

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA
November 11, 2015

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

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

Also in attendance were Matt Stairiker and Mervin Wertz from the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association and Ben Overley and Don Smith from the Central Berks Regional Police Commission and Carol Duran, reporter 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, and all voted yes to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2015 Lower Alsace Township Supervisors' Meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Matt Stairiker and Mervin Wertz, representing the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association attended the meeting to discuss the current operation of the Ambulance and its increase of service time with the newly launched Advanced Life Support service (ALS). Matt indicated that the projected budget shows that revenues will equal expenses. It was noted that those projections do not take into account the debt owed by the Ambulance and as such Matt explained that many of the financial decisions practices regarding certain loans will come to an end. Following that summary they requested that the Township consider enacting an EMS tax sufficient to cover the anticipated revenue from 2014 that was derived from membership drives and the donations from Lower Alsace and Mount Penn Borough in the amount of approximately \$82,000. It was suggested by Solicitor Setley that the Township consider an EMS tax similar to what other communities have done and that would be figure the Real Estate Tax millage based on \$10 per person based on the population of the township being 4475. It was suggested that the amount be .27 mills.

IV. ENGINEER

Township Engineer Joe Rogosky Indicated that the Township's grant application for Skyline Drive was scheduled for review by Commonwealth Finance Authority. Solicitor Setley informed the board that the meeting of the CFA postponed. The Engineer then requested approval to authorize the final payment of the 2015 Road Construction contract once he determines that the Contractor has completed their punch list of items. A motion made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve the final payment contingent up the final review being approved by the Twp. Engineer.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT / LIST OF BILLS

- A. Supervisor Oswald made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve for payment the list of bills in the amount of \$1,392.81 from the Fire Tax Fund and \$ 9,674.21 from the General Fund.
- B. After reviewing the proposed 2016 Township budget which proposes to increase the Real Estate Taxes by ½ mill and upon the request of the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association, proposes to include a EMS tax of .27 mills, the Supervisors voted to advertise the proposed township budget for final adoption at the December 16, 2015 meeting and to cancel the advertised December 9, 2016 meeting. The Manager also reminded the board that a five year projected budget indicated a need for a ½ mill of property tax increase at a minimum is predicted for each year moving forward.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**A. Central Berks Police Department**

October operational and financial reports were submitted

B. Sewage Enforcement officer

October report was submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes authorization the Township Manager to sign the Service Level Agreement Tax Services for the BCIU before the deadline of November 30, 2015 if a proposal has not been received from the Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau for the collection of the Twp. Per Capita Taxes in 2016.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

After a discussion regarding the next advertised meeting of November 25, 2015 it was determined that it should be cancelled. Hearing no additional public comments, the meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Following the executive session, where was no action and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 16, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Styer
Manager, Secretary / Treasurer