

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – OCTOBER 2, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER - The October 2, 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). 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 and J. Smethers. There were 5 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023. MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

- 1. Lamont McClure, County Executive – CDBG grant award.** L. Mc Clure presented M. DeBerardinis with the CDBG grant award check for the playground equipment.

Lamont mentioned bridges the county repaired did not receive state assistance. **Bridge 185** – had wash outs and erosion that approached the roadway. They did temporary repairs and was down to one lane traffic. **Bridge 195** - had severe damage and had a complete closure. The bridge was severely undermined and was repaired by Professional Contractors and was completed on 9/25/23. **Bridge 209** – overtopped Upper Little Creek Road and was severely undermined. Professional Contractors has been repairing the bridge and it's almost complete. Guiderails will be installed in a few weeks.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – Three minutes per resident.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2. LDWSR Tributary Expansion Study Presentation** – Presentation by Tara Mezzanotte. Tara presented information on the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which possesses outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural and or other similar values. They and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. This is to introduce their study to include all eligible tributaries in the exiting designation and invite Lower Mount Bethel Township to join in on the partnership. Tara explained the benefits of designation; 1). Draws attention to congressionally noted special values and gives them national recognition, 2). Potentially increases property values, 3). Open the door to NPS technical and 4). Gives financial support and proven to enable grant applications and other processes to become more competitive. They are studying every tributary top to bottom from the Delaware Water Gap to Washington Crossing. The partnership would model the Lower Delaware Management Plan established in 1990 and would not affect private property rights. Tara would like to draft a Resolution for the Board of Supervisors to pass in November or December. J. Mauser stated it's a good program and would recommend we partner to have our streams designated and Wild & Scenic.
- 3. Contract for Office Security System – J. Smethers indicated** the installation and equipment will be covered by the grant. The cost is \$2,350.00 and the monthly fee is \$62.00. ADT would have also gave us an estimate. J. Zator noted he's good with the estimate. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve the estimate from Fox Brothers Alarm Services Inc. for the office security system. Vote: 5-0.
- 4. Proposal from Turnquist Estates to Disconnect Street Lights and Eliminate Assessment Beginning 2024** – M. DeBerardinis asked if the petition needs to be unanimous. S. Disidore noted she checked the second-class township code and 70% need to sign to turn the lights on, but not to turn off. J. Matthews asked about the car counter. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to honor the request to disband the streetlights. S. Disidore will reach out to someone who disbanded. J. Smethers will send a letter to all the residents that the action to turn off the lights (leave the poles) will occur in 2024. Vote: 5-0.

- 5. Authorization for Carroll Engineering to Assist with the Statewide Local Share Account Grant to Complete Estimate for Road Improvements for Klausz Road, Upper Mud Run Road, Hahn Road and Little Creek Road. MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to authorize Carroll Engineering to assist with all of these roads as proposed. Vote: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan** – Susan reported there was no meeting and October meeting was cancelled. J. Mauser noted he is glad we have our own plan in place.

CORRESPONDENCE

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to pay the bills in the amount of \$105,024.30. Vote: 5-0.

REPORTS

Township Engineer Report - No report.

Township Solicitor Report - Written report submitted, no additional comments.

Chairman's Report – No report.

Board Members Reports

S. Disidore – Susan explained the tax freeze, she did some research and read all the bills. J. Smethers also read an email from A. Flood that explains that all four bills have been introduced; three in the house and one in the senate which were sent to their chambers finance committee. None of the bills have been called up for a finance committee vote in either the House or the Seante. Without the finance committee voting on the legislations first, there would be no chance it will be voted with the compliment of the full house or senate. If those bills are ever voted upon, then they would go to the governor for his signature.

S. Newman – No report.

J. Mauser – John reported the NCCD had a team building hike at the JMT. One of the people fell and the Fire Company had to take them out. The person is ok and it's a good test for a rescue.

S. Burns – Samantha reported the Carbon meter was installed by Robert, Director of Environmental Services. Samantha is looking into funding for sound study.

Township Manager Report - Written report submitted. Jen metnieond the Workshop meeting to go over the budget will be re-scheduled from Monday, October 16th to October 23rd.

Road Department Report – F. Heitzman reported they did the demo of the Tennis courts at Centerfield and attended the pre-construction meeting with H & K, they have been working on Garr Rd., prepping Depues Ferry Rd. to black top tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT – R. Grucela reported for the BACIDA. UMBT approved the subdivision and the State approved the environmental report. They are resolving a 20 year dispute with the school by giving them \$25,000.

ADJOURNMENT – The Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Smethers – Township Manager.