

Approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING - July 2, 2020 @ 4:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

The July 2, 2020 special meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 4:32 p.m.

In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns & J. Smethers, Twp. There were no audience members present on the webinar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Courtesy of the floor – None. M. DeBerardinis explained that the special meeting is to discuss Covid-19 reopening procedures. The email requests that came in today will not be on the agenda and would have to be moved to the regular July meeting. Requests to be on the agenda need to be a week in advance of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Reopening: J. Smethers explained the point of the meeting was to address the reopening of pavilions, playgrounds, Centerfield lower level and gym, Welcome Center bathrooms, and field rentals. Also, how handle meetings (in-person or virtual), signage, camping and car show. The Board discussed opening of the following facilities:

b. Pavilions, Playgrounds, Field Rentals: S. Disidore – She expressed her concern about reopening. S. Burns stated that people are using the pavilions anyway so we should get the fee for it. Also, we then know who is using the facilities because we have the application. J. Mauser stated that state parks are open and people are responsible for their own sanitation and safety.

M. Deberardinis - He was ok with reopening outside facilities only.

S. Newman – She was opposed to all openings and said that as elected officials they need to look out for the well-being of the residents. M. DeBerardinis said that they are looking out for residents by not opening inside facilities.

After discussion, **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns to open the following facilities.

Pavilion – open

Playgrounds – open

Centerfield gym

Field Rentals – open

Vote was 4-1 with S. Newman voting “no”.

The Board agreed to have a waiver signed stating “use at own risk”. The waiver also needs to state to follow the governor’s and CDC guidelines for social distancing, masks, etc. People will be responsible for sanitizing the facilities used. During green, outside will be open and indoor not permitted.

c. Centerfield Lower Level, Centerfield Gym and Welcome Center Bathrooms: Will remain Closed

d. Meetings – Virtual or in-person: The Board discussed and decided to continue Virtual Meetings.

e. Car Show: The Board discussed whether or not to cancel the car show this year. S. Burns indicated the Rec. Board will not be participating in the car show. S. Disidore asked about the 250 limit and was hesitant to approve the field if over 250 people will be attending. J. Smethers confirmed there will be no outside gathering over 250 per the governor's orders. S. Newman referenced the CDC stating the longer people are together, the more likely they can contract COVID. M. DeBerardinis suggested the Fire Company do a parade of cars, which could allow donations of the registration fees or figure out something else. The set up for car show includes setting up Friday at 6 pm and then they camp overnight. The Board asked J. Smethers to reach out to Jeff Larrison to discuss different options to proceed. Tabled until the BOS July 13th meeting.

f. DCNR Camping at Riverton:

J. Mauser explained everyone will wear masks, sign a waiver and American Canoe Club regs will be followed. They will also pay a \$250 watershed damage deposit. This is an experiment to go forward and explore camping policies for other non-profit groups. The event would be held 9/4 and 9/5. They will camp in car show area and have 3 camp fires by a raised burning platform system. They would arrive Friday at 6 pm to camp and break down the camp at 8 am. S. Newman stated her concern with setting a precedent, since it's not designed as camp ground.

J. Mauser stated it's not a large car show venue either. There will only be 25 people, not 250 like the car show. S. Disidore mentioned the car show is more than 250. She also said she has nothing against DCNR camping, but why is DCNR doing the experiment and not the Girl Scouts.

J. Smethers indicated no one else has asked to camp out since she has been here

There was discussion if any other municipalities allow this. J. Mauser indicated Allen Township.

John said car show camps out overnight too. Some cars come the night before and then stay with car. S. Disidore and S. Newman were unaware of that.

S. Newman mentioned there is only one porta-potty there.

J. Mauser indicated one year the group stayed inside the Seaport Museum.

Samantha asked to hold off on voting – said she's like to hear both parties and doesn't want to seem like they are showing favoritism. If postponed, the Fire Company will be at the next meeting too.

S. Disidore asked if approved, she would ask to include the township waiver in the camper package. Tabled until the BOS July 13th meeting.

g. Signage:

The Board reviewed the signs, clarified some modifications to be made.

Dogs on leash sign – This sign should be blue with white border. 12 X 18

J. Mauser questioned if the signs should be painted. S. Newman said they will be a lot more expensive painted. J. Smethers will get quotes for 9 metal signs with pressed letters to be placed; (4) at The Welcome Center/Riverton, (2) at JMT, (1) at Kiefer, (1) at Centerfield and (1) at The Meadows.

Park rules sign – This is for the Meadows. J. Mauser showed an example from JMT/Riverton, but needs to be modified for The Meadows as follows: Bullet one – take out "along the river" Hunting should read "Only archery hunting is permitted. A Talen/LMBT permit is required." For the pets line instead of "should" change to "must", take out "Commercial use of Boat Access Area by permit only", Add "no horseback riding", Add no cutting trees and shrubs One sign is needed and shall be Green background w/ white border. Metal with pressed letters

J. Smethers explained that the signs for park usage and COVID will be printed on election type boards. The prior approved sign will be used while our playgrounds and pavilions are closed. That way they can be reused if we go back to yellow. We will post the Waiver of COVID Liability sign too. S. Disidore asked if we could add Lower Mount Bethel Township to the top of the COVID waiver sign. (9) of each are needed – 24 x 18. Motion by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns to approve moving forward with getting quotes for all the signs. Vote - 5-0.

h. Yard Sale:

Jen explained that Megan Jenkins is organizing a community yard sale. One resident on Howell Rd. and one on 611 wants to use the township yard/parking lot. S. Disidore questioned what if 10 other want to use the township area, too. M. Deberardinis stated they should just ask a neighbor in the village. J. Mauser liked the idea of the community yard sale. The Board agreed not to allow use of the Township yard / parking lot since we wouldn't be able to control the number of users.

Approval of the bills. J. Smethers stated \$3,170.25 needs to be added to the total expenses for MetLife, Total is actually \$3,749.56. Motion by M. Deberardinis, second by S. Newman to pay the bills. Vote: 5-0

CORRESPONDENCE - All correspondence is on file in the Township Office.

Reports:

S. Newman – She asked the letter of request from the EAC be on the on the July 13th agenda.

S. Burns – No report.

S. Disidore – She said we did not put an occupancy limit on the pavilion. The Board discussed. She suggested a 100 max. Motion by J. Mauser, second by M. Deberardinis to allow 100 maximum occupancy for the Pavilions. Vote: 5-0

M. Deberardinis – He reported the status of the Fairview timeline: Box culverts have been picked up, Tuesday, he has a meeting scheduled with the Twp. engineer and F. Heitzman to mark the road. Thereafter, they will decide on a start date, they won't do it during the road paving project. Once the layout is complete, residents will be contacted with dates of the project. They will do one grate at a time so they don't block the road way

J. Smethers – No report.

Public comment:

Richard Pulcini – He was upset he was not on the agenda as “old business” and was told by email from someone at the Twp. office that it was not going to be on agenda. M. DeBerardinis explained this was a special meeting to discuss COVID related matters. The Public is given a right to comment under public comment.

Rich Grucela – No Comment.

Mary Pulcini – Thanked Mike and said she was glad the project came to fruition.

The Special Meeting was Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Smethers, Township Manager