

approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – OCTOBER 7, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The October 7, 2024, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063 Martins Creek, PA, 18063. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, C. Cook, D. Ascani, J. Mauser, J. Smethers, M. Mastrogiovanni & J. Zator. There were approximately 9 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

M. DeBerardinis announced an Executive Session was held tonight; no action was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – September 9, 2024. Revisions were made as follows: Add an Executive Session was held tonight; no action was taken. Page 1, under Martha Posner move the sentence - H. Klein noted a letter will be coming from B. Humphries, EAC. S. Disidore suggested maybe coordinating with other Municipalities to set up a meeting for collaborate sending letter to state reps. following the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of the paragraph on the same topic. Pg. 4 – J. Mauser’s report add the language: When the Riverton site was developed under Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge grant, a wetland area was created at about a cost of \$6,000. The wetland area captures all storm water run-off from the parking lot thus not permitting any waters which might contain road salt, gas, oil, or other materials from entering the Delaware River. It continues to be working as designed.

**MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve the minutes as revised. Vote: 5-0.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

**1. Jolene – Girl Scouts Silver Award.** Jolene explained she is looking to complete her Girl Scouts Silver award and was interested in building picnic tables for the Meadows. J. Mauser has talked to her about doing Blue Bird boxes instead at the Meadows at various stations. Jolene agreed and will submit the project to the Girls Scouts for approval; it takes around 6-8 weeks to get that approval. Installation would be in the Spring. John & Jolene will keep in touch.

**2. Jeff Young – Suburban EMS.** Barbara and Tim were present on behalf of Suburban EMS. They indicated Jeff Young has retired. The apologized that communication has not been good between the Communities, Police and Fire Company. There was discussion about response time. M. DeBerardinis noted response time in a rural community is important. G. Russo Sr. explained the Fire Chief is dispatched on the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 calls and they are short on EMT’s. D. Ascani asked about protocol for lights & sirens. Suburban noted they follow statewide procedures and that has changed. J. Mauser noted he would like to see open communication between Suburban, the Fire Company and all parties. Suburban agreed.

**SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Martins Creek Belvidere Highway Culvert Maintenance** – Mike, Dave, John, Justin, Jen, Fred along with residents M. Hess, B. Kiefer, B. Vishnesky, R. Grucella, and State Reps. met to work on making improvements to the pipe and the culvert. B. Kiefer will cut his grass and fields need to be clear of crops. The road crew to needs to cut the tall weeds and grass. The Township Road Crew will mow the former grassy swale on the Hess property.

J. Mauser indicated Austin Draeger, NRXS and Ryan Shaw from NC Farmland Preservation will come out. Nate Prichard, NCCD will walk the watershed. John has involved in the original project. They are looking to fill in the sod waterway on the Hess property. M. DeBerardinis reported Penn DOT is doing their thing to get it fixed, maintain and mow down what's there. The township does not want to set a precedence on private property. John mentioned we have done this on private property when it's a public benefit allowing stormwater to move through the area and to prevent damage to other property owners. There was discussion to execute a written agreement with Hess to have the township do mowing on their property so the other parties can move forward. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to authorize J. Smethers draft an agreement with Hess Farms to mow / clean up their property. Vote: 5-0. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to authorize the LMBT Road Department to utilize the tool cat & brush hog to perform work on the Hess property after the agreement is fully executed. Vote: 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Ratify Resolution No. 2024-15 - MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by C. Cook to ratify Resolution No. 2024-15; authorizing the application for Monroe County LSA Grant Funds for the Construction of a Bandshell / Amphitheater at Riverton Park. Vote: 5-0.

**2. Ratify Resolution No. 2024-16 - MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to ratify Resolution No. 2024-16; authorizing the Application for Northampton County LSA Grant Funds for the Purchase of an AWD Vehicle for Administrative Staff Use. Vote: 5-0.

**3. Ratify Resolution No. 2024-17 - MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to ratify Resolution No. 2024-17; authorizing the Application for Northampton County LSA Grant Funds for the Purchase of a Rock Proof River Rescue Boat and Trailer for the LMB / Sandt's Eddy Volunteer Fire Company. Vote: 5-0.

**4. Discussion/Approval of Submitting Letter of Intent for Police Study – D. Ascani** provided the BOS with a letter of intent from the DCED to do a free policy survey for the Township. The feasibility study would give us a detailed report and recommendation to determine the costs of restarting the police force and whether the need exists. **MOTION** by D. Ascani, second by J. Mauser to authorize J. Smethers to fill out the letter of intent and submit to DCED. J. Smethers will call them first before submitting. Vote: 5-0.

**5. Approval of Resolution 2024-19** – The price for a new Brush Mower is going to be approximately \$135,000.00. Our current machine is 20 years old. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore authorizing J. Smethers to apply for the Statewide Local Share Account Funds for the Purchase of a Brush Mower at as Co-star price for the Road Department and trade or sell our current mower. Vote: 5-0.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to pay the bills in the amount of \$154,957.67. Vote: 5-0.

## **REPORTS**

### **Board Members Reports**

**D. Ascani** - Dave asked that someone drive around after dark and note the streetlights that are out and report those pole numbers to the office. This should be done quarterly. Dave would also like to work with J. Smethers in getting PPL to upgrade our lights to LED and possibly look into solar lights. C. Cook indicated there are problems with solar lights losing charge capability.

**J. Mauser** - John reported PPL transmission lines at the plant are being put up through the community. J. Smethers is going to sit down with H. Klein to discuss the sign rules and locations. J. Mauser will do a map of the installation areas and then discuss with J. Smethers. Tabled to the 10/21/24 Workshop meeting.

**Chairman's Report / Road master report** - M. DeBerardinis reported the Randolph's at 2323 Pennsylvania Ave. asked if they could dump fill at the Township Garage. There will be an onsite meeting before agreeing and make sure the fill is just shale. There is a dozer next to the property by the tennis courts at Centerfield (Blum). They have cleared way too much at the site and they need a NPDES permit. J. Smethers will contact NCCD immediately.

**S. Disidore** - Susan asked about the cell tower if we are still looking into; we might want to reconsider putting it at Riverton.

**Township Manager Report** - J. Smethers reported she has not heard back from Waste Management about the auto recycling totes if there would be any benefit to us. Cameras at Gravel Hill will hopefully put in this week. Jen looked into different collections, or a go fund me page for Hurricane Helen disaster relief. She suggested posting links of the various organizations that folks could donate to, then they can choose what they want. D. Ascani thought that's a great idea and put on our website and Facebook page. Jen mentioned HB 1976 is being introduced to the house amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for multiple-unit dwelling zoning ordinances; this would override our Zoning Ordinance. The BOS agreed to send a letter opposing those bills and send to Ann Flood. J. Smethers will draft those letters this will be on the BOS 10/21/24 meeting.

**Township Solicitor Report** - J. Zator submitted his written report and reported on Act 115. There was an amendment in 2022, but that won't affect what were looking to do. Joe is still working on the pension resolution.

**Road Department Report** - F. Heitzman reported the Road Department has mowed the perimeter at the Meadows & JMT trails, filled the bank on Old Franklin Hill Rd and guard rails, ordered pipe for replacement on Rossetti & 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., did brush mowing and trimming, heating system maintenance is being done by Air Professionals at Centerfield, Township garage and the Township office. They have also been cleaning up around the garage.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - G. Russo Sr. reported a property maintenance issue at 6375 Front St. The office staff will report this to the Zoning Officer.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary - Lower Mount Bethel Township