

Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA February 8, 2024

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board members in attendance included John Theodossiou, Todd Weikel, and Ann Sellers. 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 Lorraine Storms (Antietam School District board member), Brian Reeves (water runoff at 27 Old Friedensburg Road), Kris Boyer (property issues at 1803 Friedensburg Road), and Holly Rigg, Anthony DiSarro, and Marina McGough (seeking information on Antietam School District).

II. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were scheduled for this evening.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Kris Boyer mentioned the property at 1803 Friedensburg Road and asked about the status related to bug issues and sewage issues. The Township Manager read a prepared report from the Central Berks Police Codes Administrator which stated that the property owner was contracting for pest control services. The sewage issue has been closed, due to the lack of evidence of any sewage dumping. A sewer backup may have occurred, but the various inspectors to the location determined that the line is now open. The property will continue to be reviewed to verify there are no additional issues or reoccurrences related to these matters.
- 2) Brian Reeves inquired as to the status of the issue he reported to the Township at the January meeting related to excessive water runoff originating from behind his property which then runs onto Old Friedensburg Road. The Road Foreman reported that he had made a site visit to the roadway and that he could make a minor repair to create a “gutter” for the water to be diverted from the road. He scheduled a meeting with Mr. Reeves to walk on the property so he could gather more information on the problem and would meet with the owner as well, as provide a more detailed report at the March.

No additional public comments were made.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors meeting was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Theodossiou, and they voted yes to approve, with Supervisor Sellers abstaining. A motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024, Lower Alsace Township Supervisors meeting was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Sellers, and all voted yes to approve.

V. ROAD CREW FOREMAN REPORT

The Road Foreman provided an update on snow plowing work.

VI. SUPERVISOR LIASON REPORTS

- A. Central Berks Regional Police Commission – Supervisor Theodossiou had nothing new to report.
- B. Lower Alsace Fire Company – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to report. Supervisor Theodossiou mentioned that the Township will be approving a Resolution to adopt the update the International Fire Code at the next Supervisors' meeting.
- C. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to report.
- D. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – Supervisor Sellers had nothing new to report.
- E. Antietam School District – Supervisor Sellers had nothing new to report.

VII. SOLICITOR

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

VIII. 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. A virtual meeting to discuss the issues with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources is scheduled for January 24.
- 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 changes to the list of projects due to scheduling conflicts noted. The Township Manager mentioned that the water main break on Lenox Avenue may require a change in the repaving priority list depending on what the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority needs to do to repair the main. The Engineer stated that he will reach out to the Authority's engineer to discuss.

- C. The Engineer discussed the issue related to the gas line at the high school property where it crosses the creek. A meeting to discuss the issue is scheduled for January 16.

IX. 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.

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

- A. A motion to approve the January 31, 2024, Treasurer's reports was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Sellers, the motion carried.
- B. A motion to approve the payment of the list of bills as presented was made by Supervisor Theodossiou, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, the motion carried.

XI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

- A. Central Berks Police Department – the January 2024 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the January 2024 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the January 2024 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the January 2024 report was presented.
- E. Lower Alsace Township Fire Company – the January 2024 report was presented.
- F. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – nothing new to report.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. An update on the status of the use and occupancy permit application for a property in the 1300 block of Friedensburg Road was presented. All necessary permits have been applied for and approved.
- B. A discussion on the American Rescue Plan Local Funds will need to be scheduled to review projects and outside funding sources which will impact the use of funds.
- C. The Supervisors discussed issues noted at a commercial property in the 1500 block of Friedensburg Road concerning the number of vehicles at the location. The Township Manager presented a letter which had been sent to the property owners. An update on this matter will be presented at the March Supervisors' meeting.
- D. The Supervisors discussed parking concerns noted at a commercial property in the 700 block of Friedensburg Road. The Township Manager and Road Foreman reported the changes which were made to the signage in this area. The Supervisors had no additional questions or concerns.
- E. The Township Manager, Police Chief, and Solicitor reported that there have been no additional issues related to the commercial property in the 700 block of Brighton Avenue related to the previous concerns of the residents living at this location. The Supervisors had no additional concerns.
- F. The Supervisors had no other comments or concerns at this time regarding a property in the 1800 block of Friedensburg Road. The issue will continue to be monitored.
- G. 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, which will include a discussion at a future meeting of the Central Berks Police Commission.
- H. 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 took place on January 5th. The Township Manager provided the details of the inspections, which did not identify any major concerns. The Antietam School District Board and administration will continue their due diligence efforts to determine if the property will be utilized and possibly acquired.
- I. The Supervisors had no further comments or concerns at this time regarding the issue of excessive water runoff onto Old Friedensburg Road. The issue will continue to be monitored.
- J. The Supervisors would like the Police Chief to address the vehicles currently parked in the 900 block of Carsonia Avenue with "For Sale" signs on them.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Township Manager mentioned that the state conducted its audit of the MS-965 Liquid Fuels Reports for the years 2021 and 2022, with no findings noted.
- B. The Township Manager mentioned that the Township Elected Auditors conducted their audit for the year 2023, with no findings or comments noted.
- C. The Township Manager mentioned that the external auditors from Herbein & Company are conducting their audit for the year 2023 in preparation of the 2023 financial reports, and all is progressing well.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional comments were made.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on March 14th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer