

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom**

CALL TO ORDER - The January 4, 2021 Re-organization meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held via webinar. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, Solicitor J. Zator, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. There were 3 members of the audience present on the webinar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A. ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENTS

CHAIRMAN: MOTION by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore appointing **M. DeBerardinis**. No other nominations. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

VICE-CHAIRMAN: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to nominate **S. Newman**. No other nominations. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

TOWNSHIP MANAGER / TREASURER/ASST. SECRETARY: MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman appointing **Jennifer Smethers**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

TOWNSHIP SECRETARY / PLANNING ADMIN./ ASST. TREASURER: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman appointing **Melissa Mastrogiovanni**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS / ROADMASTER: MOTION by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser appointing **M. DeBerardinis**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ASST. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS / ASST. ROADMASTER: MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore appointing **S. Burns**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

REPRESENTATIVE TO SLATEBELT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT: MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Burns appointing **S. Newman**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ALT. REPRESENTATIVE TO SLATE BELT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT: MOTION by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore appointing **S. Burns**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

REPRESENTATIVES TO SLATE BELT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore appointing S. Disidore, S. Newman & J. Smethers. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNTY 911 – MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser, appointing **Jennifer Smethers**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNTY 911 - MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore appointing Melissa Mastrogiovanni. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

REPRESENTATIVE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Newman, appointing J. Mauser. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

REPRESENTATIVES TO NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN: MOTION by

J. Mauser, second by S. Newman appointing S. Disidore and M. DeBerardinis. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE TO NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN:

MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns appointing Jennifer Smethers. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

OPEN RECORDS OFFICER: MOTION by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore appointing

Jennifer Smethers. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ALTERNATE OPEN RECORDS OFFICER / ALTERNATE TO TAX COLLECTION

COMMITTEE: MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Newman appointing Melissa Mastrogiovanni. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion Passed (5-0).

DELEGATE TO TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE: MOTION by S. Newman, second by

J. Mauser appointing Jennifer Smethers. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion Passed (5-0).

PSATS VOTING DELEGATE: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns appointing S. Newman.

Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: MOTION by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser

appointing Jennifer Smethers. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

MOTION by J. Mauser, second by M DeBerardinis to appoint the following:

TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY: LMBT / Sandt's Eddy Fire Department

TOWNSHIP RESCUE SQUAD: LMBT / Sandt's Eddy Fire Department

Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

BLS/ ALS PROVIDER: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to appoint Suburban EMS

Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

FIRE COMPANY OFFICERS FOR 2021 (Acknowledgment): MOTION by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser acknowledging receipt of Fire Company Officers list for 2021. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

VOLUNTEER LAND ACQUISITION / PROJECT MANAGER / REP. TO OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns appointing John Mauser. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0-).

VOLUNTEER TOWNSHIP REP. SLUDGE / BIOSOLIDS & WELCOME CENTER NATIVE PLANTS GARDENER: MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Burns appointing Howard Klein. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

B. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore appointing Zator Law Office as the Township Solicitor. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER: MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns appointing Carroll Engineering at the Township Engineer. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

TWP. ZONING OFFICER/ BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman appointing John De Cusatis at the Township Zoning Office and Building Codes Official. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ASSISTANT ZONING OFFICER: MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser appointing Justin Coyle. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ALT. BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL / PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICER: MOTION by S. Newman, second by M. DeBerardinis appointing Amanda Heist as the Alt. Building Codes Official. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ASSISTANT PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICER: MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser appointing Justin Coyle. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore appointing Thomas Noll. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR: MOTION by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore appointing Justin Coyle as the Flood Plain Administrator. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ALTERNATE FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman appointing John De Cusatis as the Alternate Flood Plain Administrator. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

ROAD OCCUPANCY ADMINISTRATOR; MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore appointing **Justin Coyle** at the Road Occupancy Administrator. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

Chairman M. DeBerardinis read the Appointments as follows:

UCC INSPECTOR	BARRY ISETT
TOWNSHIP AUDITOR	CAMPBELL, RAPPOLD & YURASITS
DELIQUENT STREET LIGHT COLLECTOR	AMATO, KEATING & LESSA, PC
DELIQUENT SANITATION COLLECTOR	KEYSTONE COLLECTIONS
DELIQUENT REAL ESTATE COLLECTOR	NORTHAMPTON COUNTY TAX UNIT

MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman to approve the appointments. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

C.BOARD APPOINTMENTS - Chairman M. DeBerardinis read the Appointments as follows:

REPRESENTATIVE TO PLANNING COMMISSION: **SANDRA NEWMAN** for a 4-year term.

ZONING HEARING BOARD: **LYNN BARTLESON** for a 5-year term.

VACANCY BOARD: **PAT MCINERNEY** for a 1-year term.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: **BILL HUMPHRIES**

MOTION M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns to approve the appointments. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

REPRESENTATIVE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD: MOTION by S. Newman, second by S. Burns nominating S. Disidore. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPENSATION

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FEES – RESOLUTION No. 2021-01: MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns adopting Resolution No. 2021-01 establishing professional fees for the Solicitor, Township Engineer, Zoning Officer/ BCO and 3rd Party UCC Services. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

EMPLOYEE WAGES – PER 2021 BUDGET & TEAMSTERS LOCAL 773 CONTRACT:

MOTION by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to approve the Employee Wages per 2021 Budget and Teamsters Local Contract. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

E.TAX / ASSESSMENT COLLECTORS AND FEES

Chairman M. DeBerardinis read following Appointments:

EARNED INCOME TAX COLLECTOR	KEYSTONE COLLECTIONS GROUP
LOCAL SERVICE TAX COLLECTOR	KEYSTONE COLLECTION GROUP
SANITATION ASSESSMENT COLLECTOR	KEYSTONE COLLECTION GROUP
STREET LIGHT ASSESSMENT COLLECTOR	J. SMETHERS

MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Burns approving the Appointments. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

TOWNSHIP TAX RATE: MOTION by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser approving the Township Tax Rate for 2021 at 5.1 mils. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; S. Disidore – aye. J. Mauser – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

SANITATION ASSESMENT / FEES RESOLUTION No. 2021-02: MOTION by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser adopting Resolution 2021-02 establishing the Sanitation Assessment / Fees for 2021 in the amount of \$185.00. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns -aye. Motion passed (5-0).

STREET LIGHT ASSESSMENT – RESOLUTION No. 2021-03: MOTION by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman adopting Resolution No. 2021-03 establishing the Street Light Assessment for 2021 in the amount of \$0.50 per foot of frontage for Improved Properties, \$0.125 per foot of frontage & \$50.00 per property at Gravel Hill. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns -aye. Motion passed (5-0).

F.BOND LIMITS: Chairman M. DeBerardinis read the Bond Limits as follows:

TWP. MANAGER / TREASURER / ASST. SECRETARY: \$500,000

TWP. SECRETARY / PLANNING ADMIN./ ASST. TREASURER: \$250,000

MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser approving the Bond Limits. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns -aye. Motion passed (5-0).

G. TOWNSHIP DEPOSITORY: **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser establishing **Fidelity Bank** as the Township Depository. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns -aye. Motion passed (5-0).

H. ESTABLISHMENT OF 2021 PAID HOLIDAYS: Jan. 1st – New Year’s Day, February 15th – Presidents Day, April 2nd – Good Friday, May 31st– Memorial Day, July 5th– Independence Day, Sept. 6th – Labor Day, Nov. 25th – Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26th – Friday after Thanksgiving, Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve, Dec. 27th – Christmas Day. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve the 2021 holidays. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns -aye. Motion passed (5-0).

I.MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE - **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns establishing the 2021 IRS mileage reimbursement rate at **\$0.56**. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

J.MEETING DATES FOR 2021: M. DeBerardinis read the following meeting dates:

Board of Supervisors – 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with the following exceptions: July 12th, September 13th and December 13th. As needed, the Board will meet on the third Monday of each month.

Planning Commission – 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. as needed.

Zoning Hearing Board – 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. as needed.

Open Space Advisory Board – 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. as needed.

Recreation Board – 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Council – 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

All meetings will be virtual via ZOOM until further notice.

MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the 2021 Meeting Dates. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Disidore – aye; S. Burns -aye. Motion passed (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lori Koch asked about the ZHB application that has been submitted for the property next to hers. M. DeBerardinis said she can speak at the 7:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The Re-organization Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary - Lower Mount Bethel Township

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER - The January 4, 2021 Regular Monthly meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held via webinar. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7:15 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager, M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary, J. Zator, Twp. Solicitor & J. Coyle, Twp. Engineer. There were 4 members of the audience present on the webinar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – January 4, 2021 - M. DeBerardinis announced there was an Executive Session held tonight from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. to discuss legal matters. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 14, 2020. MOTION by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. S. Disidore was absent for the vote. Motion passed 4-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – Lori Koch indicated she lives next to the old silk mill on 4th Ave. She mentioned the current owner last year applied to the ZHB to put a business in, got approval, but owner never operated the business. Now a new application has been filed at the same location, but for a different business. Lori asked if the Township would consider purchasing the property and look into grants for maybe a park there so the building don't keep changing hands. M. DeBerardinis thanked her for the information. The ZHB hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6th @ 7:30 p.m. and the public is welcome to attend. S. Newman mentioned the Planning Commission has been working on re-vamping the Zoning Ordinance, she offered Lori her phone number to speak to her about that.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1.Resolution No. 2021-04 - 2021 LMBT Fee Schedule – This is approval to update the township fee schedule. J. Smethers indicated changes were: Notary fee increased to \$7.00, Moving permit – increased to \$10.00, Credit/Debit Card Processing Fees – in person fee – 2.6% +10 cents per transaction; phone fee 3.5% + 15 cents per transaction; online fee – 2.9% + 30 cents per transaction; ZHB application fee – Commercial / Business - \$1,000 (which includes one half of the stenographers' s appearance fee); ZHB Application fee – Industrial - \$2,500 000 (which includes one half of the stenographers' s appearance fee); ZHB continuation fee - \$200 each hearing after the initial ZHB meeting, plus half of the stenographers appearance fee each hearing; Conditional Use Appeal - \$1,500.00 (which includes one half of the stenographers' s appearance fee) and Well Waiver Application fee of \$200.00 This is to cover the recording of the indemnification agreement.

MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to adopt Resolution No. 2021-04 Lower Mount Bethel approving the Township Revised Fee Schedule. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye; S. Disidore – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

2. Delaware Valley Health Trust – Ancillary Lines Program – J. Smethers reviewed with the Board the proposal rate summary we received from DVHT (we currently have Met Life). The Savings would be 69% (\$9,985.47) from Sun Life, matching or exceeding all key benefit levels for life and disability as well as adding Long Term Disability coverage. Rates are guaranteed for 3 years. The only difference would be the Benefit reduction schedule by 33% at age 65 and 50% at age 70. The Board had some discussion whether or not to table for further review. The Board was satisfied with the J. Smethers proposal. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to authorize J. Smethers to move forward with contract with new insurance company (DVHT – Ancillary Lines Program) for Life Insurance, AD & D; Short Term & Long-Term Disability. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye; S. Disidore – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

3. Upper Mud Run Road update – J. Coyle indicated J. Mauser, S. Newman, J. Smethers and himself had a meeting with NCCD who provided funds for this project. They discussed reducing the width of the roadway, benching, stabilization with rock and doing away with the wall. J. Coyle recommended a topographic study / benching feasibility study be done which can be completed by drone. Justin discussed the wall failure and mentioned the 3rd party geo-study. The topographic survey would include a contour map, scheme stabilization slope with benching. This would be cost effective for a long-term situation. We may want to reduce the road to 1 lane during the project. The feasibility study would consider options encompassing benching rock rip rap and adjusting the guiderail. The original plan was very costly at \$500,000 - \$750,000.

MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to authorize J. Coyle to explore the topography study of Upper Mud Run Road and come back to the Board of Supervisor with project costs and plan. S. Disidore asked J. Coyle how much the study would cost. Justin responded about 20 hours of his time for a total of \$2,500 - \$3,500. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye; S. Disidore – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - J. Smethers indicated the total bills are \$28,078.82 which includes end of the year bills in the amount \$12,362.49. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to approve paying the bills. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE - All correspondence are on file at the Township Office.

REPORTS

Township Engineer Report - Justin indicated he has been corresponding with T. Harper re: Gravel Hill Enterprises, there have been no revised submissions since August. 2020. He is still waiting for a status from DEP re: Upper Mud Run Rd. and still waiting for follow up information from the meeting with Penn DOT re: traffic study on Front Street. J. Smethers said she hasn't heard anything.

Township Solicitor Report – Written report attached. No further comments.
J. Coyle and J. Zator left the zoom meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman's Report – M. DeBerardinis reported under Road Department report.

Board Members Reports

J. Mauser – J. Mauser reported he and J. Smethers completed the requirements for the Lehigh Valley Greenway Grant and received \$10,000 from Northampton County Treasury for improvements of the Meadows. We are still working on the Talen property. The Road Department has been working on the trails that were hit by the rain storm, people are still using the trails; he mentioned improvements by Libby Bush's property. John mentioned release of the 8-point Buck stuck in the ravine at the trails.

S. Burns – No report

S. Disidore – No report

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers informed the Board that the Tax Collector is on the ballot this year for re-election and would the Board consider increasing the compensation since it hasn't been changed in 10 years. We would need to adopt a Resolution by the February 15th BOS meeting changing the compensation. The Board asked J. Smethers to gather comparable information from other Municipalities what they are paying their Tax Collectors. Jen said she will have a draft Resolution ready for the BOS to review at their 1/18/21 Workshop meeting.

J. Smethers discussed with the Board mandating employees to get the COVID – 19 vaccination. J. Smethers explained concerns with mandating or not. The BOS asked J. Smethers to check with PSATS, but agreed the Township probably can't mandate employees to get the vaccine. J. Smethers indicated most Municipalities are not mandating.

Zoning Officer Report – None.

Road Department Report – M. DeBerardinis indicated he received a complaint letter and photos from the Tirrell's, they live in the village. Their yard floods bad and would like to look into fixing or replacing the pipe located by their property. He would also like to look into fixing other drainage issues in town. The Fairview Ave. project was successful and cost effective. S. Parson when plowing, avoided an accident and hit Joe Guest fence causing minor damage. Michael would like our Road Dept. to fix the minor damage.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Lori Koch mentioned flooding elevations changing. At the bottom of her street, the pipes can't handle the water and could be because of her neighbor's pole barn that was put up, that might be causing the flooding.

ADJOURNMENT – The Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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