

approved

LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES August 3, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM

The August 3, 2020 meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held via Zoom. 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, P. North, Twp. Solicitor, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. J. Coyle, Twp. Engineer was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – July 16th to discuss personnel, July 29th to discuss potential litigation and tonight, August 3rd to discuss sanitation (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.) No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 2, 2020 and July 13, 2020. MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve both meeting minutes as presented. Roll call: S. Disidore – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: M. Szoka – asked about the Noise Ordinance that was drafted but never passed. It might be something to re-visit considering all the trucks traffic noise / jake brakes and could help to enforce. S. Burns indicated she has a copy of the draft. Michele showed the Board a photo of an 18-wheeler going down Little Creek Road and asked if the road can be posted “Township Road / No trucks permitted”. She discussed the bridges with the Board and read the 3 letters to all the Little Creek Road residents. Michele pointed out there was supposed to be a preconstruction meeting open to the public, that was never done and suggested filing a grievance with the GPA. J. Mauser asked M. Szoka to email him the letters and he will attempt to talk to the county. He suggested a letter be written to the County and attaching those 3 letters. S. Newman asked P. North what’s involved with filing a grievance. P. North said the letter would be sufficient as far as a grievance. M. Szoka will send the letter to J. Smethers and she will share with the Board.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Pat Wright, Traffic Engineer, LTAP – Front Street. There was discussion about Penn DOTs turnback program and Twp. authority to restrict trucks on Twp. roads. P. Wright indicated it can be done and referred to Title 75 – the local authority may prohibit vehicles with the requirement that a traffic study be completed and alternate route be required. There are specific regulations in Act 67. Also, Title 75 gives Penn DOT the right to regulate vehicle equipment such as engine retarders. The Twp. could write a letter to Penn DOT to study engine retarder restrictions, then pass an ordinance and post signs. S. Newman asked P. Wright what criteria Penn DOT uses when taking back the road. P. Wright explained Penn DOT does still take back roads frequently, it’s really up to the district. M. Deberardinis would like our Engineer to review, do the study prior to taking back the road but let us know how much the study would cost before moving forward. Pat indicated the Twp. Engineer can do the traffic study. P. Wright reviewed with the BOS Title 67. S. Burns said we need traffic calming. They also discussed speed limit changes and enforcement. P. Wright suggested putting together a plan and vision to show how to make the village more walkable and over time implement those changes and street design standards. S. Newman mentioned the trucks travel on the scenic byway; 611 from Easton North on Little Creek Rd. There was discussion about portion of road to be taken back and alternate route. S. Burns asked about using turnback money for traffic calming. The presentation ended at 7:45 p.m. The Board agreed to talk to J. Coyle first about a traffic study before moving forward.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None

NEW BUSINESS

1.Fire Department Fundraiser – The Fire Dept. with assistance from the Rec. Board would like to have a boxed meal fundraiser on Saturday, August 22nd at Centerfield. Jeff Larrison & Darlene Mowrey from the Fire Dept. were present on Zoom. M. Posner, Rec. Bd. Chair. was also present. All were in agreement that August 22nd is too soon and discussed other dates. M. Posner indicated the Rec. Board met last week and would actively like to participate. They discussed taking advanced orders and look into a square account for payment. S. Burns said the Rec. Board will be doing the cooking in advance; then the Fire Dept. can package and give out the meals. Martha suggested having a few classic cars and some fire trucks at the event. All agreed upon Saturday, October 10, 2020. There was discussion about food options for the boxed meals. D. Mowrey mentioned if anyone has the serve-safe certification. Darlene indicated she will reach out to sponsors from the car show. S. Burns said she would like to ask the Restaurant Depot and Restaurant Store for a donation. The Fire Dept. and Rec. Board will come up with a plan and bring it back to the BOS in September.

J. Larrison discussed the Fire Truck payment with the Board. Due to COVID-19 the PEMA Loan needs to be auto deposited. They set up the direct deposit out of their account; the easiest way for the Township to pay the monthly loan would be a check from the Township to the Fire Dept. J. Mauser suggested the Township pay 2 months in advance, so they have a cushion. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to give the Fire Dept. a check for 2-month payments of the PEMA loan for the truck and \$98,920.00 for the down payment. Roll call: S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore; M. DeBerardinis – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

2.Sanitation Contract – No action taken. Tabled.

3.Scenic Byway Committee Appointments – Michele Szoka and Jenny Leggett have submitted letters of interest to be on the committee. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to appoint Michele Szoka and Jenny Leggett to the Scenic Byway Advisory Committee (2 out of 5 members). Roll call: S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye. Motion passed 5-0. Deadline for submittal will be taken off the website to allow more people to apply.

4.Approval to Advertise for Custodial Pension and Limited Management Services Proposals – Jen is still waiting for additional proposals. Tabled.

5.Ratify Letter to NJDOT Regarding I-80 Rockwall Mitigation Project – The Board had previously approved sending the letter. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to ratify the letter to NJDOT re: the I-80 Rockwall Mitigation Project. S. Newman discussed with the Board a letter she received from NJDOT re: public participation in the proposed project. They are proposing a 3-member committee of non-elected residents, however the deadline is August 5th. The Board agreed with time restraints, it's not feasible to participate. S. Newman is in contact with Mayor Starr, Mayor Prator and Mayor Duffy, who can keep us in the loop.

OLD BUSINESS

1.Upper Mud Run Road – Geotechnical Slope Stability Report Authorization. J. Smethers indicated she reached out to 2 different companies, both seem qualified, but has not received quotes back yet. M. Deberardinis said once we receive the quotes, J. Smethers can email those to the BOS so we can decide who to use and move forward, rather than wait for the next meeting. The Board agreed.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - J. Smethers read the bill list totaling \$142,845.35. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Newman to approve paying the bills. Roll call: S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

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

REPORTS

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

Board Members Reports

S. Burns – she received a complaint from a resident on Garr Road re: water runoff issues. F. Heitzman and M. Deberardinis will check it out. S. Newman mentioned she checked out Fairview Ave, it looks good and didn't see any water. M. Deberardinis said tomorrow's storm will be a true test.

J. Mauser – H. Klein and J. Burns have been tending to the plants at the Welcome Center and showed the Board pictures. The Board thanked them for doing such a nice job. John received complaints from residents having broken windshields. They think stones are coming off trucks possibly from the Delaware Quarry and Old Eastern Industries plant, however there's no way to prove that. John will be checking the water tomorrow morning at Martins Creek Belvidere Hwy and Garr Rd.

S. Disidore – No report.

S. Newman – She met with J. Coyle re: permit for Gravel Hill Enterprises. The letter is ready to go out with a few edits and additions. Sandra reviewed the letter with the Board. MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve sending out the letter re: Gravel Hill Enterprises. If the Board requests to have any changes to the letter, they will email all Board members by noon tomorrow. Roll call: S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye. Motion passed 5-0. S. Newman updated the Board re: an email she received from P. Landry re: DEP monitoring plan for Gravel Hill Enterprises. Phil had suggested the Township find out what their scheduled monitoring plan should include as this gets closer to being approved. S. Newman received an email from Tim Edinger re: levels of NY Reservoirs being 85% full and releasing the water which would go into the Delaware River. J. Mauser indicated 2004 – 2006 reservoirs have not been proven. J. Mauser will look into this. S. Newman said maybe contact Susan Wild to see if they will be releasing water. The Reservoir never had 3 states control it.

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers reported Amato and Keating is collecting our 2018 / 2019 delinquent sanitation and 2019 Street light assessment. She is getting ready to send them 2020 street light liens. Cost to file liens are \$6,300.00 for Sanitation and \$1,800.00 for Street Lights. Next year Keystone will be taking care of this. Jen is working on various grants and requirements for DCNR grant.

Township Solicitor Report – Written report attached.

Township Engineer Report – None.

Zoning Officer Report – Written report attached.

Road Department Report – The Road Department are doing standard maintenance in the township. If there are any issues tomorrow from the storm forward those problems to him.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Rich Grucella - He suggested the Road Dept. drive around and check drains. Fairview Ave. the drainage is working well. He noticed there was a little bit of sinking. M. Deberardinis said Fred is fixing that problem. No further comments.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 9: 03 p.m.

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