

Approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

The February 1, 2021 regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held via webinar. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7:23 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, P. McInerney, PC Chair., S. Calluori, J. Zator, P. North, J. Snook, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. There were 2 members of the audience present on the webinar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Executive Session – February 1, 2021. There was an Executive Session held from 6:30 p.m. – 7:23 p.m. for Personnel matters. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2021 Workshop Meeting. Revisions in bold: Pg. 1 – Paragraph 1 (a) **John** reviewed with the BOS; Pg. 3, #3 towards the bottom **especially** is spelled wrong. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve the minutes as amended. Roll call: J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Newman – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Vote: 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – Martha Poser, Rec. Bd. Chair. Use of Centerfield Building for Community Day. M. Posner discussed with the Board tentative dates of 8/21/21 or 8/28/21 for Community depending on the status of the virus. She spoke to J. Larrison and he is fine with either date. She also mentioned they would not be asking businesses for fundraising donations since a lot are just getting back on their feet. M. DeBerardinis said he's ok with those dates providing our health situation is under control. Martha said social distancing guidelines will be followed and the event would be held outside. There was discussion about the location; if it will be at Centerfield or the Jerry Brunetti Center. Martha indicated the Rec. Board is meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd, they will discuss and decide on the date and location.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None

OLD BUSINESS

1.Zoning Ordinance Update

a.Revisions to Article IV (incorporates former CAPZO). P. McInerney indicated they will be keeping the language for option of Landowner. S. Calluori and J. Snook discussed her concerns this afternoon as it applied to the Hess Subdivision from a few years ago. S. Calluori talked about that subdivision and the way CAPZO is written is vague. There was discussion about the CAPZO language and review of the diagram from P. North which depicts the options in CAPZO. J. Snook suggested adding to Pg. 12; Article 4 (2a) language except where lot line changes result from no additional lot. J. Zator explained CAPZO is very complex, he spent a lot of time putting it together incorporating PA case law. There was discussion about Article 4 (2b); that would only apply to CAPZO or this SALDO ordinance specifying lots 2 acres or less or more than 10 acres. J. Coyle suggested adding language to the SALDO Ordinance Amendment that lot line changes would not require a variance, if not smaller than required. P. North would suggest adding a provision to leave it up to the Zoning Hearing Board to decide. J. Snook suggested taking off language from 2(b) and adding to 1(a) that the applicant can apply for a variance. The Board agreed and preferred certain cases go for a variance rather than memorialize in zoning. S. Calluori mentioned clear lot line adjustments equal lots than the traditional definition of Subdivision's would then apply.

CAPZO applies if a lot is greater than 12 acres. J. Snook indicated J. Coyle and P. North's comments regarding parcels that don't conform can be incorporated into Pg. 3 and take (n) out of 2b.

b.RV's Clarification – Limits for the Village of Martins Creek (medium density residential).

P. McNerney indicated the number of homes in the Village that have RV'S, work trailers & boats are significant. S. Calluori responded the issue is too many RV'S and boats are not meeting the requirements to park in the rear yard / back of property. Also, in our Zoning it is not permitted to have more than 1 recreation vehicle. J. Snook reviewed this section with the Board. The Board agreed to leave the language as written. J. Snook will get all the revisions and text in a final draft form in the next few months. He will update us for the March meeting; the February 15th Workshop will be canceled.

2. SALDO Amendment – Ordinance to Provide Simplified Procedures for Lot Line

Adjustments and Mergers (Consolidations) - J. Snook indicated he incorporated J. Coyle's and P. North's recommendations. He also changed the numbering to the new codified version; the clean version incorporates all those changes. J. Snook suggested sending to LVPC for review, then after their review we can advertise for a Public Hearing. Once the Board approves the revisions, it can be referred to the LVPC and Township's PC for review and comment; then authorize advertisement of the proposed ordinance pending such reviews (or expiration of the 30-day period for the reviews) for adoption at a future meeting. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to authorize the Township Manager submit the SALDO Amendment – Ordinance to Provide Simplified Procedures for Lot Line Adjustments and Mergers (Consolidations) to the LVPC including "Exhibit A" and not advertise for a Public Hearing until we hear back from them. Roll Call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser– aye. Vote: 5-0.

3. Tax Collector Compensation Resolution – 2021-05. This was discussed at the last meeting.

MOTION by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to adopt Resolution 2021-05 setting the Compensation for the Elected Tax Collector for the year 2022 and annually thereafter fixed at \$3.00 per bill. The Tax Collector may continue to assess, collect and retain as compensation "Tax Collector Service". All other Ordinances and Resolutions inconsistent herewith are repealed. Roll Call: J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Vote: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - None

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS J. Smethers indicated there are no additions to the bill list. **MOTION**

by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore to pay the bills in the amount of \$64,215.16. Roll call: J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Vote: 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

REPORTS

Township Solicitor Report – J. Zator indicated his written report was submitted. No further comments.

Township Engineer Report – J. Coyle indicated the meeting with Penn DOT regarding Front Street has been postponed; we will have a pre-meeting prior to that meeting. Justin gave an update on the LMMR retaining wall failure; a drone was used to review the bulk of the site and Conceptual sketches to repair roadway and embankment will be prepared. He will coordinate with J. Smethers and the committee to meet on site to physically look at the drawing while walking the site; we are looking at a March – April time frame. The Planning Commission meeting was canceled for January and there were no new submissions. J. Zator and J. Coyle left the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Chairman's Report – M. DeBerardinis will report under the Road Department report.

Board Members Reports

J. Mauser – John reported Northampton County acquired the 94 acres along Little Creek Road; they will be putting in a passive park, parking lot & a bird watching area. John received a call from 3 hunters looking to acquire a permit to hunt turkey at the Meadows at Martins Creek, however Talen has already issued 200 permits for this year. M. DeBerardinis said they need to wait until next year when the permits are available again. John indicated they will be revising the official map at the Open Space Meeting; the Township needs to pick out areas we're interested in; possibly Pacchioli field. J. Smethers is going to apply for a grant to cover the costs of the official map. S. Newman agreed we should move ahead with the official map, maybe put \$5,000 aside to cover the cost. Sandra asked J. Mauser the status of the LMBT resident that had the sink hole issue on Del Haven Road. J. Mauser responded he has been working with Frank Brooks, DCED to get things moving forward, the County is going to cover the expenses.

S. Newman – Sandra reported on the status of the Rt. 80 Rockfall Mitigation Project. There was an article published in USA today regarding investigative articles relating to the NJ DOT Rockfall Remediation project. NJ Senator, Assemblyman and US Representative are conducting a Federal review. There are also 2 other NJ Rockfall mitigation projects in the final phase, one of which is on Rt. 78 scheduled during the same time that the Rt. 80 project is proposed. Also 3 ½ miles of roadway on Rt. 80 will be under construction to widen and reconfigure (304,304,306,307 – Monroe County). With these projects lasting 4-5 years, the traffic impact on our Township will be incredible. The statistics of the current traffic are 80,000 vehicles per day – 22% are trucks. We should mention those statistics at the meeting with Penn DOT regarding Front Street. Sandra mentioned at the COG meeting last week they told her the Street Sweeper is coming in at the end of February and will be providing ½ day training sessions for the Road Dept. to attend. They also will be selling one of two leaf vacs; we might want to consider purchasing one.

S. Burns – No report.

S. Disidore – No report.

Township Manager Report - J. Smethers indicated the Township office is closed on 2/15/21 for Presidents day, if there are no pressing issues, we should be able to cancel the Workshop meeting. She will be working on the paving bid, but that probably won't be ready until the March 1st meeting. The auditors will be starting the Township audit next week.

Zoning Officer Report – Written attached.

Road Department Report – M. DeBerardinis said if the office is closed tomorrow and we receive any complaints to let him know.

Public Comment – R. Grucella asked about political signs on people's property and if the Township can require them to remove them. J. Mauser responded if they have signs on their individual properties, there's nothing we can do if it's not in the Township right-of-way. However, the Township has the power to enact an ordinance regarding Political signs. J. Mauser and S. Newman agreed to research some other Townships such as UMBT, Forks, Bethlehem and Palmer.

Adjournment – The Public Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary – Lower Mt. Bethel Township