

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA

December 14, 2017

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board members present included Jim Oswald and Todd Weikel and John Theodossiou.

Also in attendance was township residents, Genesis and Kris Boyer, Bob Oswald, Tammy Oswald, Heather Kremser, Jill Shafer Koerner and Adrian Koerner and Homer Williams and Darias Pleason from the Reading Eagle.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Kremser from 40 Friedensburg Road spoke on behalf of the Old Friedensburg Neighborhood group regarding their concerns with traffic and traffic accidents on that stretch of roadway. His presentation included several videos of drivers failing to stop at the Butter Road intersection of Old Friedensburg Road.

The Board of Supervisors together with the Township Engineer, Joe Rogosky and Sergeant Justin Johnson from Central Berks Police Department responded to the comments and questions. Along with thanking the residents for attending the meeting, the board informed the residents of the purchase of a radar device for the township that is on back order. It was explained that it will be utilized on several roads including Old Friedensburg Road. They were also informed that several signs to improve the stop intersection will be ordered and installed as soon as possible. Sgt. Johnson said that as much as possible, the officers will provide more surveillance to the speeder and failure to stop complaints and he encouraged the residents to call the department with any additional concerns at any time.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017 Lower Alsace Township Supervisors' Meeting was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve.

IV. 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed 2018 budget was then presented for adoption. It was noted that this budget allows the Township to continue providing Township services for 2018 within the existing real estate tax millage. It was also noted that the Township has emphasized effective property inspections and codes enforcement to help stabilize the eroding tax base and while the Township's Earned Income Tax revenue continues to have a slight increase it is not sufficient to cover increasing costs. In future years, without any significant increase in that tax revenue, the Board of Supervisors will be faced with the difficult decision of cutting services or increasing property taxes. The Board has been able to avoid an increase in the tax rate this year by using grant programs and holding the line on expenses. Thanks to those successes in 2017, the budget proposes to draw down approximately \$326,000 from the fund reserve balance.

2018 PROPOSED BUDGET CONTINUED:

- A. A motion to adopt the following resolution was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve:

RESOLUTION NO. 201712141

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of Lower Alsace Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania adopted the Budget as proposed for 2018 summarized below and more fully detailed on the attached pages.

<u>Total Proposed budget for 2018</u>	2,921,937
General Fund	2,639,492
Highway Aid	163,075
Fire Tax	39,797
EMS Tax	79,573

- B. A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 201712142

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED ANE ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of Lower Alsace Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania that a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real property within the Township of Lower Alsace subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2018 as follows:

Tax rate for General Purposes, the sum of 7.25 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of .7250 cents on each hundred dollars of assessed valuation plus;

- Local Services Tax - \$52.00
- Per Capita - \$10.00
- Fire Tax - .25 mills
- EMS Tax - .50 mills
- Antietam Lake Tax - .68 mills
- Real Estate Transfer Taxes – ½ of 1%
- Earned Income Tax – ½ of 1%

V. SOLICITOR

- A. Solicitor Setley reviewed the final changes to the township Rental Ordinance amendments and received authorization to advertise for adoption with a motion made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to advertise the ordinances for adoption at one of the next two advertised township meetings.

VI. ENGINEER

- A. Joe Rogosky reviewed the and approved the payment of the final invoice for the 2017 Street Projects from new Enterprise Stone and Lime Company Inc. in the amount of \$12,741.86
- B. Joe Rogosky then provided the updated 5-year road construction plan for discussion. The manager noted that the plan, as drafted, will be incorporated into the township's five year financial plan in addition to the updates pending from the Police Chief once the Oley Township contract is factored in to his prior five year Police Commission budget. Additionally it was noted that copies of the Township's five year projected road construction plan will be sent to the Water Authority and to UGI.
- C. The Engineer then reviewed his recommendation of payment No. 3 to Schlouch Inc. for the Skyline Drive Multi-Modal Grant project in the amount of \$448,623.50. The board reviewed the payment sheet and authorized the manager to make this payment with a motion made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve.

VII. THE FOLLOWING SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS WERE PRESENTED:

- A. Road Department – Supervisor Oswald made a motion to award Township employee Tyler Neiswender a performance bonus for 2017 in the amount of \$1,000. The motion was seconded and all three supervisors enthusiastically.
- B. Central Berks Regional Police Commission
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company and Ambulance Association and Antietam Valley Recreation Commission

VIII. 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 the November Treasurer's report and payment of the list of bills in the amount of \$ 120,192.00 from the General Fund; and \$1,029.61 from the Fire Tax Fund. The Manager then reported that the street light billing is showing a 50% reduction in KWH since the transition to LED lighting.

**IX. THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED **

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

C. Zoning and Building Code Officer

1. November report

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A motion was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve the newly assigned house numbers for the Hill Road and Antietam Avenue properties, and further to authorize the Township Manager to issue new house numbers to the appropriate roads under the cooperation of the Berks County 911 Center and the US Postal Service office in Harrisburg.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional comments the meeting was adjourned at 7:29PM the next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on December 28, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Styer
Manager, Secretary / Treasurer