thinking about adding grass here to help with the erosion because most fields that you see, they do have grass on this side Help with erosion. And help with water runoff.

#### **Utility billing system purchase/ upgrade**

Steve Nemeth mentioned Currently, the system that we are using which was purchased by G works last year is no longer. They have yet to like, migrate us over from Ubmax to G works. So we would like to pretty much go to a new system altogether the one we're hoping to go with his current software. Macungie just went with them also, because throughout the nation everybody's having trouble with G works, because nobody's getting integrated over. So these are 3 quotes that we got best one, so far was current software. This is just read the water meters, water, certain normal utilities bill and software. They spoke to what we need, and they're able to

implement this quicker than anybody else. Which one are. You recommended the top page current software solutions. Ron asked do we have money in the budget for? Oh, good. Yeah. Yeah. Because the evidently the readers not reading. Well. Steve Nemeth mentioned that'll be probably next. But we're gonna look at sending that out for repairs. Maybe. So this is just this, the company software, this covers our billing system. with this also we'll able to, Instead of sending out those bill cards. we'll able to be able to go just paper billing, and they'll save us some money that we normally spend. John Aleszczyk mentioned But in answer to Ron's question, we have money in the budget. No, this wasn't a budgeted item your answer related to. We have money in the water fund last 2 times we budgeted about 11,000 already for this right? But we didn't. We didn't budget it. Steve Nemeth mentioned We did budget for this, last year we already paid for the increase. Which prompted us to bump the rate in the budget. We haven't paid the upcoming gworks/ubmax annual fee. Which allows room for us to switch out the companies and the costs.

John Aleszczyk made the motion to purchase current software solutions for the boroughs new utility billing software, motion 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a roll call vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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#### **Request to apply to DCNR Bare Root Tree Grant**

Steve Nemeth mentioned So this is a grant that's out there for municipalities. It's they give you about up to 10 free trees. If you are accepted into the program. I would like to apply just to see if we can get it and find locations in borough property to plant them. this one's all free, more so just time that meet with DCNR Forestry management. they give you like a listing of like 10 to 20 different species and stuff that you can plant. I don't have the list in here, though. John mentioned Where would we plant those trees? Steve Nemeth mentioned that I am thinking The upper ballfield near the parking lot? There's nothing, really There it would create a nice canopy up there.

Steve Hill made the motion to apply for DCNR Bare Root Tree Grant, motion 2nd by Chad Atkins and a roll call vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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#### **Gun Club Road Bridge Replacement**

Gun club road bridge will be closing from like June 11th to August, let's say the 1st or second week of August. While the bridge is replaced. John asked if a sign similar to a no outlet sign can be placed at windsor and oak to prevent through traffic on 5<sup>th</sup> street during the construction. Council agreed to the idea. Steve Nemeth mentioned he will work with Donnie on this.

#### **Adjournment**

Ashlynn Rivera made the motion to adjourn. Chad Atkins seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

*Stephen Nemeth*

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.