

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA

October 25, 2018

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, October 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, Todd Weikel and John Theodossiou. Also in attendance was Jim Lorah, Curt Hill, Jose Barbosa and Joe Liddy, Township residents, Tom Staron, President of Council in Mount Penn Borough and Keith Smoker from the Reading Eagle.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Byram Street resident Joe Liddy attended the meeting to thank the board for the purchase of the new speed detection device stating its effectiveness on speeders at the Carsonia Park. Mr. Liddy reported on some informal speed detection checks he voluntarily performed using a radar gun provided to him by Jim Oswald. His report for Carsonia Avenue (415 vehicles); Byram Street (76 vehicles); Harvey Avenue (122 vehicles) and Prospect Street (21 vehicles) resulted in 37% of the traffic was traveling within the posted speed limit; 29% were 1 to 10 MPH over the posted speed limit and 14% were 10 MPH over the posted speed limit. His report noted that the highest percentage of speeders was 18% on Carsonia Avenue. He also suggested the consideration for some park / recreational type of signs warning motorists of the possible foot traffic and street crossing with the numerous activities at Carsonia Park.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2018 Lower Alsace Township Supervisor's meeting was approved by a motion made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

The Manager reported that several letters from residents wrote to the township with various positions regarding the township's goal for mandatory curbside recycling as well as municipality contracted refuse and recycling contracts. Following a long discussion the board agreed to pursue the development and adoption of an ordinance to require that all property owners have a refuse hauler and recycling. The manager was also instructed to develop both the required ordinances and possible bid proposals that would allow haulers to bid on the Township's curbside refuse and recycling program in a way that would encourage several options and alternates so that the board could evaluate the best program and cost for the Township and still comply with the DEP recycling grant requirements for mandatory recycling.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. The following new appointments were then considered:

Central Berks Codes Administrator – Following a series of job postings and interviews of interested applicants, the Board of Supervisors through a motion made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to appoint James Lorah a Township resident from Friedensburg Road to the newly created position of Central Berks Codes Administrator at an annual salary of \$55,000. The position was created by the Lower Alsace Township Supervisors, to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Central Berks Codes Department and shall be under the Direction and Supervision of the Central Berks Chief of Police as per Section 12 of the Central Berks Police Commission Articles of Agreement. The Lower Alsace Township Manager shall administer all employment related benefit plans including Workers Compensation, Pension and Medical Insurances related to this employee.

Part Time Road Crew - a motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to appoint Richard A. Wisniewski as a part time road crew employee at an hourly rate of \$15.

Antietam Valley Municipal Authority (AVMA)– A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald and seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to appoint Quinn Haller a Lower Alsace Township resident to fill the unexpired 5 year term to 12/31/21 on the AVMA vacated by Patrick McDevitt.

B. Homer Williams brought the 5G wireless issue to the attention of the Board of Supervisors. He indicated that there has been legislation introduced to allow small cell facilities in the right of way of public streets. Some argue that since these facilities are in the Right of Way of the public streets, the municipality should have the authority to charge and permit the locations of these cell facilities. Apparently the FCC disagrees, and they have set the rates for permits and annual rental. In some communities they are charging for permits and controlling the look and location for the facilities but this proposed state legislation will be amended to reflect the FCC requirement to allow small cells within the ROW with no local regulatory control and anything outside of the ROW would have to comply with local zoning.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional comments and following an executive session to discuss personnel matters the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next regular meeting is advertised for 6:30 PM on November 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Styer
Manager, Secretary / Treasurer