

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – JULY 15, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The July 15, 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. Smethers, M. Mastrogiovanni, J. Zator & Chris Briglia on behalf of J. Coyle. There were approximately 15 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Executive Session** – M. DeBerardinis announced there was an Executive Session tonight held from 6:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m. No action was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 3, 2024. MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by D. Ascani to approve the minutes as written. Vote: 4-0.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

**1. N. Palmeri** – Rec. Board update and pickleball lessons. Nicole thanked everyone for volunteering for Community Day, and H & K for their \$500.00 donation. Nicole discussed the outcome and profits from Community Day and noted it was a huge success. Upcoming Events are: The Fall Farmers Market tentatively scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> (we might change it to September 21<sup>st</sup> since the 28<sup>th</sup> is late for mums) time will be from 10 – 1 at Centerfield. Nicole can get the mums from Gift Box – 9” potted mums at \$4 a piece. Movie Night – October 11<sup>th</sup> (rain date October 12<sup>th</sup>) at Pacchioli Field.

Nicole reviewed with the Board of Supervisors the Pickleball information. The cost to the instructor would be \$450.00 for 4 consecutive weeks August 17<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup>. M. DeBerardinis suggested we engage interest by posting on Facebook to see what kind of response we receive and report back at the August 5<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting. Nicole requested to purchase 3 pickleball sets for sign out at the Township office. The Board had no objection. S. Disidore suggested making a copy of their driver’s license.

**2. Introduction of New Township Constable – John Hemple.** Mr. Hemple introduced himself and gave his background information. John will be attending basic training in August every weekend at Penn State, it’s an 80-hour course and then Firearm Training in September. D. Ascani explained the duties of the constable.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

**1. Tara Mezzanotte** – Rt. I-80 Retaining Wall Replacement Update. Tara was present and gave an update. The 611-rock formation rehabilitation and replacement needs retaining wall work. Tara will be back next month to ask the Supervisors to adopt another Resolution supporting the project.

**SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Approval to Purchase QRS Truck for LMB/Sandt’s Eddy Vol. Fire Co. (moved up from New Business)** – G. Russo discussed the new QRS truck and handouts were given to the Supervisors showing the equipment breakdown and cost. The Fire Company are not a certified EMS unit but allow them to assist in emergencies and provide care to their level of training. The grant received for the truck is \$80,000 and the cost will be \$81,562.00 (give or take \$200.00). 1

The truck will be in the Townships name. J. Smethers indicated since its reimbursement, we should use fire tax money to front costs and reimburse the account when funds are paid to the township. There is \$193,000 in the Fire Tax account. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to approve purchase of the 2024 QRS truck in the amount of \$81,562.00, plus or minus \$200.00, to be paid out of the Fire tax account and reimbursed once the grant money comes in. Vote: 4-0.

**2. Discussion on EMS Services in the Slate Belt** – G. Russo gave an update. There have been two meetings held at the UMBT Firehouse. The Fire Company, a few of the Supervisors and the manager have been attending. Cetronia EMS attended the last meeting to gauge the interest of the slate belt municipalities switching providers. Plainfield Township is not interested, and Washington Township didn't respond. J. Larrison mentioned the representative for Cetronia mentioned they like to stay withing the 15-minute response time. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by C. Cook to contact Cetronia letting them know were interested in their EMS / ALS Ambulance Service and see what they come back with. Vote: 4-0. J. Smethers mentioned the Public Safety Grant opens on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and will put that on the agenda in August.

**3. Approval to Plant Trees in the Meadows (moved up from New Business)** – R. Budihas was present and explained the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association received a grant to plant trees in the amount of \$3,700.00. The riparian buffer is eroding, and the trees will help secure the banks. They need about 70 trees but can afford 40-50. M. DeBerardinis asked Rich to send him a list of the trees they are looking to purchase to see if he can get a better price. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis to authorize the Martins Jacoby Watershed to plant trees in the lower part of the Meadows to provide more of a buffer and have the Road Crew assist with use of their backhoe. Vote: 4-0. Rich thanked the Fire Company for getting out the oil tank.

**3. Discussion/Approval of Public Works Cinder Shed Purchase** – J. Smethers indicated we have received two co-star bids; one for \$309,750 and one for \$341,050. If we go with the low bid, based on grants and budgeted funds, we are short \$47,875. We could take that from one of the following: Capital Equipment - \$201,409, Road Dept. Projects - \$266,772, Planning Funds - \$25,011 – Recommended since zoning/comp plan done Capital Improvement - \$53,815 (use planning and \$28,804 from here)

D. Ascani asked about using Liquid Fuel Money. M. DeBerardinis suggested we not use Liquid Fuel money, instead consider using Planning and Capital Improvements. Mike asked about the time it will take to receive the cinder5 shed. Jen noted completion of the project states 4-5 weeks. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis to award the bid to Lobar Associates for our new cinder shed in the amount of \$298,356.01. Balance of funds to be paid from Planning Funds \$25,011 & Capital Improvement \$28,804. Vote: 4-0.

**4. Authorization to Advertise for Professional Services for the Administration of a 401a and 457b Plan** – J. Smethers indicated this will start the process to obtain a new pension company since we have had so many problems with MetLife. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to advertise and get proposals for Professional Services for the Administration of a 401a and 457b Plan. Vote: 4-0.

**5. Discussion/Approval for Camera at Gravel Hill Road** - J. Smethers indicated Met-Ed said the street light pole at the intersection of Gravel Hill Road is owned by the township. We can put the camera right on our pole and connect to the power. We need to select a camera and connect the camera and internet. D. Ascani shared with the Board the estimate we received from J. Swanson Electric. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to approve J. Swanson Electric in the amount of \$2,350.00 with the condition that the Wi-Fi is hooked up and included in the price. Vote: 4-0.

**6. Elevation Study – Martins Creek Belvidere Highway/Hillendale Road** –Chris Briglia reviewed the Elevation and Drainage study with the Board. Chris noted he is very familiar with this existing drainage pipe and worked on this study with Justin. The channel drops approximately 9 feet from the outfall of the pipe (MCBH) to the invert of the box culvert (on Hillendale Road) and the drainage pipe has been undersized from the beginning. Chris suggested we get in touch with Penn DOT and send them a copy of this study. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to have J. Smethers work with Carroll Engineering to complete a formal letter to send to Penn DOT along with the study and cc our state reps. Vote: 4-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Appointment of Genevieve Terpstra to EAC.** **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to appoint Genevieve Terpstra to the EAC based upon the recommendation we received from the EAC. Vote: 4-0.

**2. Hunting Permits – 2024/2025 Season** – J. Mauser has revised the permit and plans. The Board tabled until next month when John is present.

**3. Discussion Regarding Del Haven Road Drainage Pipe – J. Smethers indicated** The Mauro family at 6480 Del Haven Rd. retained a geotechnical consultant who believes the pipe on Del Haven has settled and it no longer pitched properly. The geo-tech wants to meet with Justin. Fred thinks the pipe is fine. M. DeBerardinis also met with the resident. The Board agreed not to have Justin meet with the geo-tech.

**4. Acceptance of the Letter from Village Garden Club** – We received a letter from the garden club that they are no longer interested in maintaining the plants at Centerfield.

**MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis to acknowledge and accept receipt of the letter from the Village Garden Club dated June 7, 2024. Vote: 4-0.

**5. Resolution 2024-10 - Dissolve Centerfield Park Committee – MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis to adopt Resolution 2024-10 – Dissolving the Centerfield Park Committee due to the fact the playground equipment and tennis / pickleball courts are complete, the committee is no longer needed. Vote: 4-0. J. Smethers noted next month we will put on the agenda discussion to form a new LMBT Park Committee to advise on all the township parks in the event we get the grant for the bandshell at Riverton.

**6. Authorize Road Crew to Improve Ford off of DePues Road** – The Ford (stream crossing) off DePues Road is in need of repair. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to authorize the Road Department to repair and improve the Ford off DePues Ferry Road by placing shot rock at the top using the wheel loader to bring the materials down, at a convenient dry time when they can do the work. Vote: 4-0.

**7. Discussion/Authorize Township Solicitor to Amend Ordinance 2011-06 to Add Act 115 Revisions** – J. Zator discussed Act 115 with the Board of Supervisors. We would need to determine what is meant by “property acquired pursuant to this act” and if we can use the funds for all township parks/open space or just land acquired with the open space EIT. We will need to amend our ordinance if we want to utilize some of the open space EIT for development, improvements, design, engineering, and maintenance. D. Ascani suggested we talk to Maria Bentzoni from Farmland Preservation to see what open space funds can be used for.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to pay the bills in the amount of \$298,504.44. Vote: 5-0.

## **REPORTS**

**Chairman’s Report - None.**

### **Board Members Reports**

**D. Ascani** – Dave suggested we put in the newsletter if their streetlight is out, to contact Melissa at the office. We should also look into solar lights and get rid of the street light tax for those that have the tax.

**C. Cook** – Chris reported a big picnic that was held at the Riverton Park with over 75 people. They had grills and tents there and the State Police were called. The sign there needs to be updated specifying no grills or tents. J. Smethers will order a new sign.

**S. Disidore** – No report.

**Township Manager Report** - J. Smethers reported the baby stations that need to be installed in the Centerfield bathrooms are very difficult to put up, they need to be drilled into concrete steel. G. Russo gave her an estimate of \$900.00 to install. The Board had no objection.

**Township Solicitor Report** – J. Zator submitted his written report. #1 – Del Haven Road Stormwater / Melba Tolliver’s Easement for pipe can be taken off this report, no further action is needed.

**Road Department Report** – F. Heitzman reported they trimmed trees at the Tekening trails, mowed all the sides, re-routed Little Creek Road stream, blacktopped Garr Rd, installed a new pipe on Miller Rd. and blacktopped. Shannon has been mowing and they took stuff to the scrap yard. They put up street signs and stop signs.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Board of Supervisors Public Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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