

# **Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting Township of Lower Alsace, Berks County, PA April 11, 2024**

The Lower Alsace Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA.

## **I. ATTENDANCE**

Board members in attendance included Todd Weikel, and Ann Sellers. John Theodossiou 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), Homer Williams (representing the Township Planning Commission), Antietam School District Board President Michael Roberts, and Carl Weikel (as Township Road Foreman). Residents in attendance were Matt Piatt (road concerns - road closure and motorcycles & speeding on Friedensburg Road), Barbara Peck (road concerns on Friedensburg Road), and Jim Oswald (road concerns). Nonresidents in attendance was Hunter Ahrens, Mount Penn Borough Manager.

## **II. PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations were scheduled for this evening.

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

- 1) Barabara Peck spoke on issues at her property at the intersection of Friedensburg Road and Old Friedensburg Road, particularly the stop sign and curbing at the intersection. The Township Manager and the Road Foreman agreed to visit the site to see what could be done.
- 2) Michael Roberts spoke on potholes at the cannon lot. The Road Foreman stated he will inspect the area and make repairs if necessary.
- 3) Matt Piatt spoke about the bumps in the road on Carsonia Avenue in Stony Creek. He also spoke about the park benches at Carsonia Lake.
- 4) Homer Williams spoke about the recycling fee on the real estate tax bill and whether this was supposed to be subject to the 2% discount as he believes it is. He also spoke on the cars parked along Carsonia Avenue with "FOR SALE" signs on them.
- 5) Jim Oswald spoke on a drain pipe issue on Butter Lane. He also spoke on the status of the generator connection.
- 6) Bob Shuman spoke on the shuttle vehicles parked along Cornell Street.

No additional public comments were made.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 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 mentioned that the Supervisors consider the need for hiring a part time person on the road crew.

**VI. SUPERVISOR LIASON REPORTS**

- A. Central Berks Regional Police Commission – no report.
- B. Lower Alsace Fire Company – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to report.
- C. Lower Alsace Ambulance Association – Supervisor Weikel had nothing new to report.
- D. Antietam Valley Recreation Commission – there was nothing new to report.
- E. Antietam School District – there was nothing new to report at this time.

**VII. SOLICITOR**

- A) The Solicitor stated that she had nothing to report which is not on the agenda.

**VIII. ENGINEER**

- A. The Engineer presented a status report on the PennDOT bridge replacement project.
- B. The Engineer discussed the list of proposed 2024 Street and Road Paving projects. The Engineer requested that the bids be advertised. A motion to approve advertising the bids was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Sellers, and all voted yes to approve.
- C. The Engineer discussed a request from the Munt Penn Borough Municipal Authority to waive fees for an upcoming project. A motion to approve a waiver of the fees was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Sellers, and all voted yes to approve.

**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 March 31, 2024, Treasurer's reports was made by Supervisor Weikel, 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 Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Sellers, the motion carried.

**XI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

- A. Central Berks Police Department – the March 2024 report was presented.
- B. Central Berks Codes Department – the March 2024 report was presented.
- C. Sewage Enforcement Officer – the March 2024 report was presented.
- D. Zoning and Building Code Officer – the March 2024 report was presented.
- E. Lower Alsace Township Fire Company – the March 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 May Supervisors' meeting.

- D. The Police Chief and Solicitor reported that there have been 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.
- E. The Supervisors had no other comments or concerns at this time regarding a property in the 1800 block of Friedensburg Road. The issue is being monitored.
- F. 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 is necessary in order to make a final decision on the road crew. There will be a meeting with the Mount Penn Borough Council to discuss the financing and advertising of the job. The Supervisors agreed to have the Township Manager advertise the position dependent upon the consensus of the meeting with the Borough.
- G. 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.
- H. The Supervisors, Police Chief, and Solicitor discussed the issue of vehicles currently parked in the 900 block of Carsonia Avenue with "For Sale" signs on them. The Solicitor will look into possible legal avenues that could be taken to correct this situation. The issue of the vehicles being in the right of way may be a way to have the vehicles moved.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. The Township Manager mentioned that the external auditors from Herbein & Company are nearing completion of their audit for the year 2023.
- B. The Township Manager presented an advertised Ordinance to approve the adoption of the 2018 International Fire Code and repealing all Ordinances and parts of Ordinances in conflict therewith. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Supervisor Weikel, seconded by Supervisor Sellers, and all voted yes to approve.
- C. The Township Manager presented an update on the LSA grant applications.
- D. The Township Manager presented the Grant Cooperative Agreement between Lower Alsace Township and the Lower Alsace Ambulance Association which is necessary for the grant application which is being reviewed by the state Department of Community and Economic Development. Hearing no comments on the proposed agreement, a motion to approve the agreement was made by Supervisor Sellers, seconded by Supervisor Weikel, and all voted yes to approve.

***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 7:15 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on May 9th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Pottiger, Manager, Secretary / Treasurer