

Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA August 10, 2023

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, August 10, 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, Kelsey Frankowski (as Township Solicitor), Joe Rogosky (as Township Engineer), and Homer Williams (representing the Township Planning Commission). Residents in attendance were Sue Siegrist (parking issue and request for a no parking sign).

II. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations this evening.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Sue Siegrist spoke of a parking issue at her place of business. The issue is that cars have been parking on West Prospect Street between the driveway to her parking lot and Carsonia Avenue. This creates a blind spot for drivers turning from Carsonia Avenue when opposing traffic needs to veer into the opposing lane in order to maneuver around those parked cars. The Traffic Ordinance does not allow parking in this spot, but those parking there should be notified not to park there, either by a curb painting or a sign posting. The Township has traditionally erected signs. The Supervisors directed the Township Manager to have the Road Crew place a sign at this location.

No additional public comment was made.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2023, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors meeting was made by Supervisor Oswald, 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 had nothing new to report.
- C. Lower Alsace Fire Company – nothing new to report.
- D. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – nothing new to report.
- E. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – nothing new to report.

VI. SOLICITOR

The Solicitor provided a status update 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. The exemption has been granted, and the Township should be receiving hard copy notification shortly.

The Solicitor provided an update on the resolution of the demolition of the unsafe structure at 1460 Friedensburg Road. An agreement to have the structure demolished for the agreed upon price of \$30,000, which will be paid from a portion of the insurance proceeds has been reached.

VII. ENGINEER

- A. The Engineer discussed the filing of the application of the new multimodal grant.
- B. The Engineer discussed the contracts to be signed for New Enterprise Stone & Lime to commence with the 2023 Road Paving Project. The engineer is setting a pre-construction meeting for representatives of New Enterprise Stone & Lime, the Township Road Foreman, the Township Manager, and the Engineer to attend and discuss the project. The meeting is scheduled for Mondy, August 14th.
- C. The Engineer provided a status update on the PennDOT Bridge Replacement project. The Supervisors expressed their concerns related to the opening under the bridge and the area where the creek flows. The Supervisors and the Engineer also discussed the creek bed restoration work and the construction of the permanent water line crossing. The Engineer is working with the state Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Protection to resolve permitting issues. Further discussions will be held to resolve these issues.

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 17th 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 July 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 July 2023 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the July 2023 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the July 2023 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the July 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. Some funds may be available for roof work which may be needed at the Township building.
- 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 provided an update on the status of this discussion.
- 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.

- E. The Township Manager provided an update on the review of animal control services and all communication with both Safety Net Sanctuary and Animal Rescue League.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. An update on the application for a special event for the Duryea Hillclimb. The Township provides a "paper permit" which informs police, fire, and ems companies that the event is occurring. This informs them of potential traffic detours. The event is held primarily in the City of Reading, so they perform all due diligence in approving the event.
- B. A motion to approve the advertisement for submittal of bids for the Township Recycling program was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and all voted yes to approve.
- C. A motion to approve the advertisement for the revision to the Traffic Ordinance for the Speed Limit signs on Service Court to be correctly posted at 25 miles per hour as per the enforceable speed limit was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Oswald, and all voted yes to approve.
- D. A discussion of determining the cost of a Yard Waste Collection Program for disposing of grass clippings, flowers, and small shrubs was held. Further research into the matter will be necessary.
- E. A discussion of the process to be followed for the development of the Township's 2024 budget was held.
- F. A discussion of the request by the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority submission of a Stormwater Management Ordinance Plan Exemption and Waiver Request for the Spook Lane Water Storage Tank Replacement Project. A motion to approve the exemption and waiver request 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 September 14th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer