

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2023

The November 29th, 2023, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron Delaco 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 Delaco	Steve Hill	Mehmet Birtek	Chad Atkins
Hector Moss	Ashlynn Rivera	John Aleszczyk	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Liesel Gross, Tori Morgan

Visitors on Zoom: Tom, Brooke,

OPENING REMARKS– Ron Delaco mentioned that he is tired of seeing citizens of our country attacking other fellow Americans. Hopes that this can end. Mehmet Birtek thanked Ron for his statement and stated that was a person that has been attacked for his faith, at places like the polling places and on the streets. We are all Americans, faith, religion, we are all citizens. As Kathy witnessed at the polling place, was verbally attacked a few times, it's not acceptable for members of our community to attack others due to their beliefs. Kathy Palmer mentioned that it was downright ugly at the polls, stated that nobody should have to go through what he did.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment

MAYOR'S REPORT – mentioned that the Alburtis Area Community Center would like to allow us to use the rec hall parking lot this year for snow emergencies, instead of using the pool parking lot. The only request that they have is that the cars are removed within 24hrs, or it will be towed. Thinks they want to do a gentlemen's agreement like they had many years ago. Where we plow the lot in exchange for use of the parking lot. Must stress the removal of cars from the lot within 24hrs.

Kathy Palmer also mentioned that we received patrol car 902 back from the shop. John Aleszczyk asked when the new police car was expected. Stephen Nemeth mentioned mid-December.

MEETING MINUTES OF November 8th, 2023 – Chad Atkins made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 8th, 2023, Mehmet Birtek 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – November 29, 2023 – John Aleszczyk asked about the Ott invoices, asked if everyone reviewed the bills. Mentioned that the bill for chestnut circle, we are paying another 5,000 to review and gather documents in order to submit for reimbursement. Mentioned that we need to find a better method for this. Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of November 29, 2023, Hector Moss 2nd the motion, and followed by a nonunanimous vote followed, concluding with a 6-1 vote in favor of the motion.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- nay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT –Chad Atkins made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant's Report of November 29th, 2023, Mehmet Birtek 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Macungie Ambulance Report – Ron DeIaco mentioned that Macungie ambulance responded to a total of 453 calls over the last month. 9 of those calls were within the borough. No further comment was made.

LCA Report Presentation- Leisel Gross gave a PowerPoint presentation for view. First, she thanked everyone for allowing her to be here and go over the Klines Island sewer system and Regional Plan. Ron asked if she would be given some background information of Kline's Island. Liesel confirmed, will try to do a full story so everyone gets full concept of what is going on. Mehmet asked if Kline's Island is a private institution or government entity? Liesel mentioned that Kline's Island is a facility, the wastewater treatment facility located in Allentown, so we call all of the municipalities that forward to that plant the Kline's Island sewer system. The first slide identifies all the municipalities within the KISS service area. LCA is not listed because the authority is not a municipality in the state of PA municipalities are required to have a 537 plan. The second slide is a map of the sewer service system highlighting 270,000 people and 32 million gallons of wastewater daily. Slide three; discusses the challenges facing the overall system. Aging infrastructure, 50 to 100 years old. Size of infrastructure, currently too small, capacity of new connections and regulatory oversight. Slide four; inflow 160 million gallons daily hydraulic model shows water that seeps through manholes, that is the example of inflow. Infiltration a regular dry weather 10 million gallons of groundwater that enters the system daily. Slide five- Why a regional plan. Our systems are interconnected and interdependent. We need a coordinated plan. Slide six; mentions who LCA is. Slide seven, regulatory action, a brief overview. 2007- 2019 EPA issues administrative orders due to excessive sanitary sewer overflows and plant bypass during wet weather. Ron asked if Liesel could explain the bypass. Leisel mentioned before during the peak rain events; plant can only hold so much at a time if all of the flow arrives at the same time; the flows have to go somewhere so there is valving that would totally bypass the plant and discharge into the little Lehigh creek. Leisel mentioned that Kline's Island is literally located on an island with the Lehigh River on one side and the Little Lehigh Creek on the other side, just how the plant is designed. Mehmet asked if DEP is fine with that; Leisel said no, DEP is not ok with it, that's why we are here. Sometime in the past it was considered an acceptable way to handle wet weather; Mehmet asked if this is an issue upstream also. Leisel said wastewater treatment centers are facing this issue everywhere. This happens here often when it rains heavily, does have downstream effects. Dave Knerr asked how often this type of event takes place, during very rainy events. 2018 was an often occurrence, definitely a problem that we want to solve. Kathy asked if this was due to a rise in construction; Leisel said not really. Really only happening due to water getting into the aging infrastructure, cracks, and manholes not sealed properly. Overflow mainly during wet weather. Ron mentioned that we have been working on ours for years and we are still not complete. Leisel said it's a very tough problem to solve. It's underground, can't see it; when you fix in one spot problem move down to another. The problem is on the public and private side of the street. Slide eight; DEP's expectations and Act 537 requirements 537 plan submitted by March 2025, review and approvals must start in March 2024, plan must include 10-year implementation schedule. Slide nine; What happens if we don't take action; environmental damage, regulatory actions, continued aging, and new connections. Slide ten; Work completed to date 2019-2023, detailed analysis of each municipalities system leakage. Met over the last 4 years monthly to develop regional plan. Slide eleven; KISS projects, Kline's Island treatment Plant- regular repairs, replacement, and upgrades, some plant components are 100 yrs. old 2026-2035 cost estimate 57 million. Slide twelve; Industrial Pretreatment Plant; plant treats high strength waste from large industries 2026-2035 cost estimate 267 million (under review). Ron asked when originally built supposedly built to possibly become a full treatment facility; Leisel mentioned that idea has been studied and still discussed only issue is that you need a body of water for treatment facilities. Mehmet asked what does pretreatment discharge? Leisel mentioned that this facility handles the industrial strength waste, by knocking it down into volumes that can pass through system. Slide thirteen; Little Lehigh Interceptor located in the Lehigh Parkway currently 30-42" diameter interceptor is already overloaded 2026-2035 estimate 23-30 million. Source of drinking water for most of Lehigh County. Slide fourteen, Western Lehigh Interceptor. Similar issues to Little Lehigh Interceptor. It is overloaded with serving western part of Lehigh County such as Alburtis. Estimate 76-98 million. Slide fifteen; municipal sewer rehab programs, each municipality has provided that expected work plan for addressing aging infrastructure and ongoing sewer rehab. Slide sixteen, KISS projects, other municipal

interceptors. May affect some municipalities, currently working those municipalities to identify these issues. Slide seventeen; Act 537 plan timeline; 2024 refine with public input, evaluate financial impacts and rate impacts. 2025 approval process 15 municipalities vote on the plan and associated intermunicipal agreements. Submit Act 537 plan to DEP March 2025. Implementation of the plan 2026-2035. Slide eighteen; Key takeaways, since working on this since 2007 DEP can't message. Also, that the time is Now. The public input session is in the Spring of 2024. Steve Hill mentioned that he remembers in 2007 that reducing the EDUs was the way to go. Leisel mentioned that was true, since then there have been many different states of regulatory oversight since 2007. Finally, we have stability in that section. Ron thanked Leisel for her presentation, it was very informative.

2024 meeting schedule— Stephen Nemeth mentioned that if everyone is ok with these dates, he is asking for a motion to advertise the meeting schedule. Kathy Palmer asked if January 2nd was the reorganization meeting. Stephen Nemeth confirmed.

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve and advertise the 2024 meeting schedule, Chad Atkins 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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Resolution No. 2023-17- Resolution Appointing Independent Auditor— Mehmet Birtek asked if we had anybody else interested in this or are we were happy with who we have. It was mentioned that we are happy with who we have.

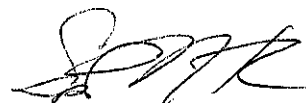
Chad Atkins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-17 appointing Chris Basile as the independent auditor, Mehmet Birtek 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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John Aleszczyk asked if we have received the new water and sewer truck yet? Stephen Nemeth confirmed. John Aleszczyk asked when we would see that bill. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that the truck itself was on the final bills for payment of 2022 and the EM Kutz bill was on the bills for payment sheet from last meeting. John Aleszczyk asked if we have heard any latest from 121 s main street? Stephen Nemeth said he has not been in since the last conditional use meeting. Hector Moss asked when are we going to advertise the budget? Stephen Nemeth mentioned that we have a budget meeting next Wednesday. Dave Knerr mentioned that the budget gets approved the last meeting of the year. Said when you advertise the budget, you are letting the world know that its available to be viewed. Doesn't mean you can't change it. Whatever you vote on you can change it up until the end of the month. With the new council, they have so many days to approve the budget. John Aleszczyk asked if anybody heard results of the write in votes? Kathy Palmer mentioned that she did not know. Chad Atkins asked what the threshold to win. Dave Knerr said just one vote. Dave Knerr said if somebody won the other seat; now they have to choose the seat; then that seat becomes vacant, then get to appoint at some point in January. Doesn't go to the next in line. Chad Atkins asked if we would most likely advertise it and then appoint it. Dave Knerr confirmed.

A motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:



Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.