

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

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, March 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 and Todd Weikel. John Theodossiou was excused from the meeting. Other officials in attendance were Mike Setley (as Township Solicitor), Joe Rogosky (as Township Engineer), Robert Mountz (representing Lower Alsace Fire Company), and Homer Williams (representing the Township Planning Commission). Central Berks Regional Police Department Chief Ray Serafin was unable to attend. Residents in attendance were Keith Clevinger and Russell Hoffman (parking and traffic flow on Taft Avenue), and Tom and Linda Orth (large truck parking). Non-residents in attendance was Tanya Weaver from Mount Penn Borough.

II. PRESENTATIONS

No 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 had made any decisions. The Township Manager read a report he prepared for the Supervisors on observations made on the status of traffic along many of the streets in Stoney Creek. The report mentioned that 3 streets in this area are more congested with street parking, which is made worse by the fact that properties along these streets have little to no off-street parking. Taft Avenue has 1 property without off-street parking. The question was raised about emergency vehicles navigating the traffic. The Township Manager stated that if No Parking signs were erected, the time frames for no parking would be limited to a small time slot when school would be opening and closing. The Township Manager will make some more observations, and then work with both the Solicitor and Police Chief for a recommendation to be included in a change to the Traffic Ordinance.
- 2) Tom and Linda Orth spoke on the increasing number of large trucks parking on the streets of the Township. The Township Manager and Solicitor spoke on the abilities of codes and police to respond to issues with vehicles. It was stated that codes can respond to complaints when a vehicle is not parked on the street. Police need to respond when the vehicle is parked on the street. The guidance for large trucks was also read. The guidance provides some flexibility for truck drivers who drive Mondays through Fridays. The restrictions are based on length and weight. The

Township Manager will discuss with both the Police Chief and the Solicitor to see if changes to the Ordinance can be made to alleviate the issues.

No additional public comment was made.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors Meeting was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, 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 – 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 February 28, 2023, Treasurer's reports was made by Supervisor Oswald, 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 Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, the motion carried.

X. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. Central Berks Police Department – the February 2023 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the February 2023 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the February 2023 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the February 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 discussion on the American Rescue Plan Local Funds occurred. Further talks will be held, especially related to the grant applications pending which are earmarked for sidewalk additions, stormwater improvements, and traffic flow concerns along Carsonia Avenue in the area of Stoney Creek.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. An update on the employment search for a replacement for Corrie Zana to fill the role of Assistant to the Township Manager / Clerk position was provided by the Township Manager.

- B. The applications for special events for the Sunday Easter Dawn Service, the Pagoda-Skyline Chicken Barbeque, and the Greater Reading Film Office were discussed. Seeing no concerns related to emergency services, a motion to approve the applications was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- C. A discussion of the proposal to install additional No Parking signs along Service Court, extending from the first stop sign, through the first left hand turn, and thereafter through the right hand turn (ending in the vicinity of 501 / 503 Friedensburg Road (at the rear of those properties) resulting from the difficulties of road crew vehicles and first responder vehicles navigating these turns, was held. The Supervisors instructed the Township Manager, as well as the Solicitor and Road Crew Foreman, to take all steps necessary to proceed with installing the signs.
- D. A discussion of a resident idea to close off all of Skyline Drive from approximately dusk to dawn took place. The Supervisors believe that this plan is unworkable in a simplified manner, due to the fact that too many municipalities would be involved, and that the difficulties in coordinating law enforcement efforts would potentially make the plan ineffective. It was suggested that an entity, such as the County, could be involved who could better handle the coordination of efforts. The suggestion that the area could be treated more like parkland. The Township Manager invited the Supervisors to attend the next Mount Penn Preserve meeting to voice these thoughts.

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 7:50 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on April 13th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer