

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING – June 1, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

The June 1, 2020 meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7:15 p.m.

In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, J. Zator, Twp. Solicitor, J. Coyle, Twp. Engineer, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. There were 4 audience members present on the webinar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – M. DeBerardinis announced an Executive Session was held tonight prior to the meeting 7 – 7:15 p.m. to discuss Legal Issues. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 18, 2020. MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Newman – aye; Motion passed 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None.

Stormwater Presentation – J. Mauser did a PowerPoint presentation from 7:20 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.

Some Slides and information presented were:

- Delaware River Watershed – 190 miles LMBT from Delaware Bay
- Martins Creek Watershed is like a giant funnel – 44.69 sq. miles of stormwater run-off, all directed towards the Delaware River and the Village of Martins Creek.
- Slides showing Resorts from back in the 1950's; Reviewed facts about 100 year and 500-year flood; slides showing major floods of the Delaware River.
- Slide of the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service.
- Slides and information of the Floods of July 18, 1942 in N. Central Pa; 30 inches of rain fell in 5 hours which hit at the center of 3 Watersheds.
- Slides showing major damage to J. Mauser's house and deck from storms.
- Slides showing Creeks & Streams flooding and the damage caused from those Creeks and Streams.
- Slides showing steep slopes and the dilemma caused by steep slopes. Also, the amount of culverts and bridges we have is an issue.
- J. Mauser mentioned there are a lot of preserved farms in LMBT.
- J. Mauser indicated Richard Garr Road, which is in LMBT & Forks Township has stormwater issues we need to be aware of. The presentation ended. No Public Comment.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING - None

OLD BUSINESS

a.5888 Upper Mud Run Road – Joe Guest was present (via zoom). M. DeBerardinis indicated he met on site with J. Coyle & Joe Guest. This is a follow-up to the work that was discussed between Joe and the township back in 2015/2016. At that time a settlement agreement and release were prepared, but the agreement legally couldn't be resolved and the work was not completed. J. Guest explained he is looking to hire a contractor to replace the 80' pipe along the front of his property and ask the township to install the box drain.

M. DeBerardinis said we could simplify the easement agreement to allow the Township to annually clean the access culvert. J. Zator agreed, the agreement can be made much simpler. J. Coyle will attach a simple diagram to the easement agreement and then all parties can review. The Board agreed. S. Newman asked J. Guest the approximate time frame construction will begin. J. Guest said he would hope to move forward in June.

b. Updated Reopening Procedures – J. Smethers indicated Northampton County is anticipated to move to yellow on June 5th. She reviewed with the Board reopening procedures and asked if we want to continue virtual meetings or move to in person meeting. J. Smethers explained we have a UCC appeal that came in for Ardent Mills. Gary Asteak, the COG UCC Board of Appeals attorney would like an in-person hearing. Also, Mike Kaplin, who filed the ZHB Appeal, wants an in-person hearing. J. Zator reviewed Act. 15 and indicated if the applicant agrees to give an extension to the Township, then the hearing can be postponed. If the applicant does not agree to an extension; then the Zoning Hearing Board has the right to conduct the virtual meeting. M. DeBerardinis would suggest virtual meetings continue until we go green. The Board agreed. J. Zator noted most Municipalities are taking that approach. J. Smethers also asked the Board about rental of Centerfield and the pavilions. S. Newman suggested we keep everything closed until further notice for safety purposes. The Board agreed.

J. Smethers spoke about the return of Amanda and John (Zoning). She spoke to Matt from Barry Issett's office and apparently John will not be available to us any time soon. J. Smethers mentioned how Zoning has really picked up and Shannon is phasing the work over to Amanda. She asked the Board if they are ok with Amanda being the primary person in the office until John comes back. J. Zator asked if both were appointed by Resolution. J. Smethers indicated John was appointed as Primary and Amanda as Alternate. The Board asked that a brief Executive Session be conducted at the end to discuss further.

NEW BUSINESS - None

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – J. Smethers indicated the bills total \$34,092.41. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve paying the bills. Roll call: J. Mauser – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE – All correspondence are located in the Township Office.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report – M. DeBerardinis indicated the Jack Kinney Martins Creek Athletic Association has made a request to transfer the money we pay them for grass cutting directly into their Merchants account. S. Disidore said they still need to submit invoices for auditing purposes, and would suggest we continue paying them the same as we have done in the past. The Board agreed to keep it the same.

Board Members Reports

John Mauser – He reported the Road Dept. are keeping the parks & trails maintained and in good condition.

J. Mauser and S. Burns asked to discuss truck traffic on 611 and dirt from trucks on Front Street. S. Burns indicated there is a tremendous amount of trucks and they are going way to fast and are not being cleaned. J. Mauser said we might want to explore taking the road back and traffic calming. S. Burns also suggested we post and bond the quarry if we take the Road back. She will find out more information from LTAP. J. Zator indicated there are procedures in the PSATS news for posting and bonding a Township Road. S. Burns mentioned we would also receive liquid fuels money for paving of the road. S. Burns will put the facts and statistics together for the Board to review.

M. Deberardinis also asked S. Burns to provide facts for maintenance and costs. J. Smethers noted she spoke to Rusty from the plant and he said they are street sweeping and washing the trucks. S. Burns responded her video shows there is no water behind the trucks and are not washing the trucks. She also mentioned Tatamy is widening their road and there is a new warehouse going up. She would like to see us do something before that warehouse opens. S. Newman mentioned UMBT 750 acres has been purchased by a developer, we need to be proactive. J. Mauser stated a few years back he wouldn't have considered taking the road back, but now considering the increased truck traffic would like to look into it. M. DeBerardinis will contact Jeff Roback from Penn DOT to discuss our options.

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers indicated she is still working on the new pension and would like to put the proposal out to bid. J. Zator wasn't sure if this is something that would need to go out to bid. J. Smethers said she submitted the CDBG grant for the Fire Dept. to the County. It's a \$10,000 local shared grant.

Township Solicitor Report Township Solicitor Report – Written report submitted. We received additional email correspondence from Dean Ritter re: GHE.

Township Engineer Report - J. Coyle is in the process of reviewing the Gravel Hill Individual permit (originally submitted was a General Permit). He will also review the letter from July. A follow up letter needs to be sent. We also received emails from Dean Ritter today. He is in the process of reviewing those emails and revised submission. He will be drafting a letter to DEP. J. Coyle indicated in the next 6-9 months, both permits could be approved; but more conditions could be attached.

J. Coyle indicated he will collaborate with M. DeBerardinis re: the Fairview Ave. project. Once they start the project, they might have to make field modifications to supplement the dry wells. J. Coyle mentioned the Little Creek Road P-3 bridge project. The independent engineer did his site visit and that engineer had agreed with J. Coyle's determination re: the size of the bridge. It came back as a 71 rating and could be rehabbed. Next week he is doing the final inspection for Ardent Mills and will send J. Zator and the Township the final paperwork.

Zoning Officer Report - J. Smethers asked the Board if they want to take a position for or against, Mike Kaplin Trucking ZHB Appeal. The meeting won't be any time soon. The Board decided to Table for now.

Road Department Report – M. DeBerardinis reported the Road Dept. is continuing to mow all the parks and maintaining the trails. Once the box culverts come in for the Fairview Ave Project, they will schedule the project to start and will notify the residents.

Rich Grucella asked if they scheduled an actual start date for the Fairview Avenue project. M. DeBerardinis said they will schedule a date once the box culverts come in. R. Grucella said he appreciated the presentation; he was a State Rep. when a lot of the damage occurred.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Gary Landry commented how informative the presentation was.

ADJOURNMENT - The Public Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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