

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA

January 25, 2018

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board members in attendance included Jim Oswald, John Theodossiou and Todd Weikel. Also in attendance was Homer Williams, Township Resident and Cody Rhoads from Blandon as well as Dave Kostival from the Reading Eagle.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2017 and the January 2, 2018 Lower Alsace Township Supervisors' Meetings was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve. It was also announced that the Board of Supervisors met in executive session on January 25, at 3:30 PM for personnel matters with no decisions reached.

III. ENGINEER

- A. Engineer Joe Rogosky updated the Board on a long running legal matter and DEP's position on grant and permitting requirements for the Endlich Avenue Storm Water issues in Mount Penn Borough. Engineer Rogosky was instructed to write a letter to the Conservation District stating that while the Township supports the proposed grant application to solve the property owners complaints, the area of concern is located in Mount Penn Borough so the Township cannot be the applicant.
- B. The Engineer discussed the process for the Township's one traffic light removal and the changes required for creating one-way streets on Cherrydale and Park Street. The Board agreed to authorize the Engineer to proceed with the letters of request to PennDot, to begin the traffic engineering study required and any other administrative tasks needed to accomplish the removal of the traffic light and begin the process for changing the traffic patterns on Cherrydale and Park St. to one way streets.
- C. At this time the Engineer, the Manager and Supervisor Weikel updated the Board on a recent meeting with PADOT's Bridge consultants for the Bridge reconstruction project on the Friedensburg Road, Carsonia Avenue and Antietam Road intersection. It was reported that while the PennDot preliminary designs are not complete nor public yet, the plans to provide traffic improvements for the Antietam Road, Friedensburg Road and Carsonia Avenue were generally described. It was noted that some of the improvements being offered PADOT as a consideration to be included in this improvement project would be curbing and sidewalk additions, a safer configuration for smoother traffic patterns for the entire intersection and a safer configuration of the Kraemer Road intersection with Friedensburg Road. It was noted that the contract for the bridge replacement is scheduled to be "let for bids" by PennDot in the spring of 2019.

PADOT indicated that many of the current parking and "driveway" entrances along Carsonia Road were never approved by PennDot and are not able to be "permitted" by them due to safety design restrictions. Supervisor Oswald expressed concern that any installations of new sidewalks will remove much of the parking that is currently available to the property owners between Antietam Road and Logan Street and that would create a hardship for this property owners.

- D. Supervisor Oswald asked the Engineer to inspect and evaluate the storm water collection facility located under Butter Lane near the Exeter Township border. He reported that the amount of storm water flowing from a property owner's residence in Exeter Township seems to clog the collection drain thus allowing water to pond on the road any time the area experiences a heavy rain storm.

IV. SOLICITOR

The authorization to advertise two ordinances involving the Inter-Governmental Cooperation Act were approved by a motion made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes. The Ordinances proposed for adoption will be for the continuing participation in the MS4 Steering Committee and for the future participation on the Mt. Penn Preserve Council of Governments.

V. THE FOLLOWING SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS WERE PRESENTED

- A. Road Department – Supervisor Oswald reviewed a job description for the position of Assistant Road Foreman and made a motion to appoint Tyler Neiswender to serve in that position. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all agreed to approve.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT / LIST OF BILLS

- A. A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald and seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve to accept the December 31, 2017 Treasurer's report and approve the payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$198,440.90 from the General Fund and \$1,029.61 from the Fire Tax Fund (representing expenses from December 29, 2017 through January 25, 2018)

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

A. Township Manager

1. The Manager described an agreement addendum with ProChamps (PRC) regarding the Rental and Vacant Property Registration Program as adopted by Ordinance No. 247. The agreement addendum to the Mortgage Foreclosure registration agreement provides that PRC will cite the Township's Vacant and Rental Ordinance to owners of vacant property and rental units and will electronically provide for registration of vacant and rental properties in the Township.

PRC will pay for all expenses, administrative costs and fees related to registration of Properties, and will review and confirm the obligation to register properties pursuant to the Vacant and Rental Ordinance. PRC will monitor any changes to the obligation to register. The fee for this service will be 15% of the current Lower Alsace Township rental permit fees and will be collected by PRC and forwarded to the township along with the information on the newly registered properties and tenants. Additionally a fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100) will be collected for each vacant property registration fee, and remit the balance of same to the Township. Following a discussion of this new program, Supervisor Theodossiou made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve and authorize the agreement to be signed by the Chairman.

2. A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to authorizing the Township Manager to sign engagement letter with Concord Public Finance to serve as Township Finance Advisor in connection the township's 2013 General Obligation Note.

B. **Central Berks Police Department**

1. December report reviewed

C. **Sewage Enforcement Officer**

1. December report reviewed

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A motion to ratify and confirm the certification and exoneration of the Township Tax Collector for the collection of the 2017 unpaid Real Estate Taxes in the amount of \$37,732.44 and \$53.72 of unpaid interim tax bills and to turn the unpaid Real Estate Taxes over to the Berks County Tax Claim Office for collection was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve.
- B. Supervisor Weikel made motion to increase the amount of donation to the Animal Rescue League from \$1000. To \$1,500 citing that the organization is in financial need and provides a great community service. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional business the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next regular meeting will be scheduled for 6:30 PM February 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Styer
Manager, Secretary / Treasurer