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**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER - The March 2, 2020 Regular monthly meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Centerfield School Municipal Complex, 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 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, J. Zator, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. S. Burns was absent. There were 17 people in the audience.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS – M. DeBerardinis announced Executive Sessions were held on Feb. 13th, Feb. 20th and Feb. 24th – Personnel. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 3, 2020. No revisions needed. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to approve the minutes. Vote: 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS - None

1. Martha Posner – Rec. Board Report. She asked the Board for approval for the following events:

- a. Community Read – April 18th 1-3 p.m. @ CF
- b. Community Day – Saturday, June 13th, 12-3 p.m. @ CF
- c. Pot Luck – Saturday, Sept. 19th 5-7 p.m. @ the Twp. Bldg. and to approve Franklin Hill Winery providing wine for this event, both for purchase by the glass and bottles to go. Franklin Hill Winery will provide all insurance for the event.
- d. Possibility of purchasing room dividers for CF. The Board took no action.
- e. J. Larrison asked the Board to also asked approval for the Car Show – Saturday, October 24th

MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve all dates including the car show. Vote: 4-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Catherine Buehler – She indicated she put questions in writing to the Township Manager on February 13th and asked if the Board has answers. M. DeBerardinis indicated the BOS has not received answers from J. Zator as of yet. J. Zator responded they would need to discuss in an Executive Session and thereafter should have answers prior to the April 6th BOS meeting. H. Klein indicated there is a sense of urgency to get answers to these questions.

Howard Klein – He mentioned furnishing the Board a copy of the Farmers Union Policy Statement which is a policy against sludge. Waste Management is applying to Plainfield BOS for an expansion of their dump. Thereafter, Synagro may re-apply for the processing plant. H. Klein mentioned UMBT had a public meeting re: purchase of 735 acres by River Rd. (Marshfield). They could possibly put in 5 mill. sq. ft. of manufacturing & warehousing in 13 separate buildings. It could generate 4,500 jobs. Questions are where are all these people going to live? Where are they

coming from? We need to take a good look at our Zoning Ordinance and Multi-family housing. This will change UMBT forever and could ultimately affect LMBT.

Jeff Larrison – He spoke about the dangers with traffic and overabundance of people at the voting center at Centerfield. Signs should be put up at the Centerfield building before someone gets hurt. J. Mauser suggested we look into splitting it up with 1 voting zone at Centerfield and 1 zone at the Welcome Center. David Ascani responded and suggested taking the tennis courts down for parking at Centerfield. M. Posner added we were told it's unsafe for Community Day; therefore, it might not be safe for voting. J. Smethers will contact the Board of Elections and see what the process is.

Kenny Brewer – He said Forks Twp. had the same situation, it's a good idea to split the voting places.

Dave Ascani – The Township should look into putting money in the budget next year for Police. He described a break-in situation in Martins Creek and it would be nice to have Police presence, especially if the Governor starts charging for State Police. D. Ascani suggested LMBT lighten up the 90/10 restriction on farmland. Jaindl is all around us and could see them coming to LMBT.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING

a. LMBT / SANDTS Eddy Fire Co. – Land Dev. / SALDO WAIVER REQUESTS - Resolution No.2020-05. Present were Chief Larrison and Asst. Chief Russo and Ryan Engler, PLS from Robert Collura Engineering. The applicant proposes to construct a 3,567-foot addition to the existing fire station on the approximate 2-acre lot, and add new parking lot area with an additional 10 spaces, and a new defined access to S.R. 611, and retaining walls.

R. Engler indicated the LMBT Sandt's Eddy Fire Company is requesting the following waivers:

- Section 400 (b) (3) showing steep slope areas
- Section 516 requiring sidewalks
- Section 522 (c) (4) requiring deciduous trees
- Section 518 requiring recreation fees
- Section 522 (d) (1) street trees
- Section 406 (4) requiring an environmental impact study
- Section 523 requiring asphalt parking lot
- Chapter 22, Part 7 Stormwater ordinance

Justin Coyle indicated the Planning Commission recommended the waivers and Conditional Approval of the plan. The Zoning Hearing Board also granted Special Exception approval. They are still waiting for Penn DOT HOP approval. J. Zator noted this is a standard Resolution and nothing out of the ordinary. All parties have signed the Resolution. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to grant Conditional Approval of the LMBT / SANDTS Eddy Fire Co. – Land Development plan and adopt Resolution No. 2020-02. Vote: 4-0.

b. Gyuricza – 4606 2nd Terrace – Lot Consolidation - Resolution No. 2020-06. Present were the applicants Paul & Diane Gyuricza and Kerry Hahn, PLS, Hanover Engineering. J. Coyle reviewed the plan with the Board of Supervisors. The applicant proposes to combine Tax Parcels H11NW-4-3-3, H11NW4-3-4 and H11NW4-3-5 into one lot. No new development or improvements are proposed

under this plan. The Planning Commission recommended Conditional Approval of the plan. All parties signed the Resolution.

MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman to grant Conditional Approval of the Gyuricza Lot Consolidation and adopt Resolution No. 2020-06. Vote: 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

a.Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 2020-03 – Delinquent Sanitation Collector Fees. J. Zator called the Public Hearing to order at 7:40 p.m. The ordinance proposes Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania specify the procedure and establish a reasonable attorney fee schedule and costs for collection of delinquent Municipal Sanitation Fees. No Public Comment. J. Zator closed the hearing at 7:42 p.m. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-03 – Sanitation Fees. Vote: 4-0.

b.Accept Auditor Resignation – Martha Posner. We learned after the election that you cannot hold an elected position if you also hold an appointed position in the Township. M. Posner said she can better serve the community as the Rec. Board Chair. D. Ascani asked about the elected auditors making decisions already. The Board discussed steps to fill the position and asked it be advertised on our website and Facebook. J. Zator indicated the replacement would be until the next municipal election; December 2021, then can run for a 2-year term. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman to accept Martha Posner’s resignation as Elected Auditor. Vote: 4-0.

c.Slater Baseball Association – Annual request to use Kiefer ball field and waive fees April 1-June 30th. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve Slater Baseball Association’s annual request for use of Kiefer ball field from April 1 – June 30, 2020 and waive the fees. **MOTION** amended by J. Mauser, second amended by S. Newman to include a contingency that they complete the application by providing a schedule of dates they will be using the field. Vote: 4-0.

d.Appointment of Barry Isett as Third-Party Inspector/Code Enforcement / Zoning Officer Resolution No. 2020-07. Public Comment by Nick Alfero – He asked what the inspection turnaround time will be. Matt Walters was present from Barry Isett and responded their standard turnaround time is 24 hours considering they have 32 inspectors. Nick Alfero asked about an alternate inspection agency in the event of a conflict. He explained he is from Ardent Mills and Barry Isett is their engineering firm on the project, so there would be a conflict. J. Smethers said she spoke to S. Calluori about this; there was no urgency in appointing an alternate, but has recommended Kraft Code Service. There was discussion if the Township has an IBC Appeals Board. The Township does not have one, but J. Smethers will look into this and also ask other municipalities at the Multi-Municipal COG meeting on Wednesday.

e. Award 2020 Paving in Place Road Project. We received 3 bids for the 2020 paving project. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve the low bid from Hanson Aggregates PA, LLC. in the amount of \$241,310.60 for the 2020 paving project. Vote: 4-0.

f. Northampton County Assessment Tax Appeals – CF AM Holding and Ardent Mills Cost-Sharing for New Appraisal by County. J. Zator explained for the Township to participate in the appeal, the County asked that the municipality share in the cost according to its millage (approx. \$420.00 per parcel – total of \$840.00). **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman to have the Township join Northampton County in the CF Am Holding and Ardent Mills Tax Appeals and authorize an expenditure of up to \$1,000. Vote: 4-0.

g. EMC – J. Smethers indicated we received resignations from Keith Burns, EMC and Mark Hess, Deputy EMC. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to accept the resignations effective 3/2/20. Vote: 4-0. The Board said they need to figure out a way to fill the positions. They can also ask other municipalities at the Multi-Municipal COG meeting on Wednesday. J. Smether's will contact Northampton County Emergency Management about their resignations.

h. Public Partnership Agreement – The Board reviewed the Public Partnership Guidelines. Revisions made to Guideline 4, 1st paragraph add **and Township Manager**; 2nd paragraph change will to **may**. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore to approve the Public Partnership Guidelines as amended and recommended by the Township Solicitor. Vote: 4-0.

LMBT / Hess Agreement – J. Mauser reviewed the Agreement with the Board. Revisions to 1st page; paragraph 8, take out **at all time**; page 2; 2nd paragraph add **by LMBT** as to the maintenance to be performed. J. Zator commended the Board, this is a pro-active approach to solving the problem. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to accept the Agreements as amended between LMBT and Kenneth A. Hess et al., 4357 Martins Creek / Belvidere Hwy. as developed by Zator Law. Vote: 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – M. DeBerardinis read the bill list totaling \$83,798.56. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to approve paying the bills. Vote: 4-0.

Township Solicitor Report – Written report submitted. No further comments. J. Zator left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Township Engineer Report – J. Coyle reviewed his written report with the Board. He also mentioned the signage not working for Rasley Hill Road bridge work being done. J. Smethers will contact the County. J. Coyle discussed a bridge they are doing in UMBT on River Road. It's a prefab structure and cost is only \$300,000 - \$400,000 and very low maintenance. UMBT did a turnback on River Road and received over \$900,000 from Penn DOT; this included 2 bridges on that Road. Maybe LMBT can consider this for Bridge 31. H. Klein asked about maintenance of the bridge. J. Coyle indicated there would be no maintenance; any structure under 20ft. there is no inspection required.

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

REPORTS

Chairman's Report – None.

Board Members Reports – J. Mauser inquired as to grading permit for JMT and if he can work with J. Coyle on this project; 750 ft. of the trail should be graded. He can get sand, gravel & cobble free of charge trucked to the site. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by M. DeBerardinis to authorize J. Mauser to work with J. Coyle re: grading issues for access trail of the JMT. Vote: 4-0. J. Mauser indicated he has a meeting this week with Marc Jackson from Talen for possible purchase of 2 ½ acres.

J. Coyle left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

S. Newman noted the GPA Engineering report indicated work on Rasley Hill Rd. to begin. She attended the COG meeting last week. If the COG decides to disband at the end of 2020, what happens to the jointly owned equipment needs to be considered. They could possibly put in place an Intermunicipal Agreement with the remaining municipalities left in the COG or sell equipment and re-imburse each municipality in the COG. The equipment includes 2 leaf vacs, sewer jette, tar buggy and street sweeper for which the COG recently received a grant of \$180,000.00.

S. Disidore – She reminded everyone we will be having our Workshop meeting on 3/16/20 to start discussing the Zoning Ordinance Updates.

J. Mauser asked the Board if we can get a projector and computer for meetings. It would be very useful for the Zoning Ordinance review and try to have electronic paperwork for meetings.

Township Manager Report – Written report submitted. J. Smethers reviewed her written report with the Board. We received a request to allow horseback riding at the Meadows at Martins Creek. The Board discussed and came to a consensus they would not allow it at this time.

Zoning Officer Report – Written report submitted.

Road Department Report – F. Heitzman reported on projects they have been doing; working at the Township Building, obtained a dumpster to clean up scrap materials, trails & patching roads.

PUBLIC COMMENT – D. Ascani mentioned railroad ties polluting the ground by the Ardent Mills property.

J. Larrison – The Township needs to contact the Northampton County Emergency Management and let them know about the EMC resignation. Someone needs to be appointed immediately, so funding is not affected through FEMA. You might be able to appoint the highest elected official.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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