

Approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER - The April 1, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063 (formerly known as Centerfield School). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael DeBerardinis at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Supervisor Disidore, Supervisor Burns, Supervisor Newman, J. Coyle, J. Zator, J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni. Absent: Supervisor Ascani. There were 6 people in the audience plus Fire Company members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 4, 2019 @ 7 P.M. – Corrections are underlined: Pg. 2, last paragraph should be Wells Fargo; Last page, 2nd paragraph They are going to be working. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to approve the minutes as amended. Vote: 4-0.

SUBDIVISIONS: None

SOLICITOR REPORT - J. Zator said he contacted Attorney Hogan regarding the P3 project and received a call back today. They are figuring out a date and time to meet.

ENGINEER REPORT - Approval to Advertise Upper Mud Run Road Project (retaining wall installation and slope stabilization). J. Coyle discussed the draft plan and sketch for the Upper Mud Run Road Stabilization project. The plans and specs were forwarded to J. Roback from Penn DOT for review since the project will be funded by Liquid Fuels. The projects estimated to cost will be about \$100,000 - \$125,000 and take about 4-6 weeks to be completed during the summer months when school is out. The Board discussed the vehicle data and justification to keep bridge 195 as a one lane bridge. J. Coyle noted the data concluded 240 cars going one way and 175 card the other direction. Penn DOT allows 1 lane bridges under 400 cars; he will pass on the information to Lamonte McClure.

MOTION by S. Newman, pending Penn DOT's approval approve advertisement of the bid specs for the Upper Mud Run Road projects, dates to be determined. **MOTION** amended by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to advertise the bid specs for 3 weeks for approval at the May BOS meeting. Vote: 4-0.

Authorize Township Engineer to review the Gravel Hill Permit: S. Newman suggested we touch base with DEP as soon as new submittals come in so LMBT would be notified right away. S. Disidore said it makes sense to get our Engineer involved to track from the 1st submittals. We can consider using the funding set aside for Gravel Hill and pay Engineering review costs out of that fund. Public Comment by Catherine Buehler –asked if the Engineer could consider recommending GHE provide an air quality monitoring system. Public Comment by Howard Klein – the Board could come up with a plan for monitoring applications. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to authorize the Township Engineer to review the Gravel Hill permit applications and highlight areas that may be pertinent to helping the township further their monitoring responsibilities, if and when this project comes to fruition. Vote: 4-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:

Howard Klein / Biosolids liaison for LMBT - He provided the BOS with articles re: sludge needs to be tested for “forever chemicals” before using as fertilizer. The article explains how a farmer in

Maine's milk was found contaminated. H. Klein asked the Board of Supervisors to send a letter to the Governor, Attorney General, Congressman and DEP that we need to be protected.

He would also like to see our surrounding municipalities join us in writing the letters. Plainfield's next meeting is on April 16th to discuss Synagro bringing in un-tested sludge from New Jersey and New York.

Keith Burns – he met with Michael Rampulla and Michael Rinker from Northampton County Emergency Management. He indicated himself and Mark Hess are meeting with them this Wednesday to move things forward with writing the Emergency Management Plan.

Gina Monaghan – 1891 Orchard St. She indicated after Good Road was repaved and raised 3 inches she has been having drainage problems. She would like to know who's responsible Penn DOT or the Township. There was discussion about the outlet pipe being buried. M. DeBerardinis said he would go look and make an assessment of the situation.

TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan Intermunicipal Agreement – The Board asked J. Zator to review the agreement and give his opinion before the next meeting on May. 1st. S. Newman indicated at the kick off meeting on March 20th, they asked that the 10 municipalities consider the draft scope of the work for the joint Comprehensive Plan and that each municipality establish a steering committee for future meetings. Also, LMBT would like all decisions to be unanimous. J. Zator mentioned he would like to find out if this would affect any grant involvement and if the township chose to pull out later, would there be ramifications to the township.

Lease Agreement LMBT / YMCA – J. Zator said he reviewed the agreement briefly and would like to make a couple of changes. He also asked the Township to have in place the Certificate of Insurance from the YMCA naming the Township and policy with endorsement number on certificate. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis that the Lease Agreement be approved pending Solicitors review and changes and J. Smethers can be authorized to sign the revised Lease Agreement. Vote: 4-0.

The Township Solicitor and Township Engineer were released from the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

LMBT/Sandt's Eddy Long Range Plan/Purchase New Pumper – Chief Jeff Larrison and Asst. Chief George Russo made a presentation to the Board of their Long-range plan and budget to purchase a new Pumper truck in 2020; New Rescue / Pumper in 2026 and New Pumper Tanker in 2030. The price for the New Pumper in 2020 would be \$404,989.00; they will be putting the down payment of \$109,000. The loan payments would be over 15 years and will take 1 year to build. S. Newman asked if we should have an agreement in place for possible fire company support from Ardent Mills; they are expanding their existing flour milling facility. The Planning Commission will be reviewing at their meeting in April and will send their comments to J. Larrison. J. Larrison indicated the last truck we purchased was by Resolution, that bank loan will be paid off next year. Resolution to purchase the new truck will be put on May BOS meeting for approval.

Resolution #2019-06 – DCNR Application for Meadow Creek – **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis to adopt Resolution #2019-06 appointing Jennifer Smethers as official to execute the Grant application documents for the DCNR grant Meadow Creek Lots 1, 2, & 3 Acquisition. Vote: 4-0.

Local Services Tax Collection Proposal – J. Smethers explained how the program works to collect current and delinquent local service tax; QuickBooks is not set up for this kind of collection and the fees are nominal. Current Local Service Tax – 1.75% of amount collected plus actual postage and zero commission for Delinquent Local Service Tax. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve Keystone Collections group to collect Current and Delinquent Local Services Tax. Vote: 4-0.

Appointment Deputy EMC (Mark Hess) **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to appoint Mark Hess as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. Vote: 4-0.

CF Kitchen deposit / Cleaning and inventory fee - S. Burns discussed with the Board a higher deposit for use of the Centerfield Kitchen and suggested \$500.00 deposit if using the stove and a lockbox on the gas. The Board discussed fees and deposit for using the stove and for not using the stove. The Board decided the fees to be: \$300.00 deposit; Cost of rental: Resident \$100.00 not using kitchen or stove, Non-resident \$150.00, Resident using stove - \$200.00, Non-resident using stove - \$300.00. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis to approve the new fees. Vote: 4-0.

Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan Intermunicipal Agreement – The Board discussed the recommendation that all decisions be a unanimous vote. J. Smethers suggested out of the 10 participating municipalities; that 3 Township agree on the vote. The steering committee can bring that idea to the next meeting on May. 1st. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore the 3-person steering committee members to represent LMBT shall be S. Disidore – Elected Official, S. Newman – Planning Commission and J. Smethers – Staff member. The Steering Committee shall represent the majority opinion of the Board of Supervisors. Vote: 4-0.

Public Works Truck – M DeBerardinis asked to purchase a new F550 truck (with a side tote body) for the Road Department to be paid out of the Capital Equipment Plan. J. Smethers provided the Board with the financing information from Embassy Bank, we were approved up to \$75,000.00 with a rate of 4.75% for 5 years. We would put 50% down from the Road Department equipment fund and finance the rest. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve purchase of the F550 truck with 50% down and finance 50%. Vote: 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – M. DeBerardinis read the Invoices totaling \$70,615.40. **MOTION** by S. Burns, second by S. Newman to approve the bills in the amount of \$70,615.40. Vote: 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Twp. Correspondence is available in the Township Office.

REPORTS:

a. Chairman's Report - M. DeBerardinis had no report.

b. Board Members Reports:

S. Burns – They are cleaning out the old equipment from the kitchen area, piano, couches and will clean and paint. She discussed with the Board the Emergency Operations Plan and Centerfield Building being an emergency center. We can look into building a wall along the back for storage and check with Shannon, Zoning Officer to see what kind of permits we need. There was discussion about upgrading the entrance and see if J. Smethers can look into grants.

S. Newman mentioned the draft Resolution presented for code of ethics & conduct for elected officials. S. Newman mentioned misuse of Social Media. Any suggestions can be given to J. Smethers. The Board though it was a good idea.

S. Newman updated the Board on the COG Executive Director position. John Brown was a candidate being considered, but they had some negative responses. Now other candidates are being considered and they are holding a special meeting for Thursday, April 4th to review those applications.

Supervisor Disidore – asked about Road Paving and bid specs.

e. Road Department Report – Fred Heitzman indicated there will be no bid specs for road paving this year. They are moving forward with the project on Upper Mud Run Road. Fred will be attending the Dirt and Gravel Road Seminar for the next 2 days. They have been doing some road patching, mowing the meadows and swept the roads. They painted the plows and the trucks have been inspected. There have been no real issues.

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers reported on getting estimates for scoping the well at the Welcome Center. A new well (\$10,960.00) and a well sleeve (\$1,610), but doesn't know if it would work. She also mentioned the ion-exchange system. M. DeBerardinis said he's not in favor of the ion-exchange system. The Board discussed various options. J. Mauser said he would like to see good water there. S. Newman mentioned run off from the Kiefer farm. The sludge is coming from Warminster / Philadelphia area. Warminster is now a clean up site. J. Smethers indicated DEP stated a possible caused of the fails might be the excessive rain we had last year.

PUBLIC COMMENT– None

EXECUTIVE SESSION & ADJOURNMENT – M. DeBerardinis recessed for Executive Session to discuss Personnel and adjourned the Public Meeting at 9:48 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary
Lower Mount Bethel Township*

