

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA

January 14, 2015

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman James Oswald and then followed with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present: James Oswald, John Theodossiou and Todd Weikel

Also in attendance were and Homer Williams, Dave Okonski and Carl D'Amico Township residents, Carol Duran, reporter for the Reading Eagle.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all votes yes to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014 and January 5, 2015 Lower Alsace Township Supervisors' Meetings.

II. ENGINEER

A. Joe Rogosky, P.E. updated the board on the Act 14 notification from the Berks County Parks and Recreation's submission to the DEP for park improvements.

III. SOLICITOR

A. Solicitor Setley described the purpose of this ordinance as one which will bring the annual Supervisors' compensation to a more commonly used monthly formula rather than a per meeting pay and to allow the maximum to amount that is authorized in the 2nd Class Township Code. (Currently \$1,875.00 based on the Township's current population.) He said that this increase will only be applicable to any newly elected Township Supervisor. The current board's annual compensation will remain at the \$1,500 annual maximum. A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve **Ordinance 236** summarized as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER ALSACE, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE # 143 AND SETTING FORTH THE BASIS OF COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TAKING OFFICE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

- A. Solicitor Setley then introduced **Ordinance 235** which will enable the Township to remain a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Township's Unemployment Group Trust for Unemployment Compensation Insurance. A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve **Ordinance 235** summarized as follows:

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF LOWER ALSACE TOWNSHIP IN THE PSATS UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION GROUP TRUST PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION LAW

IV. SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS SUBMITTED:

- B. Road Department – Following the review of a proposal from the Road Foreman to purchase an 8ft. plow for truck #40 from Levan Machine and Truck Equipment for \$4,347.84; a motion was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve the purchase.
- C. Central Berks Regional Police Commission –Supervisor Theodossiou expressed appreciation on behalf of the board to former Police Commission member, Jim Arndt for the phenomenal job he performed as a member of the Central Berks Regional Police Commission.
- D. Lower Alsace Fire Company and Ambulance Association and Community Development Committee- Supervisor Weikel and the Township Manager discussed the next steps needed to formalize the Regional Parks Commission. Solicitor Setley discussed the framework of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Ordinance that will be necessary to officially create the Commission and begin seeking grants.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT / LIST OF BILLS

- A. Supervisor Oswald made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve the 12/31/14 Treasurer's Report and to approve the payment of the list of bills as presented including \$2,469.87 from the Fire Tax Fund and \$101,806.75 from the General Fund.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

A. Township Manager

- 1. The manager then read two resignation letters, one from Jay Drasher who resigned from the Township Planning Commission and Township Auditor Homer Williams as Township Auditor. The Supervisors accepted those resignations regretfully.

2. At this time Supervisor Weikel made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to appoint Homer Williams to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Jay Drasher to 12/31/15 and to appoint Don Pottiger, CPA to the position of Township Auditor (and elected position) until the next general election.

B. Central Berks Police Department

1. Chief Serafin attended the meeting and presented his 2014 year end activity report to the board. A request was then made by the Chief to begin the transition process for a Property Maintenance Code position in the Police Department. As this idea was discussed and researched for several months, a motion was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to move Rick Gerhart to the Police Department Building. The current decision will allow Rick to remain a Lower Alsace Township employee but enable him to work in closer proximity with the Police Officers in the enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code in Lower Alsace Township.

C. Property Maintenance Code Officer

1. A year end Property Maintenance Inspection report and the 2014 Fire Marshall report was presented by Rick Gerhart.

D. Sewage Enforcement Officer

1. December report submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. As per the requirements of Act 164 of 2014 (the Local Tax Collection Law) the Lower Alsace Township Tax Collector Patrick Duggan requested the Supervisors to approve his appointment of a Deputy Tax Collector, John Skrincosky, as the Lower Alsace Deputy Tax Collector who shall be capable to collect and settle taxes during any incapacitation of the Elected Tax Collector. A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve the appointment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM January 28, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry L. Styer
Manager/Secretary-Treasurer