



## Borough of Mount Penn

*"The Friendly Borough"*

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February 14, 2025

Mount Penn Borough Council  
Attn: Troy Goodman, President  
200 N. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reading, PA 19606

Sent Via Email: Mt. Penn Borough Council, Lower Alsace Township, CBRPD, AVMA, and MPBMA

Mr. Goodman,

On February 14, 2025, the Mount Penn Borough Council's Merger Ad-Hoc Committee met in a public session at Borough Hall. During this meeting, Mayor Ryan Maurer was elected Chairman of the Committee. I am writing this communication on the Committee's behalf in preparation for the Council's discussion of this topic at its February 18, 2025, meeting. Our partner entities are also receiving a copy of this communication so that they may be aware that this discussion is taking place.

The merger discussion focused on baseline areas, precisely the form of government, the governing body, and potential names. Several members of the community, you, and Council Member Garcia were present. An agenda from that meeting is attached to this letter for reference, and the recommendations of the committee are included below:

1. Form of Government: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

The Committee agreed that a five-member governing body would provide a better balance of community representation than a three-member board while maintaining 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 would achieve this. A name reflecting the merged entity's past and future was also deemed ideal.

The committee recommended presenting these suggestions to the Borough Council for further feedback and, if supported, sharing them 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  
Borough Manager

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