

Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA

December 27, 2018

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. held in the Antietam High School Cafeteria, 100 Antietam Road, Reading, PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board members in attendance included James Oswald, Todd Weikel and John Theodossiou. Moved here: There were 41 residents in attendance who signed in at the meeting. Four (4) non-residents and 14 residents who signed in to comment.

Chairman James Oswald opened the meeting with instructions on how the meeting would be conducted and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2018 Supervisor's meeting was made by Supervisor Weikel seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve.

III. MUNICIPAL WASTE AND RECYCLING CONTRACT BIDS

At this time consideration to award bids for the Lower Alsace Township Municipal Waste and Recycling and /or Municipal Recycling contract for April 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021.

Supervisor Oswald apologized for not physically attending the meeting on December 20, 2018, as he was on vacation and he did listen via the cell phone. He then read the following statement:

"I would like to apologize for not being at last Thursday's meeting, however I will not apologize for being on vacation. My plane tickets and reservations were purchased 3 months before that meeting was even conceived. I expect no sympathy and ask for none, but be it known that I spent no less than 10 hours of my vacation in communications back to the Township and Solicitor including sitting by a speaker phone for 2 hours listening to your concerns. That being said, I would like to make the following statement. I have read a lot of posts on Facebook, and residents are saying, it's about trash and recycling, it's about new equipment, it's about roads, noise, air pollution, and about freedom of choice. Well truth be told, it's not about any of this. It's about all of it.

Everything I am about to say is fact and irrefutable.

Fact 1. When I pushed for the recycling containers 7 years ago, residents would tell me that this is the best thing the Township ever did, but as the years past and people abused the program. Residents weren't saying that anymore, instead they were complaining about the abuse and unsightliness. I have spent countless hours dumpster diving to remove unapproved items from the containers. This is not in the job description of a Supervisor, but someone has to do it.

Fact 2. Going to a single hauler would accomplish many things. One trash truck causes the same amount damage to our roads as 1400 cars; could you imagine 140,000 cars driving through the Township? Keith Kemp said to me, what about Oil Trucks? Oil trucks typically only come every 3 months not bi-weekly. In addition to road damage, we also would save on air and noise pollution which is a concern of many residents I have spoken to. The Township currently receives approximately \$167,000 in Liquid Fuels Money, in the past few years we have been using low interest PIB Loans to repair roads and then use the Liquid Fuels Money to pay back the loans. Currently it costs between 55-60.000 dollars to pave one block, most streets go 8-10 years between repave. However we have some streets that have only lasted 2-3 years due to excessive wear. If our roads start to deteriorate at a faster rate than the loans get paid off, then taxes go up.

Fact 3. Curbside recycling will allow us to receive a grant to purchase new equipment. In the next few years we need to replace 4 pieces of equipment, a large Dump truck that is currently being built, a smaller truck that carries the leaf box, a new leaf picker to replace the current one that is 20 years old and has been patched repeatedly. We are also planning on purchasing a new Chipper, we currently have a borrowed chipper from the County that is a chuck and duck style chipper. These are neither safe nor efficient. If curbside recycling is voted in we also plan to start a curbside brush pickup program and leaf pickup in the more rural areas performed by the Township road crew. Without the Grant this equipment would cost taxpayers approximately \$315,000, with the Grant approximately \$22,000. By auctioning off equipment while it's still in working condition we plan on recouping enough money to be at an almost zero outlay thus saving tax increases.

Fact 4. Blight has become an ever increasing problem in the Township, if you live next to one of these properties that hoard their trash in the back yard you know what I mean. By having Municipal trash that would help to eliminate these problems because it is much easier to monitor. Since currently every day is trash day somewhere, it's almost impossible to monitor.

In closing, I would like to give you some food for thought. We three Supervisors are constantly trying to maintain or improve services with little to no tax increases, that requires searching for Grant money. Three things are inevitable death, taxes and change. You can slow all three down but you can't stop any of them. What about the residents that pay taxes for street lights, leaf collection or until 2 years ago fire hydrants but don't receive any of those services."

Municipal Waste and Recycling and /or Municipal Recycling contract discussion continued:

Comments from the public:

The following individuals who signed in to speak, expressed concerns on municipal trash/ recycling including: Would the new hauler be able to collect their trash if they lived back a long, private lane; they worried that people would lose their jobs; if fuel increased so will our refuse bill and they will have no option to choose a recycling hauler if they are not happy; many questions were asked on the stipulations of the recycling grant; people stated that were intimidated by the negativity at the last meeting; and will snow affect pick-ups; Many acknowledged the negative condition of the recycling bins at the township building. Many spoke in favor of just the municipal recycling program.

1. Bob Hallman – 180 Lewis Road
2. Maria Jones – Petsch Road –
3. Kurt Linsenmaier – 210 Haag Road
4. Andrea Phyrillas – 516 N 25th Street
5. Dennis Prutzman – 123 Parkview Ave.
6. Karl Fisher - 1001 Friedensburg Road
7. Dieter Czerny – 116 Harvey Avenue
8. Homer Williams – 203 Haag Road -
9. Fran Gehringer – 106 Antietam Trace
10. Terry Cooper – 102 Antietam Trace
11. Sarah Wilkinson – 1 Chrisman Road
12. Shaun Boettlin – 823 N 25th Street
13. Terry Dillman – 605 Byram Street
14. Steven Mast – 1930 Neversink Mt Road

Supervisors Oswald and Theodossiou as well as and Township Manager Terry Styer answered many of the questions and concerns. Hearing no additional questions or comments, a motion was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou and all voted yes to approve Option three (3) a three (3) year contract beginning April 1, 2019 with Eagle Disposal of PA Inc. in the amount of \$33.75 (2019) \$45 (2020) and \$49 (2021) per residential unit of the municipality (currently estimated at 1,736), additionally the motion rejects all other bids for municipal waste and recycling services options 1,2,4,& 5 from the other bidders. It was announced that details on the recyproject will be provided to all affected property owners prior to the start of the program.

IV. 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

- A. Following a review of the proposed 2019 Lower Alsace Township Budget a motion was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Oswald and all voted yes to approve the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 201812271

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of Lower Alsace Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania adopted the Budget as proposed for 2019 summarized below:

<u>Total Proposed budget for 2019</u>	3,242,840
General Fund	2,959,470
Highway Aid	164,000
Fire Tax	39,797
EMS Tax	79,573

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

RESOLUTION NO. 201812272

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 2019 as follows:

Tax rate for General Purposes, the sum of 7.93 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of .7930 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
 Real Estate Transfer Taxes – ½ of 1%
 Earned Income Tax – ½ of 1%
 Recycling fee per residential unit - \$43.00

V. SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Road Department
- B. Central Berks Regional Police Commission

- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company and Ambulance Association and Antietam Valley Recreation Commission

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. Central Berks Police Department
 - 1. November report
- B. Sewage Enforcement Officer
 - 1. November report
- C. Zoning and Building Code Officer
 - 1. November report

VII. OLD BUSINESS

An amended and restated Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and Lower Alsace Township to extend the dates for use of the County's Hill Road property for leaf transfer area was approved by a motion made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel and all voted yes to approve.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional comments the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next regular meeting is advertised for 6:30 PM on January 10, 2018 and will held at the Lower Alsace Township Building. A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Oswald and seconded by Supervisor Weikel.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrie Zana
Assistant Secretary