

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA

August 11, 2016

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board members present: James Oswald and John Theodossiou. Todd Weikel was not in attendance. Also in attendance was Homer Williams, Tom Hopper, Ray Doskus, Lower Alsace Township Residents; Teresa Christof and Roger Reto from Mount Penn Borough and Val Lacis from the Reading Eagle.

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2016 Lower Alsace Township Supervisors' Meeting. The motion carried.

III. ENGINEER

Nick Johnson, PE from Great Valley Consultants presented information to the Board of Supervisors and the Township Residents regarding the new MS4 Stormwater Regulations. Nick explained that the primary goal of the MS4 regulations (in tandem with Act 167 Plans) is to prevent flooding and eliminate pollution from stormwater. He said that large (Phase 1) Municipalities have been subject to the regulations since the late 1990's and small (Phase 2) Municipalities have had to comply since 2002-2003. He explained that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) originally planned to renew the permit every 5 years, similar to other NPDES Permits and Lower Alsace's first permit ran from 2003-2013; the second permit will be in force until March of 2018. He said that this Township has had success in complying with the current regulations so far.

He explained that the new "Notice of Intent" (General Permit Application) must be submitted 6 months before the current permit expires on 9/16/17 and from now on, General Permits will renew annually with the Annual Report also serving as a "Permit Renewal Application." The rules governing outfall definition, inspection requirements, and municipal responsibilities involve a greater degree of "common sense" and instead of preparing 5 Annual Reports and a permit renewal document, each Annual Report will serve to renew the permit. Other changes required in the new permit includes:

- More strict mapping and reporting requirements
- Must prepare and submit a Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP)
- A new SWM Ordinance will likely need to be written and adopted
- Higher Annual fees and compliance costs

He said that the Township will be required to create a Pathogen PRP which is primarily a fact-finding report that is intended to include information such as potential sources of pollution such as:

- Failing septic systems
- Agricultural Uses (CAFOs)
- Stormwater pollutants

The Antietam Creek watershed includes Lower Alsace Township, Exeter Township Mt. Penn Borough, St. Lawrence Borough and Alsace Township along with a small section of the City of Reading (23 acres). He suggested having informal discussions with other the municipalities to determine if any coalitions or partnerships could result.

Township Engineer Joe Rogosky updated the board on the recent paving project on Hill Road stating that the line painting was all that remained.

IV. SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Road Department –a motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all agreed to adjust the rate of Salary for Tyler Neiswender to \$18.00 per hour.
- B. Central Berks Regional Police Commission
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company and Ambulance Association and Antietam Valley Parks Commission

V. TREASURER'S REPORT / LIST OF BILLS

- A. A motion to accept the July 31, 2016 Treasurer's report and approve the payment of the list of bills as presented from the Fire Tax Fund in the amount of \$1,297.25 and from the General fund in the amount of \$2,754.05 was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. Central Berks Police Department
 - 1. July Report
- B. Sewage Enforcement Officer
 - 1. July report

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Joint Codes program discussion – Roger Reto Mt. Penn Borough attended the meeting along with Teresa Christof to discuss the DCED grant to determine if it was still available. Councilman Reto indicated that the Borough hired a Codes Enforcement Officer for 30 hours per week.

He said that the Borough has committed to this joint codes program and agrees to adopting ordinances to enable enforcement officers to enforce the regulations in either community. He also agreed that while this will be an employee of the Borough, Chief Serafin will have managerial control over his job.

Supervisor Theodossiou asked if the Borough would propose, in writing, the way in which this new employee would help to develop the Joint Codes Program and comply with the terms of the DCED grant.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Supervisors reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board Hearing request scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. which will consider the Application of Juan Baez Perez for a variance and/or special exception pursuant to the Joint Zoning Ordinance for Lower Alsace Township and Mount Penn Borough of 2011, as amended, to construct a shed which will exceed the setback requirements on property located at 620 George Street in the R-3 Zoning District. The board was informed that the Township Zoning Officer will attend the meeting and represent the comments from the Township Planning Commission's review of this request.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Styer
Manager, Secretary / Treasurer