

# **Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA May 11, 2023**

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, May 11, 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 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), and Angel Vasquez (nothing for public comment). 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 will be reaching out to both Safety Net Sanctuary and Animal Rescue League to request information that would be critical to analyze the best option. This information will be considered as part of the decision-making process during the 2024 budget preparation.

No additional public comment was made.

## ***IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES***

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 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 had nothing new to report.

- B. Central Berks Regional Police Commission – Supervisor Theodossiou discussed the request of the Commission to the Township Supervisors to provide the funds necessary to purchase a scanner for the Codes department. The Township Supervisors directed the Township Manager to process and pay the invoice.
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to report.
- D. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – Supervisor Weikel discussed the new grant which will be used for the purchase of a new ambulance. State Senator Judy Schwank and Tom Gombar, Chief of Staff for Senator Schwank, were critical components of moving this grant forward.
- E. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to 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 multimodal grant which the Township was recently approved for in the amount of \$850,000. The Engineer stated that the next step is to have the Engineer develop more detailed engineering plans. These plans are currently being developed. A meeting with Scott Miller of Spotts, Stevens, and McCoy to discuss plans was held on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. The Engineer provided an update on the PennDOT road project. The work is scheduled to begin on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The detour routes were reviewed.
- C. The Engineer was asked about the Lower Alsace Fire Company repaving project which is scheduled for later this year. The Engineer suggested that the project be kept separate from the 2023 road paving project, since the road project is being paid for using liquid fuels funds.

**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. A meeting is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> to review 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 April 30, 2023, Treasurer's reports was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Oswald, 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 April 2023 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the April 2023 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the April 2023 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the April 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.
- C. An update on discussions regarding a suggestion to close off all of Skyline Drive from approximately dusk to dawn took place. The Township Manager reported that there is a meeting of the Mount Penn Preserve Council of Governments scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the matter in more detail.
- D. A discussion on the progress on 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. A motion to approve the hiring of Erin Greusel, Assistant to the Township Manager, retroactively effective to May 8, 2023, was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- B. The application for a special event for the Pagoda Hillclimb scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>, and the Citizens Bike Race on August 27<sup>th</sup>, were discussed. A motion to approve the applications was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- C. A motion to approve amending the Township Traffic Ordinance to post No Parking Signs along Service Court between South Los Robles Court and West Prospect Street was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- D. A motion to approve amending the Township Traffic Ordinance to post No Parking signs along Taft Avenue on the westbound side between Carsonia Avenue and Cross Street between the times of 7:15 A.M. to 8:15 A.M. and from 2:15 P.M. to 3:15 P.M., Monday through Friday from September through May (while school is in session) was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- E. A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-5-31 authorizing the filing of a Petition with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to exempt liquor licensees from the PLCB's regulations regarding amplified music being heard off the licensed premises for all the licensees within the Township was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Oswald, and all voted yes to approve.
- F. A motion to approve waiving the commercial permit fees of \$1,449.50 associated with the application by the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority for the replacement of a Wells 12/13 and 3/6 emergency generator project at Byram Street and Parkview Avenue was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- G. A motion to approve advertising the list of roads to be included in the 2023 Road Paving Project plan, including the option to select which roads will be contracted for work for purposes of available liquid fuels funds, was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- H. A brief discussion on the position and responsibilities of the Township Fire Marshall was held.

**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 7:20 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on June 8th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer