

**Borough of Alburtis**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 30th, 2025

The April 30th, 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, Hector Moss, Ashlynn Rivera, Chad Atkins, Mehmet Birtek, John Aleszczyk

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:

David Hunsicker, Mike Gerhart, Carl Rotenberger, Jason Stefano

Visitors in attendance via zoom:

Tom, Brooke

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Hunsicker mentioned that I am one of your neighbors in Lower Macungie Township, and I'm here tonight on behalf of an organization that is one of your neighbors, which is on Alburtis Road, just outside of the borough, and we are having an open house event. We have one every year, and this will be on May 17th in the morning at 11 Am you're all invited to come out as anybody else in the community is also more than welcome. Come out. I've also extended the invitation already to Mr. Armstrong, so I know some of you have attended these events in the past, and we look forward to hopefully having you. I've shared with Councilman Birtek the link with some more information, and to rsvp if you're going to be able to come. So, I just wanted to come and personally invite you.

Mehmet Birtek mentioned I happened to start walking around Lockridge Park again the other day I took a picture. A lot of people liked it. As I was taking a picture, I realized there are some of them that look like they are dead. They didn't have any flowers or anything like that. I know it's not part of our jurisdiction to clean the park, you know.

**Lehigh County Executive- Phil Armstrong**

Phil mentioned yes and I'm the executive vice president of the county executives of America, and I will stay on that even when I'm down, and I'm also in June. This is wood up to be elected as the second vice chair of the regional councils of America which will make me the president of that 2027. So, I'm still going to have a seat at these tables. But in the big we need to say 4.2 trillion dollars to maintain those tax cuts. One of the things that's on the table that affects us. Big time is municipal bonds now. usually, I'm getting a lot of questions about the radios, lease, environment, etc. One of the things we're going to put all together now, and we're going to go out on a municipal time. When they passed the income tax law in 1913, they exempted municipal bonds. That's why people invested. It's a good investment. You don't have to pay taxes on them. That's now part of the package. They want to tax municipal bonds. You tax municipal bonds, school districts, water authority, sewer towns, counties. This is where our money comes from for infrastructure repair. So, we had 2,000 representatives from all the counties in America in Washington, DC. And we were beating the drum. We all lobbied as much as we could, but it's still on the table, and that is scary is the individual taxpayers everywhere. If we can't do it tax free, we're going to have to do it at bank rates and then guess who ends up paying, you know. So, it's a shame at every level of life we're getting taxed. The municipals, yeah. Well, they say, for you know, to do that tax. Who

knows? The short story is about the project ready to go for the roof. Our thing is, if you get money in. If you've got a grant, come in, get it, put it in your thing, and spend it. The quickest, best advice I could give anybody, so they can't take it back. They can't take it back, would it? You know we're taking our money and spending it as quickly as possible. So, if you know, in Pennsylvania. Certainly, our municipalities. You know we manage a budget, and we keep it. You know, if we don't overspend as we do, too? Sure, yeah. And plus, there's this pot of money. And you've got to use what's in there. And there are ways of improving your or lowering.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 9th, 2025**

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Hector Moss 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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### **BILLS FOR PAYMENT – April 30th, 2025**

John questioned why we have a port-a-potty located at the playground next to the maintenance shop and if we can remove it. It was stated that if vandalized again, it will be removed going forward.

John made a motion to remove the port-a-potty at the playground next to the maintenance shop, nobody made a second, and motion failed.

Hector Moss made a motion to pay the bills of April 30<sup>th</sup>, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed, motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

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

Kathy Palmer mentioned I think everybody has a copy of the Borough of Alburdis Shelter Agreement. Yes, that was prepared by the solicitor for the East Penn School District. This is for us to be able to use the school to utilize it as our emergency shelter. Now, anything that is affiliated in here number one is going to have to go to our emergency management guy. He has to implement that into the emergency. The other thing is that we don't pay any fees unless for any reason whatsoever, we would have to call custodians in, or anything that would hinder the operation of school, should it be in effect. So that is the only time I don't really foresee that happening. Even if we would have to put somebody in there during the day. They still have the gym area so it wouldn't affect the kids. Dave Knerr mentioned So basically this will only cover you if it's in the summertime, or if there's such a disaster that schools are right, it would pretty much be. You really can't have people go. Steve Nemeth mentioned that it would pretty much be any type of FEMA-level event so regardless. There's probably we probably receive funding to help assist with any fees that go towards it also. That's where it would be touched base by our emergency management coordinator to implement this, too. Ron Delaco requested that this be added to the next agenda for it to be approved.

### **FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT**

Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant's Report of February, Hector Moss 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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### **New Business**

### **Request to fill vacancy pending background checks/ employment physicals**

Tabled until next meeting.

### **Request to hire Joe Koury as a part-time police officer**

Tony mentioned Joe's resume- Joe Koury is a 24-year veteran of the Allentown Police department. He currently works as a security officer at Eyer Middle School. He would plug in with a lot of experience. He is also currently certified in forensic crime scenes, photography, and analysis. He spent a lot of time in the Crime Scene Division in Allentown. Real good guy, and he'll plug right into the borough. So, he came to me, approached me about a part time position, and I gladly agreed to bring him on pending your approval.

Hector Moss made the motion to hire Joe Koury as a part-time police officer, motion 2nd by Chad Atkins and a roll call vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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### **LTAP Tech Assist Report**

this is a report that we had done back in March 11th we met Tony Donnie, and Myself. We met with members of PennDOT, LVPC. and Dr. Scalzo from the school district. We walked around 3rd and Walnut to look at a possible school zone and being implemented. Currently there is none at that location. So, with LTAP, they give municipalities a free engineer study of the location and give you this whole nice report, as you can see. They pretty much agree. that this should be a school zone going forward. You'll see all the data and stuff that follows up with all that. They make recommendations of how we can better that location with crosswalk markings and just go with the signage and stuff. We'll have to submit this to PennDOT to actually start the process of implementing a school zone. This is actually the starting stage, and they have to give the okay for any type of school zones or lights, and that has to approve any of those things.

I'm going to be setting up a meeting with the school district to go over this whole process with them also. because ultimately, they have to sign off on the whole thing too perfectly, as you'll see also.

Tony mentioned one of the things that they did that the study did recommend is improvements at intersection, and as someone who stands there every day across his kids. It's dire. It's sorely needed, new markings, paving, and things like that. So, I, you know, it's 1 of those things that we kind of really have to look at when we're talking about school zones and safety for those kids. Steve Nemeth mentioned that it brings us to the second part of this Looking at the crosswalks and everything, as you'll see on the photos. If we went and paved it with like liquid fuels or anything. They would not approve of it, because currently the ADA ramps there are not compliant. So, if you look at some of the pictures, the crosswalks go to pretty much dead ends. So that will be the second part of my conversation with the school district on how we go about them, either implementing them or what type of grant, and that brings me to the ARLE grant application. I would like to submit forward to doing all these upgrades. I'm sure they would be willing to part of this project, just getting their sign off would just help us keep moving the chains forward, just for the application and staff would be a good starting place.

### **Request to apply for ARLE Grant**

Hector Moss made the motion to apply for ARLE Grant, motion 2nd by Chad Atkins and a roll call vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay	Atkins- yay	Aleszczyk- yay
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### **Adjournment**

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to adjourn. Hector Moss seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth  
Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

APPROVED