



Borough of Mount Penn

"The Friendly Borough"

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February 21, 2025

Lower Alsace Township Board of Supervisors
Attn: John Theodossiou, Chairman
1200 Carsonia Avenue
Reading, PA 19606

Sent Via Email: Lower Alsace Township, CBRPD, AVMA, and MPBMA

Mr. Theodossiou,

On February 14, 2025, the Mount Penn Borough Council's Merger Ad-Hoc Committee met in a public session at Borough Hall. Borough Council further discussed it at the February 18, 2025, meeting. Our partner entities also received prior communication so that they could be aware of that meeting's outcome. This copy will also be shared with them.

The merger discussions focused on baseline areas including the form of government, the governing body, and potential names. Several members of the community were present for these meetings. An agenda from both meetings is attached to this letter for reference, and the recommendations of Borough Council are included below:

1. Form of Government: 2nd Class Township
2. Representation Type of the Governing Body: At-Large Districts
3. Total Membership of the Governing Body: 5 Members
4. Potential Names: Mt. Penn, Lower Alsace, Antietam Valley, and Penn-Alsace.
5. Form of Financial Review: The committee recommends discussing whether staff can provide an adequate financial review of a potential merged municipality.

Borough Council unanimously agreed that a five-member governing body would provide a better balance of community representation than a three-member board while providing more focused decision-making than a seven-member board. They emphasized the importance of honoring the Borough's unique identity and suggested that designating Mt. Penn as a village or a similar designation could achieve this. A name reflecting the merged entity's past and future was also deemed ideal.

Borough Council supported, sharing these with Lower Alsace Township for discussion. Additionally, they agreed with adopting a resolution to clearly state that selling the community's water or sewer assets is financially irresponsible and wrong, sending a strong message that such sales would be a mistake, regardless of the outcome of a merger.

Sincerely,

Hunter L. Ahrens

Hunter L. Ahrens (Feb 21, 2025 15:52 EST)

Hunter L. Ahrens
Borough Manager

INCORPORATED 1903

MOUNT PENN BOROUGH

Council Business Meeting Agenda

7:00 PM on February 18, 2025

Procedural Items

- 1) Meeting Opening and Pledge to the Flag
- 2) Attendance Roll Call
- 3) Public Comment

Presentations

Priority Action Items

- 4) Approve Advertisement of Bids for Endlich, Summit, Laurel, Cameron, Oak, and Brooke Streets.
- 5) Extension of Antietam Valley Municipal Authority Charter

Priority Discussion Items

- 6) Engineer Updates
- 7) Discussion of Grant Reimbursements for Garage Project
- 8) Discussion of General Parking Restrictions
- 9) Discussion of Visitors Parking Permits
- 10) Discussion of Municipal Merger and Authority Resolutions
- 11) Repeal of Per Capita Tax Ordinance

Approvals

- 12) Street Sweeping Quote for May 2025
- 13) Signal Service Quote for Traffic Light Repair/Replacement
- 14) Approve Minutes for December 17, 2024, Meeting

Reports

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Fire Company | • Borough Council President |
| • Water Authority | • Public Works Committee |
| • Sewer Authority | • Personnel Committee |
| • Planning Commission | • Codes Committee |
| • Central Berks Regional Commission | • Finance Committee |
| | • Community Relations Liaison |
| | • Merger Ad-Hoc Committee |
| • Borough Mayor | <i>Ordinance Updates Pending</i> |
| • Chief of Police | • Dumpster Permit Ordinance |
| • Codes Administrator | • Road Closure Ordinance |
| • Solicitor | • Street Access Ordinance |
| • Borough Engineer | • Noise Ordinance |
| • Borough Manager | • Handicap Ordinances |

Adjournment

- 15) Other Business
- 16) Announcement of Executive Session on Personnel Matters on February 13, 2025.
- 17) Adjournment

Next Meetings

- Public Works Committee Meeting – February 18, 2025, 6:00 PM
- Borough Council Business Meeting – February 18, 2025, 7:00 PM
- Borough Council Business Meeting – February 25, 2025, 7:00 PM

Mount Penn Borough
Municipal Merger Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Agenda
February 13, 2025

Topic/Question	Proposed Process
What changes, if any, should be made to the Agenda?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Borough Manager polls the Committee Members for any revisions to the agenda.
What are possible Municipal names for the potential future municipality?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss previously used names or suggest different names for future discussions with Lower Alsace Township.
What form(s) of representation should the future municipality have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss district, at-large, or hybrid methods of representation that could be acceptable.
How many members of the potential governing body should there be?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the potential composition of a governing body.
What type of government should a Municipal Merger propose?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion could feature Borough, 1st or 2nd Class Townships, Multiple Classes of Cities, or Home Rule Charter.• Specific discussion of the Home Rule Charter could include what items are most important to include (e.g., Tax Structure, Protecting Water or Sewer Infrastructure from Sale).
Should the two municipalities consider a merger study?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the potential value or lack thereof of a merger study that analyzes the merger of both entities.






Binder1

Final Audit Report

2025-02-21

Created:	2025-02-21
By:	Hunter Ahrens (manager@mtpennborough.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA45_x-9rNRNoYtfWOc6m0_LCL20gb6PmK

"Binder1" History

-  Document created by Hunter Ahrens (manager@mtpennborough.com)
2025-02-21 - 8:50:45 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Hunter L. Ahrens (hahrens@mtpennborough.com) for signature
2025-02-21 - 8:50:49 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Hunter L. Ahrens (hahrens@mtpennborough.com)
2025-02-21 - 8:51:53 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Hunter L. Ahrens (hahrens@mtpennborough.com)
Signature Date: 2025-02-21 - 8:52:05 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-02-21 - 8:52:05 PM GMT