

Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA January 12, 2023

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board members in attendance included John Theodossiou and Todd Weikel. Jim Oswald was excused from the meeting. Other officials in attendance were Mike Setley (as Township Solicitor), Joe Rogosky (as Township Engineer), Central Berks Regional Police Department Chief Ray Serafin, and Lower Alsace Fire Company Chief Robert Mountz. Residents in attendance were representatives of Antietam Cart Racing (request for permission to run cart races on High Street), and James Hoy (discussion on the firearms ordinance banning the use of firearms). Also in attendance were Mark and Christine Dise, Mount Penn Borough residents.

II. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations this evening.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) James Hoy asked the Supervisors to consider making changes to the ban on the use of firearms. The Supervisors stated that the ban cannot be discriminatory against any zoning district, which is why it was approved as a ban throughout the Township. They also stated they would review the ordinance and discuss options as the need arises.
- 2) The representatives from the Antietam Cart Racing club presented a list of dates the club has requested permission to race on High Street. The club has not yet submitted a permit, but the Supervisors stated that, due to the positive feedback from the onlookers of the events, they have no concerns in the club operating their races again in 2023. The club stated they will submit the permit as soon as possible.

No additional public comment was made.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2022, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors Meeting was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.

V. SUPERVISOR LIASON REPORTS

- A. Road Department – Supervisor Oswald had nothing new to report.
- B. Central Berks Regional Police Commission – Supervisor Theodossiou and Chief Serafin provided an update on the pole building.
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company – Supervisor Weikel and Chief Mountz had nothing new to report.
- D. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to report.
- E. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to report.

VI. SOLICITOR

The Solicitor discussed the two ordinances where the Township recognizes the Lower Alsace Fire Company and Lower Alsace Ambulance Association as service providers for the Township. The Ordinances are required by the State of Pennsylvania to allow workers' compensation coverage for volunteers. A motion to approve the advertisement of these ordinances was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.

VII. ENGINEER

- A. The Engineer discussed the status of the 2023 Township Road Projects and the requests for street cuts for UGI gas service work. Supervisor Weikel mentioned his concerns with the road shoulders along Angora Road, and asked for that area to be considered for remediation.

VIII. BOARD AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

- A. Planning Hearing Board – the most recent meeting of the Planning Commission was held on November 2, 2022. No new meetings of the Planning Commission have been scheduled at this time.
- B. Zoning Hearing Board – the most recent meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board was held on October 26, 2022. No new meetings of the Zoning Hearing Board have been scheduled at this time.
- C. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – no report.

IX. MANAGER - TREASURER'S REPORT / LIST OF BILLS

- A. A motion to approve the December 31, 2022, Treasurer's reports was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, the motion carried.
- B. A motion to approve the payment of the list of bills as presented was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, the motion carried

X. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. Central Berks Police Department – the December 2022 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the December 2022 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the December 2022 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the December 2022 report was presented.
- E. Lower Alsace Township Fire Company – nothing new to report.
- F. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – nothing new to report.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. An update on the status of the use and occupancy permit application for 1383 – 1385 Friedensburg Road was presented. No permit applications for construction have yet been received.
- B. A discussion on the proposed uses and associated projects to be funded by the American Rescue Plan funds totaling nearly \$500,000 will be ongoing. An area to be considered is the stormwater issue impacting Lenox Avenue and Midland Avenue, which causes water pumped from the basement of homes in the area to not drain properly. During the winter, the water does freeze causing driving problems. The Township Manager, Road Foreman, and Township Engineer will discuss to find best solutions.
- C. A discussion of open items from the Reorganization Meeting was conducted. On a motion from Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, the following open items were approved, and the motion passed. The items were:
 - 1) The schedule of employee pay rates for 2023.
 - 2) The list of appointed positions for 2023.

- 3) The 2023 Township fee schedule, reflecting increases in the fee for zoning hearing board amounts, in order to bring the amounts in line with other neighboring municipalities.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing noted.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional comments made.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on February 9th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer