

approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – April 7, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The April 7, 2025, meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7: 00 p.m. Also in attendance were, S. Disidore, C. Cook, D. Ascani, J. Mauser, J. Zator (zoom) C. Briglia, J. Smethers, and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were approximately 15 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – March 3, 2025. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

**Nicole Palmeri** – Recreation Board update. N. Palmeri indicated the Rec. Board is going to cancel the Spring plant sale but will still have the Fall plant sale on 9/13/25. There will be no pickleball lessons, however people can sign out the pickleball rackets.

**Approval of Franklin Hill & Social Still at Community Day** - **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M. DeBerardinis to approve Franklin Hill & Social Still to sell alcohol at Community Day providing they submit to the Township proper insurance and copy of their liquor license. D. Ascani mentioned Nicole should check to see if they are RAMP certified. Vote: 5-0.

**Movie dates and prices** - The Rec. Board will be showing three movies June. 21<sup>st</sup> - Toy Story, July 19<sup>th</sup> - Paddington Bear, and August 23<sup>rd</sup> - Snow White. Total cost will be \$1,245.00. Nicole mentioned they're not sure about Snow White. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve movie nights and the cost of \$1,245.00. Vote: 4-0-1, D. Ascani voted no to Snow White. **MOTION** amended by M. DeBerardinis, second amended by S. Disidore to approve movie nights and costs with replacing Snow White. Vote: 5-0.

**J. Matthews** - Mr. Matthews commented residents don't know what's going on in the township, they don't' check local media sites. Mr. Matthews made the Board aware his comments have been rejected off the Martins Creek Watch page by a supervisor

**SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING**

**Minor Subdivision – F10-5-13 – 10280 N. Delaware Dr. Bangor, PA 18013.** R. Dentith reviewed the Subdivision with the Board of Supervisors. The Planning Commission has made their recommendation for approval of Deferral Requests: 22-505(3) - The requirement for roadway widening at the frontage of both Proposed Lots 1 and 2. 22-519 - The requirement for each lot to have primary and reserve septic testing 22-525 - The requirement for dedication of land for open space or a fee to be paid in lieu. The following waiver was withdrawn: 22-402.1. B. (5) (o) – The requirement for a title search of the property. All deferrals are included in Resolution 2025-05.

The Planning Commission also gave their recommendation for Preliminary Final Plan Approval for the Robert Bush Minor Subdivision based upon the conditions in the Township Engineer, Township Solicitor and Township Zoning Officer’s review letter. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to adopt Resolution 2025-05 and grant Preliminary Final Plan Approval for the Robert Bush Minor Subdivision based upon the conditions in the Township Engineer, Township Solicitor and Township Zoning Officer’s review letter. Vote: 5-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2025-06 Requesting Support for Inclusion of Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area Local Communities as a Gateway Community Pilot Program under the Explore Act.** **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to adopt Resolution 2025-06. Vote: 5-0.
- 2. Consideration and Authorization to advertise Ordinance 2025-02 Repeal of the Street Lighting District Ordinances.** S. Disidore asked is this effective for 2025 or 2026. It will be in effect for the 2025 Street Light assessment. **MOTION** by D. Ascani, second by J. Mauser to approve advertising Ordinance 2025-02 –“2025 Repeal of the Street Lighting District Ordinances”. Vote: 4-1-0, S. Disidore voted no.
- 3. Approval of the Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement for the Chevy 6500 Brush Truck and Resolution 2025-07 A Resolution to Approve and Authorize the Execution and Delivery of Schedule of Equipment No. 01 Chevy 6500 Brush Truck.**  
J. Smethers indicated this is the financing agreement to purchase and finance the fire company brush truck. Jen received two financing proposals; Fidelity Bank – 5 years at 6.15% interest, 10 years at 6.75% interest; Community Leasing Partners – 5 years at 5.34% interest, 7 years at 5.36% interest. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by D. Ascani to approve the Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement for the Chevy 6500 Brush Truck with Community Leasing Partners and approve Resolution 2025-07 as outlined in the agreement. Vote: 5-0.
- 4. Resolution 2025-08 Amending the Fire Apparatus and Vehicle Use Agreements with LMB/Sandt’s Eddy Volunteer Fire Company** – This resolution is just to add the brush truck to the lease agreement with the fire company. Tabled.
- 5. Discussion on Gravel Hill Solar Camera or Hard-Wired Camera.** Specs were provided for Linovision 4-in-1 smart solar power system. C. Cook indicated this is huge and the wrong application and should have a 2-day battery life. There was discussion about putting a regular pole up next to the curbing. J. Smethers explained then a meter would need to be hard wired, and the existing switch would be in P. Landry’s yard. We would need an agreement with P. Landry. S. Disidore indicated she is not in favor of putting the pole in P. Landry’s yard. C. Cook will reach out to Page to see if we can remove the poles and put regular streetlights.
- 6. Authorize Carroll Engineer to Update Scope of Work and Prepare Bid Packet for the LMBT Trail Reconstruction Project** – J. Coyle did the scope of work last year, but Justin needs to update the scope of work and bidding documents for the LMBT Trail Reconstruction Project.

Jen noted all the funding is in place and we have a contract with the Livable Landscape Grant, we are just waiting for the state to give us the contract back. The engineering costs are allotted for in the grant. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to authorize Carroll Engineering to Update the scope of work and prepare the bid packet for the LMBT Trail Reconstruction Project. Vote: 5-0.

- 7. Approval of the MC OPCO LLC v. Northampton County Revenue Appeals Board, et al Settlement Agreement.** J. Zator indicated he is waiting for additional information from Julie Azzalina, Tax Assessment Manager for Northampton County. Tabled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Discussion of Purchase and Financing for Road Department Snowplow and Chassis –** M. DeBerardinis and F. Heitzman met with D. Albert the International Rep. for an estimate to replace the 1998 Mack. We received an estimate from International for the snowplow in the amount of \$123,323.26 and E.M. Kutz in the amount of \$77,871.00 for the Chassis. Both are co-star pricing. The estimate was completed with a \$35,000 downpayment. J. Smethers explained according to our 15-year equipment replacement plan, the Mack is the last one until 8 more years, there is room in our budget for equipment purchases. There is a grant we can apply for, but it will delay this purchase if we wait. We submitted a Grow Norco grant for the boom mower. There is a deferred payment for one year if we go through Community Leasing. D. Ascani asked if we can have the 1998 Mack inspected, by someone outside of the township to see if it can be fixed, M. DeBerardinis indicated it's a safety issue, they have fixed the oil pan twice. Tabled.
- 2. Accept Fred Heitzman Retirement/Resignation Letter – MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to accept Fred Heitzman's resignation / retirement letter. His last day will be on June 27, 2025. The Board thanked Fred for his 52 years of service. Vote: 5-0.
- 3. Approve posting for Road Department Foreman Position –** M. DeBerardinis indicated he will post the Road Foreman position in house according to the union contract.
- 4. Authorize Advertising the 2025 Road Paving Project – Miller Road –** Melissa and Fred met with the Penn DOT Rep. K. O'Connell and the bid specs are ready to be advertised. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to authorize advertising the 2025 Road Paving Project for Miller Road. Vote: 5-0.
- 5. Approval of the December 31, 2024 Municipal Audit and Financial Report – MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve the December 31, 2024 Municipal Audit and Financial Report and advertise accordingly. Vote: 5-0.

6. **Memory Bench** – We received a sponsorship request for \$500.00 from Donna & Tom Getreur for a memory bench to be placed at the Jerry Brunetti Environmental Center. J. Mauser will has a location picked out for placement of the bench. John will order the park bench materials with the handicapped accessible pad from R. Sandt (Bangor Concrete Products ) for the Road Crew to pick up. Materials will cost around \$350.00 - \$400.00.
7. **Authorization to Open Fire Escrow Account for Doughan** – J. Smethers indicated we received and insurance check for the Doughan Fire on Main Street. It has to be deposited into a non interest bearing account. Jen deposited into the Developers Escrow Account temporarily until a Fire Escrow Account can be opened. **MOTION** by M. Deberardinis, second by S. Disidore to open a Fire Escrow Account for the Doughan insurance proceeds. Vote: 5-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to approve the bill list in the amount of \$190,653.28. J. Smethers mentioned this number includes the downpayment for the Fire Truck in the amount of \$100,000. Vote: 5-0.

## **REPORTS**

### **Board Members Reports**

**J. Mauser Power Point** - GPS Direction and Signage issues in LMBT. John indicated there are no signs for Foul Rift Rd, only a sign on the back of 6605 Foul Rift. Tractor Trailers are going to wrong way at the yield sign. John has been asking Talen to put up a sign for 10-years, he had a sign made up he would like to ask Talen to post. The Board had no objection to John giving a sign to Talen asking them to put it up. John indicated there is going to be an e-cycling event at the UMBT Potomac Park. This event is free to all surrounding municipalities. The Road Crew picked up 9 tires dumped at the Meadows. John indicated the Delaware River Sojourns have asked to use the Welcome Center for a presentation and luncheon on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board had no objection.

D. Ascani – Dave asked about posting Good Rd. no parking signs be put up and not sure if we need a sign ordinance or traffic study. Dave had asked that Tax Collector be placed on the agenda tonight. Since we don't have any tax collector on the ballot, he would like to explore having Keystone collect the Township taxes and eliminate the tax collector position. J. Smethers indicated we have an ordinance on the books, this wouldn't go into effect until February 2026. J. Smethers will contact PSATS and Keystone to get more information.

**Chairman's Report** – M. DeBerardinis mentioned we received a letter regarding 6480 Del Haven Rd. regarding grading issues / sink holes due to the drainage pipe. We replaced the pipe 4 years ago; the grading is the same and there is nothing more we need to do on our end. Mike indicated him and Chris Cook met with Kerry Doyle regarding flooding by his property.

**Township Treasurer Report** – J. Smethers reported a lawsuit has been filed naming the township for the drowning at the ash basin. Our insurance company indicated we have no liability. The Fire Truck downpayment has been wired. Jen applied for the FEMA Go Grant for J. Russo’s funding elevation project.

Jen noted we have 1.6 million in our Open Space Account. She is going to look into opening a 10-month CD with Fidelity Bank. J. Mauser suggested putting money into different CD’s with staggering terms.

**Solicitor Report – Written report submitted. No further comments.**

**Township Engineer Report** – C. Briglia reported the Blum grading plan work has been done to stabilize the slope. J. Smethers indicated there are additional engineering and legal costs for Blum and if the township should send them the additional charges. It’s in the fee schedule for a lower fee, but we haven’t done that in the past.

**Road Department Report** – F. Heitzman reported they have been working at the Meadows, Riverton gardens at the Welcome Center, supervising the cinder shed project, patching potholes, did some backfilling at Lower Mud Run Rd, and placement of pipes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - J. Matthews commented the township should use state contracts for purchase of vehicles.

K. Brewer commented Little Creek Rd. needs to be oil and chipped, they just threw oil on top last time.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary - Lower Mount Bethel Township