

LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – May 1, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – The May 1, 2023, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held in person at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063 (formerly known as Centerfield School), Martins Creek, PA, 18063. 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. Zator, J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were 9 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 3, 2023. No further corrections. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

1. **R. Marinelli** – Regina indicated the Open Space Committee revised their checklist to reflect a total max point to be 100. They got rid of the differential between farm parcel and non-farm parcel. It is consolidated and much easier to read. This will be on the June 5th BOS meeting agenda for approval.
2. **J. Matthews** – Jeff stated last year the BOS voted to raise taxes, he mentioned the minutes weren't put on the website. He looked over the budget and staff were given raises. Jeff noted every month the BOS approves the bills and asked if they are a public record, he would like to get a copy of the bill list and last year's audit. J. Smethers noted they are a public record, if he wants those documents, he could put in a records request.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING

NEW BUSINESS

1. **General Code Proposal Supplement No. 2** – J. Smethers indicated since the new zoning ordinance has passed, we need to update the code on the website (E-Code 360) Currently it is only listed on our website under new law. Jen budgeted \$15,125 for this based upon an estimate from last year. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to have J. Smethers move forward with General Code in codifying our new ordinance with E-Code 360 for the amount of \$17,000 or less. Vote: 5-0.
2. **Computer Networking & Repair Proposal** – J. Smethers submitted a proposal to upgrade our server for added cyber security and to store our files in the cloud. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by S. Burns to approve the estimate of \$2,192.00 to Computer Networking & Repair to upgrade our server. Vote: 5-0.
3. **Authorization to Join Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN)** – J. Smethers indicated KPN is similar to Co-stars. It is free to join and provides access to state contracts that have already gone through a public bid process; also, to get an estimate for the cinder shed construction for the Grow NorCo grant she is working on. Justin recommended Lobar Associates for the project and they are approved through KPN. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to authorize J. Smethers to join Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN). Vote: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

4. **Approval of the Road Paving Project** –Little Creek Road - M. DeBerardinis indicated we received 3 bids for the Little Creek Road paving project with H & K being the lowest bidder in the amount of \$199,132.00. J. Smethers indicated we have \$190,000.00 in the Liquid Fuels budget and can take \$9,000 from a different fund to cover the additional costs. Jen also has talked to the County regarding the bridges and the county will be taking care of paving the bridges. H & K is going to mill back 10 feet to tie into the bridges. Fred indicated they will scratch coat and lay 1 ½ inches of asphalt on top, mill the joints and place 4” double yellow lines. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to award the Road Paving Bid for Little Creek Road to H & K Group in the amount of \$199,132.00. Vote: 5-0.

5. **Hunting permits for 2023/2024** - J. Mauser indicated we still have a deer management problem, last year we issued 150 permits for the Meadows and JMT and only ½ reported their harvest. John mentioned Tyler Barnes is gone, John will sit down with the new Game Commission Lehigh County rep. and talk to Talen to see if they will open their property back up. M. DeBerardinis noted those that did not report their harvest will not be issued a permit for the 2024 hunting season.

6. **Martins Creek Belvidere Highway Road Culvert** – J. Mauser gave a power point presentation of the Stormwater issues by Kiefer, Hess and Vishnesky property. John indicated he has been working with all parties. The stormwater runoff is going directly to the Vishnesky property, then the road is flooding, and culvert water goes right back into the development. The slideshow projected pictures in 2020 water going across Martins Creek – Belvidere Hwy. In 2021 – the water flowed right to Vishnesky’s property, so deep that cars could get stuck. The next day, the water went directly into the main floor of Vishnesky house. Graphing showed we have hit 5-inch storms of the past 5-6 years; leaning towards a 25-year storm. Yetter property compared to Kiefer property does not have good infiltration; 100 acres of Kiefer’s property has poor infiltration; 461 of Yetter’s property has poor infiltration. John explained how the sediment fills up the pipe and is always half full and the pipe is grossly undersized. J. Smethers will contact Penn DOT and set up a meeting with her, J. Mauser & M. DeBerardinis. S. Newman mentioned Penn DOT are tar & chipping on Martins Creek- Belvidere Hwy. so, it would be a good time for them to check it out.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Burns to pay the bills in the amount of \$67,440.19. Vote: 5-0.

REPORTS

Township Solicitor Report – J. Zator submitted his written report. Joe also mentioned the email received from DEP regarding the approval construction certification for Gravel Hill Enterprise. S. Newman said we need those cameras put in place there.

Chairman’s Report - Mike reported that he met with J. Coyle regarding the drainage issue on 3rd Ave. J. Coyle will give us a cost estimate of what engineering will cost; then determine what drainage will cost to rectify the problem. Also, we can look into grants available for large projects like this. This will be put on the June 5th BOS meeting. J. Coyle will have basic numbers for us and will discuss options with the BOS at that meeting.

Board Members Reports

S. Disidore - Susan mentioned Portland withdrew from the Slate Belt Intermunicipal Comprehensive Plan., four of the new council members for Portland voted it out. Becky Bradley is going to Portland tonight to educate them to see if they will re-visit staying in the plan.

J. Mauser – John did a slideshow on the LMBT parks. Laura Jo Jameson, a volunteer takes care of the bird boxes, we sometimes even get tree sparrows. There is a 25x25 ft sink hole forming on the JMT, the Road department is cutting the macadam out and will mound up the soil to stop the water from forming. We will ask J. Coyle to check it. John indicated the Road Department is doing a fantastic job maintaining all the parks and trails; they are using wood chips for trail toppings and asked to have them put more sticky stuff at the spotted lantern fly traps and clean them out. The Road Department is replacing boards at the Jerry Brunetti Welcome Center that connects to the parking lot. The EAC had their clean up day and presented their dedication plaque for Jerry Brunetti. The Mud Run Conservation area has a nice stream with trout at the old railroad trestle. S. Newman mentioned they had fewer volunteers this year at the Earth Clean-up day. The EAC all attended the E-Cycling event last Saturday; it would be nice to send them a thank you.

S. Burns – no report.

M. DeBerardinis asked about the status of the pole on Old Franklin Hill Rd. F. Heitzman will get the pole number for the office to follow up.

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers received 2 estimates for the large tree that needs to be removed on Little Creek Road before the paving projects starts. K & R came in at \$600.00 and Hess at \$800.00. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve K & R's estimate for \$600.00 to take down the tree on Little Creek Rd. to be removed in May. Vote: 5-0.

Road Department Report – M. DeBerardinis met with J. Coyle regarding the drainage issue on 3rd avenue. J. Coyle will give us a cost of what engineering will be, then will determine what drainage will cost and if there are grants available for large projects such as this. At the next BOS meeting, Justin will have basic numbers for us and if we move forward, put it out to bid. F. Heitzman reported they are getting the paver ready for spot paving on Little Creek Road, sweeping roads with broom, mowing, patching and had the truck inspected. S. Newman thanked the Road Foreman and Road Master for all the hard work they do.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – The Board of Supervisors Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary / Planning Administrator
Lower Mount Bethel Township