

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

The March 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 7:00 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, J. Coyle, Twp. Engineer, P. North, Twp. Solicitor, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. There were 4 members of the audience present on the webinar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Executive Session – None.

Approval of Minutes– February 1, 2021. No revisions were made. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: S. Burns – aye; S. Newman – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Vote: 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

1.Martha Posner – Rec. Board Chair – Community Day Update and plant sale. Martha indicated the Rec. Board set the date for Community Day for Sat. August 21st, with a rain date of Sat. August 28th to be held at the Jerry Brunetti Welcome Center, depending on the status of COVID 19. By early July we should know for certain and the Fire Dept. is good with both dates. The Rec. Board would like to have old fashioned fair type games, popcorn, cotton candy and make medals out of cookies for prizes and possibly a bake sale. All CDC guidelines will be followed. Martha asked if we can look into purchasing a Volleyball net and hopefully the gaga pit & free little library will be up and running for all to see. The Rec. Board also discussed photos being displayed in honor of Libby Bush up at the Centerfield Building; and also open up to the Community an opportunity for those to suggest honoring others. S. Disidore mentioned the Township adopted a Resolution for Bert Pitoni and suggested doing this in memory of Libby Bush and any other nominations. Martha mentioned for next year the possibility of a 5k walk / run. In June the Rec. Board would like to have a plant & flower sale in front of the Township office Saturday, June 12th with a rain date of Sunday, June 13th. J. Smethers will check the status of the grant she applied for regarding Community Day. The Rec. Board will discuss Movies in the Park at their next meeting. The Board agreed to purchase the equipment already budgeted for Movies in the Park.

2.Jeff Larrison, Fire Chief – Jeff Larrison was present and asked the Board for approval to hold the car show Sunday, October 24th with a rain date of Saturday, October 30th. He said the area they use is 275,000 sq. feet. So, with the COVID rules, they could have 921 people present outside. They don't come close to that number of attendees and people come and go throughout the day. The Governor also lifted restrictions today (J. Smethers provided the Board with the updated guidelines) which increases outdoor maximum capacity to 15%. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the Sandt's Eddy Fire Company's Annual Car Show for Sunday, October 24th with a rain date of Saturday, October 30. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye; Vote: 5-0.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None

OLD BUSINESS

1.First Net Cell Phones – J. Smethers reviewed with the Board an estimate she received from FirstNet for cellphones for her and all the BOS and the road department. The total monthly cost is \$345.00 for unlimited minutes, text and data (hot spot is an extra \$5/mo./phone). Jen also contacted Verizon on whether or not they offer a dedicated network like FirstNet, but they never got back to her. We currently pay \$167/mo. for her smartphone and 3 flip phones for the road crew – and it is not a dedicated network. She also asked if we can add on Melissa because when working from home, the Township phone is transferred to her personal cell phone. The Board agreed to have J. Smethers move forward with the First Net Cell Phones.

2.Credit Card/Online Payment Processing – J. Smethers explained she had ordered the Square Terminal and explained issues she had with the system requiring set up with her Social Security number, the system would not allow her to put the Township EIN number. She provided the Board with other options she's looking into. They discussed the transaction interchange fees involved for Xpress pay, there is also a minimum monthly charge of \$30.00 for the service. Jen suggested they set a flat convenience fee of possibly \$2.50 and not allow e-checks which charges .75 per transaction. Jen indicated there is a \$300.00 set up fee and \$75.00 for the reading machine she would like to have something set up by street light assessment bills. Jen will provide an update once she has more information.

NEW BUSINESS

1.Sanitation Contract – J. Smethers indicated the contract needs to go out to bid within a month or so. Jen indicated she updated the last set of bidding documents adding Christmas tree pickup and took out language regarding toters. Also glass might not be recyclable. P. North indicated their office should be involved with the process and suggested an informal meeting with the contractors before the formal bidding process begins. There was discussion about a 3-, 4-, or 5-year contract. S. Disidore mentioned the last bids we asked for a 3-year bid and a 5-year bid. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to authorize Zator law to review and prepare the sanitation bids for a cap of 5 hours of legal review. P. North indicated the 5 hours would not include meeting with the haulers, he would need additional time for that. **MOTION** amended by S. Disidore, second amended by J. Mauser to include some additional time billed for P. North to meet with haulers. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Vote: 5-0.

2.Online Bill Payments – Jen indicated due to the mail situation lately being so slow, could she get permission to pay bills on-line for invoices that come in and are due within a few days and add those to the bill list. J. Mauser said he is in favor of online payments and even electronic invoices that can be received from businesses that service the Township. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to allow the Township Manager to pay bills electronically and request electronic invoices due to the conditions of slow mail delivery. Those bills that were paid will be added to the expense approval report. **MOTION** amended by J. Mauser second amended by S. Burns that those electronic payments will be noted on the bill list. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Vote: 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to pay the bills in the amount of \$113,607.19. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye. Vote: 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

J. Zator joined the zoom meeting at 8:20 p.m.

REPORTS

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

b. Township Solicitor Report – Written report attached. No further comments.

c. Township Engineer Report – J. Coyle reported February has been a very busy month. Justin, S. Burns, J. Mauser and J. Smethers attended a meeting with Penn DOT regarding the Front Street road turnback. At that meeting they reviewed the Traffic Study completed by Carroll Engineering. Penn DOT was not in favor of posting Front Street and restricting trucks, however they did not shoot down the idea of a roadway swap of Lower Mud Run Rd. for Front Street. They will be coordinating another meeting in the future with the Municipal Township Coordinator. Justin attended a meeting with J. Larrison, Fire Chief, T. Harper, Zator law and S. Smethers regarding the Deficient Fire Protection Safety Plan. J. Larrison is an expert as the Fire Chief and should be able to come up with a sufficient plan. Justin indicated he did a site investigation of Upper Mud Run Road and is putting together an alternative solution to include geotextile material along all areas with ground contact. A small section of the road would have to be studied and could put stop signs at each end. S. Newman mentioned Hope in Warren County. Heavy truck traffic through town is problematic and Hope is asking Warren County to support an alternate route and get some State Reps involved. Roadway flooding at intersection in Geraldine Court was discussed. Justin mentioned the successful Fairview Ave, project - residents were pleased, it was inexpensive and effective, and would like to do more in the Township. Could be an effective solution to the flooding in Geraldine Court. J. Zator P. North and J. Coyle left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

d. Board Members Reports

S. Burns – No report.

S. Newman – Sandra gave a report on the COG. The sewer jetty and tar buggy can be picked up from the COG office by the Road Department. The COG has 1 leaf vac for sale; We are interested in purchasing and so are Plainfield and Wind Gap. The street sweeper is in; someone from our Road Department needs to attend the training session.

e. Township Manager Report - Written report attached.

f. Zoning Officer Report – Kaplin. There was discussion if we can force Kaplin to have a Zoom meeting possibly in April. This was already addressed by J. Zator. J. Smethers will follow up with J. Zator to see what he recommends.

g. Road Department Report – M. DeBerardinis indicated our salt shed is full, we had very minimal issues with the snow, just one truck was down at the end. J. Smethers indicated Fred Heitzman will work on the Road paving project measurements once the snow melts. She hopes to have the information ready for the second meeting in March or April 1st. M. DeBerardinis indicated it won't be better pricing early, since the price of oil is very high.

Update on

R. Grucella's request regarding removal of political signs. We can address this in the future after our new Zoning Ordinance is in place.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT – The Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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