

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA
August 12, 2015

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, August 12, 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 Township Residents Linda Saknit, Alison Seward and Homer William and Keith Smoker, 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. VISITORS

Linda Saknit attended the meeting to express dismay about a resident keeping chickens. It was explained that the Zoning Ordinance allows the keeping of hens with certain restrictions and limitations.

Alison Seward asked if there were any way to prevent residents from using herbicides such as Roundup on their properties. She was told the Township does not regulate the use of herbicides.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2015 Lower Alsace Township Supervisors Meeting.

IV. ENGINEER

A. Township Engineer Joe Rogosky reported on the DCED Multi Modal Transportation Grant application for the rehabilitation of Skyline Drive from the City of Reading to Alsace Township. He said that the grant should be reviewed by the DCED sometime in November. Engineer Rogosky then discussed the 2015 road construction projects with the Supervisors along with optional road maintenance methods for future projects.

B. It was reported that the traffic light timing sensor was damaged during the milling process on Cherrydale Road and will be repaired in two weeks or as soon as the repair contractor is able to obtain the parts and schedule the work.

V. SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Road Department
- B. Central Berks Regional Police Commission
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company and Ambulance Association and Parks Study Committee. The manager discussed a request from the Antietam Valley recreation Commission for expenditure of the remaining funds in the Playground budget to pay for new basketball hoops and several improvements to the park's playground area. The board agreed unanimously to this request.

VI. TREASURER'S 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 \$1,539.26 from the Fire Tax Fund and \$119,675.65 from the General Fund including a transfer of Liquid Fuels Funds to the General Fund for the 2015 debt service payment of the 2014 PIB Loans.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. **Central Berks Police Department**
 - 1. The July report was submitted
- B. **Sewage Enforcement Officer**
 - 1. The July report was submitted

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. The Supervisors then discussed the proposed amendment of Central Berks Regional Police Commission Articles of Agreement and absent any attendance from Mount Penn Borough suggested that Solicitor Setley take a look at the comments and develop a draft document. The Supervisors acknowledged that Councilman Mark Dudash suggested a change to the funding formula reducing the Borough's contribution from 50% . The Supervisors unanimously stated that they would object to making a change from the 50% payment as stipulated in the current agreement despite the fact that the police incident reports in the Borough are consistently higher than in the Township. Supervisor Weikel then stated his belief that the Police Commission needs to begin considering additional police officers to the roster. He encouraged his fellow supervisors to discuss this with the residents so they are informed that this added police coverage comes with a cost and possible tax increase.

- B. A motion was made and seconded to approve Tax Forgiveness to the County of Berks for 502 Angora Road property (Angora Fruit Farm / Antietam Lake Park) 2014 Township Real Estate Taxes. Supervisors Weikel and Theodossiou voted yes and Supervisor Oswald voted no, the motion carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize a Letter of Intent with PA Department of Community and Economic Development to perform a Fire Services study for Lower Alsace Township and Mount Penn Borough with Robert Hedden.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional public comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday August 26, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Styer
Manager, Secretary / Treasurer