

**Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting
Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA
June 8, 2023**

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, June 8, 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 John Theodossiou. Todd Weikel was excused from the meeting. Other officials in attendance were Central Berks Regional Police Department Chief Ray Serafin, Mike Setley (as Township Solicitor), Joe Rogosky (as Township Engineer), Kelsey Frankowski, and Homer Williams (representing the Township Planning Commission). Residents in attendance were Alison Seward (animal control services), Tara Bissell (animal control services), and Russell and Deborah Hoffman (questions on 186 Taft Avenue). Non-residents in attendance was Christine Dise from Mount Penn Borough.

II. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were made.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Alison Seward inquired about the progress on determining the best entity for the Township to contract with for providing animal control services. The Supervisors expressed their interest in providing the best services for the volume of needs and for the most cost-effective arrangement. The Township Manager has been contacted by Hayden Carroll and will discuss services rendered and pricing. He will also reach out to Lisa Poper of Safety Net Sanctuary to discuss residents' complaints and concerns. This information will be considered as part of the decision-making process during the 2024 budget preparation. Chief Serafin stated that Safety Net Sanctuary has had incidents when they were unresponsive to calls.
- 2) Tara Bissell inquired about the progress on determining the best entity for the Township to contract with for providing animal control services.
- 3) Russell and Deborah Hoffman inquired as to the status of 186 Taft Avenue and wanted to know if someone was living there. The Township Manager stated that he spoke to a worker from the organization who was not living there, but this individual did state that he has slept there overnight if he was working late.

No additional public comment was made.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors Meeting was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Oswald, 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 had nothing new to report.
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company – no report.
- D. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – no report.
- E. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – no report.

VI. SOLICITOR

The Solicitor and Kelsey Frankowski discussed the status of the renewal of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board exemption, which will allow the Township to be exempt from compliance with Section 493(34) of the Liquor Code, which is set to expire on August 11, 2023,

VII. ENGINEER

- A. The Engineer discussed the status of the 2023 Road Paving Projects list. The bids have been advertised and will be awarded at the July 13, 2023 meeting.

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 May 17, 2023. Approval was given to an application for an addition at 800 Carsonia Avenue..
- C. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – no report.

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

- A. A motion to approve the May 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 Theodossiou, the motion carried.

X. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. Central Berks Police Department – the May 2023 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the May 2023 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the May 2023 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the May 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 at future Township Supervisors' meetings. Supervisor Oswald discussed the Generator connection.
- C. An update on discussions regarding a suggestion to close off all of Skyline Drive from approximately dusk to dawn took place.
- D. A discussion on the progress of exploring a merger between Lower Alsace Township and Mount Penn Borough was held. The Township Manager is in the process of establishing a public meeting with representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development, Lower Alsace Township Board of Supervisors, and Mount Penn Borough Council and the Mayor, as well as the general public, to hear information to be considered in this process. The Township Manager is attempting to schedule this for a date in September.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A motion to approve the hiring of Allison Smith, Assistant to the Township Manager, retroactively effective to June 5, 2023, was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Oswald, and all voted yes to approve.
- B. The application for a special event for the Celtic Festival scheduled for June 24th, and the Oktoberfest on September 27th through October 1st, were discussed. A motion to approve the applications was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Oswald, and all voted yes to approve.
- C. A discussion of a motion for action on a building permit request by the City of Reading related to a construction project at Camp Lilly was held. A motion to approve the request to waive the permit application fees was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.
- D. A discussion of a motion for action on a request for a letter of support by the City of Reading related to a grant application for a construction project within the Mount Penn Preserve for electric and alternative fueling stations was held. A motion to approve the letter of support was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Oswald, and all voted yes to approve.
- E. A discussion of a motion to approve amending the Mount Penn Preserve Partnership Council of Governments agreement by modifying Article III, Part I, Eligibility & Membership, by allowing the five (5) Governing Bodies to appoint a representative to serve on the MP3 COG Board and replacing the phrase "Executive Committee" with the term "Board", as attached in Exhibit A. A motion to approve was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional comments made.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on July 13th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer