

# **Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA December 14, 2023**

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 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 Central Berks Regional Police Department Chief Ray Serafin, Kelsey Frankowski (as Township Solicitor), Joe Rogosky (as Township Engineer), Homer Williams (representing the Township Planning Commission), and Carl Weikel (as Township Road Foreman). Residents in attendance were Kris Boyer, Barb Peck, and Judy Stetzler (issues with property at 1803 Friedensburg Road) and Anthony DiSarro (Antietam School District).

## ***II. PRESENTATIONS***

No presentations were scheduled for this evening.

## ***III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS***

- 1) Kris Boyer and Barb Peck both expressed concerns related to the property at 1803 Friedensburg Road. Both stated that they saw what appeared to be sewage from the basement of the property being pumped into the backyard of the building. Kris complained that trash from this property will blow onto his property. He complained about the landlord and prior tenants. Barb Peck stated that she has had a bug problem for some time. She also stated that she had damage done to the basement of her property. The Solicitor informed her that she should have repairs made and then file a claim against the property owner. The matter is a civil matter. As far as the health and safety concerns resulting from any sewage concerns, the Supervisors instructed the Township Manager to work with the Codes department to gain access to the property and see if evidence of sewage or bug infestation are present. If the matter rises to the level of seeking a condemnation so the tenants can be moved from the property for their well-being, this could be enforced if the situation warrants it.

No additional public comment was made.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors meeting and the minutes of the November 30, 2023 Lower Alsace Township Supervisors' Workshop 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. Carl Weikel reported that leaf collection is complete and the trucks have been prepared for snow plowing.
- 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 – nothing new to report.

**VI. SOLICITOR**

The Solicitor had nothing to report that is not already on the agenda.

**VII. ENGINEER**

- A. The Engineer presented a status report on the PennDOT bridge replacement project. He is working on open issues with the project, which include the retaining wall along Old Angora Road and the creek wall / flooding / PA Department of Environmental Resources permit / creek remediation.
- B. The Engineer discussed the review of 2024 Street and Road Paving projects with the Township Manager and Road Crew Foreman. This information was also discussed with the engineer for the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority in order to coordinate work between both entities, No conflicts were noted.

**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. 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 November 30, 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.
- C. A motion to approve the Resolution to adopt the 2024 Lower Alsace Township budget as presented was made by Supervisor Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, the motion carried.
- D. A motion to approve the Resolution to approve the 2024 Lower Alsace Township Tax Millage Rates 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 November 2023 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the November 2023 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the November 2023 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the November 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 will take place after January 1 and after the Township reorganization meeting has occurred.
- C. An update on the status of a property on Angora Road where a trailer has been noted parking on the roadway was given. The problem appears to have been corrected and eliminated.

- D. The Supervisors discussed issues noted at the Stony Creek Auto property on Friedensburg Road, and directed the Township Manager to work with the Codes department and see if violations of the Township's zoning ordinance or property maintenance issues are occurring.
- E. The Supervisors discussed issues noted at the property at 705 Friedensburg with parking, and directed the Township Manager to work with the BCIU and road crew to see if adjustments can be made to the No Parking zone so additional residential parking can be restored.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. A motion to approve the list of declared Holidays for 2024 and to approve advertising the calendar of Township meetings was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.
- B. The Township Manager presented information on staffing questions related to both the road crew and the codes department which have been raised by both the Supervisors and the road foreman. The supervisors agreed that more discussion must happen in order to make a final decision.
- C. The Supervisors discussed the zoning requirements necessary to allow the Antietam School District to use the building at 705 Friedensburg Road as a school for students attending kindergarten through third grade. An inspection of the property by the appropriate specialists will be scheduled and conducted. The Township Manager will coordinate with appropriate individuals from the Antietam School District administration and school board.
- D. The Township Manager stated that the 2024 Township newsletter is being printed.

**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 8:05 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on January 11th, 2024. The township reorganization meeting is scheduled for 8:30 AM on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer