

Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA February 9, 2023

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board members in attendance included Jim Oswald, John Theodossiou and Todd Weikel. Other officials in attendance were Mike Setley (as Township Solicitor), Joe Rogosky (as Township Engineer), Phil Salamone and Matt Stairecker (representing Lower Alsace Ambulance), Joe Boyle (representing Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority), and Homer Williams (representing the Township Planning Commission). Central Berks Regional Police Department Chief Ray Serafin was unable to attend. Residents in attendance were John King and representatives of Reading Gravity Racing (application for event permit), Keith Clevinger and Russell Hoffman (parking and traffic flow on Taft Avenue), and Jessica Snyder (no specific issue).

II. PRESENTATIONS

- 1) Phil Salamone made a presentation in which he discussed the current state of ambulance association funding across the state, and in Berks County in particular. He asked that the ambulance association be informed during the next budget process to see if additional funding would be needed by the association and made available by the Township. The Supervisors stated their total support for the service and will certainly include the association in future budget discussions later this year.
- 2) Joe Boyle spoke on activities at Carsonia Lake, the swimming pool, and the recreation facilities. He asked if the Supervisors would approve a Letter of Support for a Growing Greener grant through the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Supervisors agreed to prepare a letter for the authority.

No other presentations were made.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Keith Clevinger and Russell Hoffman spoke on concerns each has with traffic flow and parking along Taft Avenue and asked if the Supervisors would entertain the idea of erecting No Parking signs along one side of Taft Avenue. The Supervisors agreed to work with the Township Manager and Road Crew Foreman to analyze the matter and follow up with the findings.

- 2) The representatives from Reading Gravity Racing presented a list of dates, and the club has requested permission to race on High Street. The Supervisors stated that they have no concerns in the club operating their races and approve the events.

No additional public comment was made.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2023, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors Meeting was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.

V. SUPERVISOR LIASON REPORTS

- A. Road Department – Supervisor Oswald requested more information on the CDL training program which he would like both non-CDL drivers on the road crew to enter into.
- B. Central Berks Regional Police Commission – Supervisor Theodossiou had nothing new to report.
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company – Supervisor Weikel 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 had nothing to add other than items already included on the agenda.

VII. ENGINEER

- A. The Engineer discussed the status of the 2023 Township Road Projects and the PennDOT road project.

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 January 31, 2023, Treasurer's reports was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, the motion carried.
- B. A motion to approve the payment of the list of bills as presented was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, the motion carried

X. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. Central Berks Police Department – the January 2023 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the January 2023 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the January 2023 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the January 2023 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 unpermitted activity has been observed.
- B. A Resolution which will allocate American Rescue Plan Local Funds in the amount of \$50,000 each to the following organizations was discussed. The allocations are:
 - 1) Central Berks Regional Police Department – to be applied to the construction of a pole building (\$30,000) and to the purchase of a generator (\$20,000).
 - 2) Lower Alsace Fire Company – to be applied to the reconstruction of the driveways used by fire vehicles accessing the firehouse.

- 3) Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – to be applied to the purchase or rehabilitation of a new / reconstructed ambulance.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. An Ordinance recognizing the Lower Alsace Fire Company as an officially recognized fire company, and authorizing the activities of the fire company, officers, and members of the fire company for the purpose defining public firefighting duties, was reviewed. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.
- B. An Ordinance recognizing the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association as an officially recognized emergency medical services company, and authorizing the activities of the emergency medical services company, officers, and members of the emergency medical services company for the purpose defining public emergency medical service duties, was reviewed. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.
- C. A Resolution authorizing the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation was reviewed. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.
- D. A Resolution allocating funds to the Borough of Mount Penn to offset cost overruns resulting from the remediation project was reviewed. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.
- E. A Resolution allocating funds totaling \$25,000 to the Recreation Commission of Antietam Valley was reviewed. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve on the condition that a presentation by the Recreation Commission of Antietam Valley be made to discuss the status of the projects.
- F. The Job Description for the township clerk position currently staffed by Corrie Zana was reviewed. A motion to approve the Job Description for advertisement was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.

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 7:45 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on March 9th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer