

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA
November 26, 2018

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, November 26, 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 Homer Williams, Township resident.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2018 Lower Alsace Township Supervisor's meeting was approved by a motion made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve.

III. TREASURER

A motion to approve the payment of the bills in the General Fund totaling to \$92,220.15 was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE LOWER ALSACE TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR COLLECTION, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL WASTE AND FOR RECYCLING, INCLUDING MANDATORY SOURCE SEPARATION AND SEPARATE COLLECTION OF DESIGNATED RECYCLABLE MATERIALS; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF COLLECTORS; PROHIBITING THE DISPOSAL OF DESIGNATED RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND LEAF WASTE WITH MUNICIPAL WASTE; PROHIBITING THE BURNING OF DESIGNATED RECYCLABLES AND LEAF WASTE; EMPOWERING LOWER ALSACE TOWNSHIP TO ADOPT AND PROMULGATE REASONABLE REGULATIONS THEREOF; FIXING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE**

A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou to approve Ordinance No. 254, upon a call for the vote Supervisors Oswald and Theodossiou voted yes and Supervisor Weikel voted no explaining that he supported the idea of mandatory, contracted curbside recycling but would not support the same concept for contracted municipal waste because he believed the residents were not adequately notified. The Ordinance was approved as presented.

- B. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER ALSACE, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REPLACING ORDINANCE # 187. PROMOTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF LOWER ALSACE TOWNSHIP BY REGULATING OPEN BURNING AND, OR OUTDOOR FIRES AND REGULATING BONFIRES, OUTDOOR FIREPLACES, INDOOR FIREPLACES, INDOOR WOOD BURNING, COAL AND SOLID FUEL STOVES, HANDLING OF ASHES AND COMBUSTIBLE MUNICIPAL WASTE AND PROVIDING THE ENFORCEMENT THEREOF.**

A motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve Ordinance No. 255.

C. Presentation of 2019 proposed Budget:

The Township Manager reviewed the proposed budget for 2019 stating that In 2019 the annual Township real estate tax bill for a home assessed at \$100,000 is proposed to be reduced to \$800.00. That reduction of .68 mills from last year's Township tax millage is due largely to a refinancing of the Township's Debt for the Antietam Lake and the Township Building. The Board of Supervisors requested financial assistance from the Berks County Commissioners to refinance the Antietam Lake Debt. The decision to create that debt was made in 2009 and was intended to assist the County of Berks in the acquisition of the Antietam Lake property from the City of Reading and to assist the County Commissioners with the repairs and stabilization of the Antietam Lake Dam. With the County's financial assistance, the Township's municipal building debt and remaining Antietam Lake debt was refinanced and the annual debt service costs were reduced by approximately \$30,000.

The revenue received from the Lower Alsace Township taxes provides township residents with 24 hour police protection from the Central Berks Police Department and fire protection from the Lower Alsace Fire Company; EMS from the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association; snow removal and road construction improvements for the 24 miles of township roads; building, zoning and property maintenance code enforcement; and beginning in 2019 the township will be implementing a curbside refuse and recycling program. During 2018 the Township applied for and was awarded a recycling grant of \$283,000 from the PA DEP. The grant terms will require Lower Alsace residents to separate their residential refuse from recyclables and contract for curbside refuse and recycling services by May of 2019. In order to make this change more cost effective the Township will be advertising bids to award contract to the lower responsible bidder in the Township. If approved, this new curbside collection program will be similar to the refuse and recycling program in St. Lawrence and Mt. Penn Boroughs as with most other communities in Berks County and starting in 2019, all property owners will see a refuse fee on their 2019 Township Real Estate bill. It is anticipated that the fee for municipal contracted, curbside refuse and recycling service will be less than what most residents are currently paying for refuse alone. Since all residential properties will be part of this contract and all commercial and industrial properties will be required to hire their own refuse and recycling contractor and report the results to the township on an annual basis, the township expects to see a tremendous reduction of the number of large trucks in the neighborhood streets, more revenue received from the annual recycling performance grants received from the PA DEP and more convenience and cost savings for all township residents. The ultimate goal behind this program is that less recyclable materials will end up in area landfills.

In addition to the above benefits, the Township will be able to use the grant funds to purchase new equipment used by the Road crew for leaf and yard waste (brush) collection. Due to this new, enhanced program, brush and yard waste services that many residents have been seeking from the Township will now be available to all residents in the Township.

This budget is proposed for adoption at the December 20, 2018 meeting of the Lower Alsace Township Supervisors.

- D. In other business, the Manager requested the board to consider a request for an event permit to use Skyline Drive for a Reading Gravity Race on September 8th with a rain date of September 15th. The Supervisors agreed to permit the organization to submit an event permit application for a one time use of Skyline Drive on the September date requested.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no additional comments the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next regular meeting is advertised for 6:30 PM on December 20, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Styer
Manager, Secretary / Treasurer