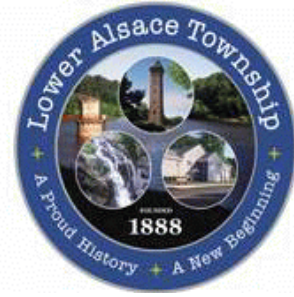


# LOWER ALSACE TOWNSHIP

1200 Carsonia Avenue  
Reading, PA 19606  
Phone (610)779-6400 - Fax (610) 370-0797



Mount Penn Borough Council and Mayor of Mount Penn Borough  
Attn: Mayor Ryan Maurer and Borough Council President Rick Lombardo  
200 North 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reading, PA 19606-2091

May 27, 2025

To the Mayor and Members of Mount Penn Borough Council,

This letter is written to provide a response to the five items which were listed in a letter sent to the Township dated February 21, 2025, from the members of the Mount Penn Borough Council Merger Ad-Hoc Committee. These five points were as follows:

*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 (members elected by voters of the municipality, not by a district within the municipality)***
- 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 Board of Supervisors has agreed that items 1 and 2 are acceptable, item 3 can be discussed further (the Supervisors believe three to five members is desirable), item 4 can be decided at some point (but not as critical an issue at this time), and item 5 should be discussed further to determine the level of review work which would be necessary, along with matters for review when outside assistance may be needed if internal staff do not possess the required skills or have the available time to perform those functions. A more in-depth discussion is needed to see the detailed list of issues to be reviewed.

Since both municipalities have agreed to the proposed answers to the above items, the next step is to agree upon a date to delve further into the issues necessary to continue the process moving forward. The Supervisors wish to set up a public joint meeting in order to maintain transparency. This meeting should be scheduled to be held at one of the Antietam School District buildings in order to accommodate a potentially large turnout. The meeting will need to be advertised by both municipalities. The Township requests that all members of both Borough Council and the Board of Supervisors be in attendance at this meeting.

Could the members of Borough Council provide available dates (Mondays through Thursdays) when this meeting can be scheduled? The second Thursdays of each month are unavailable since those are the scheduled Township Supervisors/ meeting nights. Please provide 3 to 5 options, since this will be a challenge to coordinate 11 elected officials as well as 2 managers' schedules. Each municipality should develop a list of 3 to 5 agenda items to be included on an agenda so the time allotted for the meeting can be used efficiently.

If you have any further questions regarding this letter, please reach out to John Theodossiou, Chairman of the Lower Alsace Township Board of Supervisors or you can email Don Pottiger, Lower Alsace Township Manager. They can distribute those comments to the rest of the group. We will await your reply. Thank you.

Respectfully,

*John Theodossiou*

Chairman, Lower Alsace Township Board of Supervisors