

approved

LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER - The November 25, 2024, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 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 (zoom), J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were approximately 12 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was an Executive Session held from 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 4, 2024. MOTION by D. Ascani, second by C. Cook to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR - The following residents provided comments regarding P3's proposal to put a cell tower on the Township garage property: "

- 1). **E. Marzigliano** – Ed expressed his concerns and not a substantial tax savings.
- 2). **S. Wassel** – Sarah expressed her concerns with property values of homes.
- 3). **R. Ott** – Randy asked when this all started. He also mentioned he has a cell tower on his farm and has 6 more years left on the contract. M. DeBerardinis indicated P3 approached the township a few months ago to see if we were interested.
- 4). **G. Wisner** – Greg noted he lives behind the township garage and is concerned about the right-of-way and height of tower being outside his house.
- 5). **D. Jones** – Dwight noted his concern with the tower being right in front of his house and wants to learn more about it.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **P3 Towers Discussion/Approval on Whether or Not to Move Forward with Cell Tower.** The Board of Supervisors discussed and reviewed the P3 diagrams. J. Smethers mentioned the contract would be for 30 years. D. Ascani said this would bring revenue to the township to keep taxes down, but we need a happy medium to bring revenue to the township. The Board of Supervisors discussed the revenue the cell tower would bring in. J. Mauser noted for \$4,800 monthly revenue, he can't see making the residents upset. **MOTION** by D. Ascani,, second by C. Cook to not move forward with the Cell Phone Tower. Vote: 5-0. M. DeBerardinis thanked the residents for voicing their opinion.

2. **Approval of Adoption Agreement #001 Non-standardized Governmental profit Sharing/401k Plan** - J. Smethers indicated the new plan has the same terms as the plan being replaced and contains the elections applicable to the current plan. J. Zator submitted his memo and has no objection to approval of the plan. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve adoption of Agreement #001 Non-standardized Governmental profit Sharing/401k Plan. Vote: 5-0.

3. Approval of the Summary Plan Description for Lower Mount Bethel 401(a) Plan - J. Smethers indicated this is a summary of the plan provisions. It's the same as what we have now with no change except an additional match approved by the Board. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve the Summary Plan Description for Lower Mount Bethel 401(a) Plan. Vote: 5-0.

4. Approval of the Pre-Approved Governmental Defined Contribution Plan Basic Plan Document - J. Smethers indicated this contains the boilerplate language applicable to the Plan as approved by the IRS, including the duties and responsibilities of the Township and Trustee J. Zator has reviewed this document, his comments are in his memo, and he has no objection. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to Approve the Pre-Approved Governmental Defined Contribution Plan Basic Plan Document. Vote: 5-0.

5. Resolution 2024-21 Authorizing Action by Governing Board for the Restatement of Qualified Retirement Plan - **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to adopt Resolution 2024-21 Authorizing Action by Governing Board for the Restatement of Qualified Retirement Plan. Vote: 5-0.

6. Approval of Teamsters Local 773 Contract 2025-2028. J. Smethers indicated revisions have been made and Mark Laubach from the Teamsters agreed to keep out Memorial Day to Labor Day for Seasonal & Temporary Employees. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve the Teamsters Local 773 Contract 2025-2028. Vote: 5-0.

7. Gravel Hill Enterprise Tipping Fee Due Date. This was tabled from last meeting to confirm with J. Zator that we can just send a letter making a change to the due date, and don't have to amend the agreement. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to have J. Smethers draft a letter to Gravel Hill Enterprise allowing them a 10-day grace period (10 business days). Vote: 5-0.

8. Cinder Shed Timeline Discussion – M. DeBerardinis suggested we hold off on the project until Spring / Summer. J. Smethers indicated she did get a grant extension. The Board suggested we get a start date and completion date in the amended contract and if they don't comply, we try to get liquidated damages. J. Smethers noted we committed ARPA funds of \$150,000 to this project which must be used by next year. J. Smethers will reach out to the contractor and have a change order completed in writing. J. Mauser suggested we have J. Zator review the amended contract. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser approve postponing the cinder shed project to Spring / Summer with amended contract drawn up stating a start and completion date and include liquidated damages in the event they don't comply. Vote: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – J. Smethers indicated there were some additions to the bill list increasing the total payroll to \$24,738.80 for a total bill list of \$82,525.01. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to pay the bills in the amount of \$82,525.01. Vote: 5-0. D. Ascani asked about the Service Electric bill if that should be free for both phones and internet service. J. Smethers will check on that.

REPORTS

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers reported she has submitted a grant for the brush mower and is working on the Fire company grant. She had a zoom meeting for the State Police study with D. Ascani and M. DeBerardinis and the Chief of Slate Belt Regional. D. Ascani indicated Dave Metin came to us a few years ago to see if we were interested in joining Slate Belt Regional. We need more information to move forward with the Police study, but it's free of charge. Jen mentioned the tree was decorated by Mike, Fred & Mark and T. Hriczak volunteered his time and boom truck to assist. Dave suggested we consider Tyler to do our traffic light in the future instead of Telco, it might be cheaper. Jen mentioned we have some open committee positions. We will advertise according to the policy we set last year for appointment at the re-organization meeting.

Board Members Reports

Chairman – Mike mentioned we received an invitation to attend the meeting at the Bell Tower to discuss future events, so we don't overlap. N. Palmeri, M. Mastrogiovanni & J. Smethers are attending.

C. Cook – Chris reported the parking lot at Centerfield is pitch black and is concerned for safety purposes.

S. Disidore – No report.

J. Mauser – John reported they are scheduled to walk the entire watershed with Ryan and Nate and the property owners regarding draining and culvert issues on Martins Creek Belvidere Hwy. John will not be available, but he has already walked the entire watershed. Cars can be parked at different locations. Mike and Dave suggested we ask the farmers if they can bring their side-by-sides.

D. Ascani – Dave would like to investigate a traffic study/ordinance to limit trucks on township roads and post signs no trucks except local delivery. This will be put on our December agenda. J. Smethers will contact Forks Township.

Road Department Report – F. Heitzman reported they have been cleaning shoulders, cleaning out drains, leaf collection, put the spreader boxes on the trucks, some sign repairs, and maintenance to vehicles. Salt has been ordered and is coming tomorrow. Fred mentioned the bench at the Meadows was damaged. He will take a picture and send to J. Mauser.

PUBLIC COMMENT – J. Palmeri commented on re-signing front street. It's posted 35mph one way and 45mph coming into town. He asked about putting no parking signs on Township roads for the Bell Tower, so people don't drive into the ditch. Jen indicated signs would need to be ordained. Dave suggested wood railings. Fred noted that would interfere with snow removal.

ADJOURNMENT The Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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