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**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING  
OCTOBER 4, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. CENTERFIELD SCHOOL**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The October 4, 2021, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063 (formerly known as Centerfield School), Martins Creek, PA, 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, S. Burns, J. Zator, J. Coyle, J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were 2 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 13, 2021.** Corrections in bold: 1<sup>st</sup> page. last paragraph - delete (there is no Chestnut St.– check with J. Mauser on exact location); Pg. 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph Del Haven Road – take out period. **MOTION** by J. Mauser second by S. Newman to approve the minutes as amended. Vote: 5-0.

**COURTESY OF FLOOR – None.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Hunting Permits for JMT and the Meadows.** J. Mauser discussed with the Board issuing hunting permits for township residents only on the JMT and the Meadows, not the Talen properties. J. Mauser indicated there is an overpopulation of deer. Talen reduced the hunting permits from 200 to 100 without notifying the township and also had a change in employees. He discussed some suggestions for going forward. J. Mauser reviewed the map and joint hunting permits for deer and spring turkey. Talen was in charge of issuing the permits and they were gone in a matter of hours. John suggested we issue our own permits and, in the future, continue to issue joint permits with Talen. He mentioned that Talen now is attempting to issue additional permits for area 1 and 2 with no parking permits. John suggested for the remainder of this year, we issue our own permits for area 1 (JMT and the Meadows) to LMBT residents only.

John discussed a strategy for next year. In January, 2022, LMBT can request input from residents regarding hunting on Township property. We can publish this request in the township newsletter, website and Facebook. In Feb. 2022, LMBT will review public comment. In March 2022, meet with Talen to determine if joint permitting is beneficial for both parties. In April 2022, discuss and make a decision on hunting on JMT and the Meadows. S. Newman asked J. Mauser if we went on our own and severed ties with Talen, how many permits would we issue? John said that would be up to the Board. He would also ask Brad Kreider for advice. He's not seeing a lot of people hunting. The permit holder must park at pavilion south parking lot or north parking lot. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M. DeBerardinis to open permits to LMBT residents with no limit and no deadline. S. Newman suggested residents that applied from LMBT that were denied, should be offered first. J. Mauser suggested we open it up to all residents. Melissa will post on the website and the Facebook page. Vote 5-0.

**2. Ratify Resolution 2021-13 – Authorizing the Application for Northampton County Local Share Account Funds for the Supplemental Road Study for Front Street and Lower Mud Run Road –** J. Smethers indicated at the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting she mentioned applying for funding under the Northampton County and Monroe County LSA grants. Sen. Scavello suggested we put in both for Front St. The application was due 9/30/21 and has already been submitted, but required a Resolution authorizing the application.

This is to ratify the resolution since an official resolution was not approved in July. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to ratify Resolution 2021-13. Vote: 5-0

**3. Ratify Resolution 2021-14 - Authorizing the Application for Monroe County Local Share Account Funds for the Supplemental Road Study for Front Street and Lower Mud Run Road.** J. Smethers indicated this is the same grant as Northampton County Local Share Account Funds for the Supplemental Road Study for Front Street and Lower Mud Run Road, just being Monroe County. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to Ratify Resolution 2021-14. Vote: 5-0

**4. Ratify Resolution 2021-15 - Authorizing the Application for Northampton County Funds for the Purchase of Emergency Operations Center Supplies and AEDs for the Township Public Buildings.** J. Smethers indicated this is a Northampton County Grant for supplies such as military cots, mattresses, first aid kits, AEDs, blankets and pillows, and personal hygiene kits. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman to ratify Resolution 2021-15. Vote: 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Baggitt – Minor Subdivision – 10087 Richmond Rd. F11-8-2C.** R. Dentith was present on behalf of the applicant. J. Coyle indicated the Planning Commission gave a favorable recommendation at their meeting on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. R. Dentith explained subdivision. The Baggitt's are subdividing two lots for their children. Justin indicated Penn Dot would only approve a shared driveway due to lack of adequate sight distance. R. Dentith indicated D. Ceraul is working on the deeds which would include the drainage easement language. S. Newman indicated this has been reviewed by the LVPC; they gave it an unfavorable review. As Sandra explained at the PC meeting, LVPC commented that this subdivision is not being consistent with the Future LV Regional plan. The PC disagreed. Based on our zoning and the Township's success in preserving farms, their opinion is off base and did not weigh into the Planning Commission's decision.

**a. Planning Module Approval.** The Planning Commission reviewed and signed the Planning Module at their meeting held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to approve the Planning Module. Vote: 5-0.

**b. Resolution 2021-12/Declaration of Covenant.** **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to adopt Resolution 2021-12. (Resolution and Declaration of Covenant were not presented tonight P. North is waiting for the deeds to be prepared). Vote: 5-0.

**2. ASA Application – Burkholder.** The Board of Supervisors accepted and acknowledged the application. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman to authorize Zator Law to move forward with the process for the Burkholder ASA application. Vote 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS.** **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Burns to pay the bills in the amount of \$76,691.28. Vote: 5-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

## **REPORTS**

### **Board Members Reports**

**Chairman report** – M. DeBerardinis indicated he will report under the Road Department.

**S. Disidore** – No report.

**J. Mauser** – John reported he met with J. Coyle at Upper Mud Run Rd. for a final inspection. Everything has been corrected; stop signs are in and boulders were moved, so the contract is complete. J. Smethers will contact Jim Andrews at the Conservation District.

**S. Newman** – Sandra reported she was invited to attend the Warren County Commissioners' meeting on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. They passed a resolution regarding the S curve safety issues on Route 80. Portland, Delaware Water Gap, Upper Mount Bethel and LMBT were all in attendance.

The IDA has a scheduled meeting for Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. Sandra suggested we reach out to R. Grucela and M. Schiavone saying we're very pleased they are going to have a meeting to resolve some of our issues and answer questions we have.

**Managers' report** - J. Smethers reported the water issue at Centerfield has been resolved. Jen met with DEP and a second level assessment has been completed. Mark & Fred have a plan in place and they will be checking weekly. Jen indicated she has been working on grants. She and Sandra met with the Upper Mount Bethel Manager, who presented why they were moving forward with River Pointe Logistics; he explained what they're doing is better than putting in multiple small warehouses. Washington Township, Bangor, East Bangor and Lower Mount Bethel Township were all present. All municipalities mentioned concerns with the increased traffic the project would create. Upper Mount Bethel Township's presentation didn't change anyone's opinion about the impact.

**S. Burns** – No report.

**Road Department report** – M. DeBerardinis reported they are still dealing with stormwater issues and is meeting with J. Coyle tomorrow morning. He mentioned overgrown tree branches, residents need to trim their trees or have them pruned by a professional.

Fred Heitzman reported he put up Jersey barriers at Little Creek Road for the drainage problems. Other things he has been working on are curbing, Road Crew built a swale system at Cyphers property, took care of water problem at the Centerfield building, doing weekly water testing, ongoing maintenance of trucks, and brush mowing road sides.

Zoning officer – Written report submitted. The Board indicated the Zoning Officer can submit a bi-weekly report instead of weekly report. Jen & Melissa will continue to submit weekly reports.

**Solicitor's Report** – Written report submitted. J. Zator discussed the Talen Park Preservation Resolution. Mark Jackson has requested modifications to the pavilion agreement of sale, Andrew has made the changes, but Mark Jackson has been unresponsive. The language that addresses continued access for emergency management purposes needs clarification. Joe also indicated P. North is working on the holding tank ordinance needed for the H & K submission.

**Engineer's Report** – Justin reported they finished up work on Upper Mud Run Road, the road is officially reopened and the JPS section is complete. Justin indicted on October 1<sup>st</sup> Carroll Engineering received an application for Payment No.1 from Mitchel Knorr Contractors in the amount of \$122,811.25 for the Upper Mud Run Rd. embankment repairs. Justin mentioned they did a nice job.

**MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to authorize payment to Mitchel Knorr Contract in the amount of \$122,811.25 for payment #1 for the Upper Mud Run Rd. embankment repairs. They need to submit their maintenance bond. Vote: 5-0.

The lower end of Upper Mud Run Rd is set to be paved the end of the week or next week. There is additional cracking in the road which can cause future problems. They will be meeting with FEMA on Wednesday regarding Little Creek Road and Upper Mud Run Rd.

Justin indicated the Little Creek Rd. embankment repair will be submitted to FEMA.

Justin contacted Mike Laundenbach regarding issues on Martins Creek Bel. Hwy. He is waiting to hear back from Penn DOT to schedule a field visit with M. DeBerardinis and J. Mauser. He will follow up with Penn DOT. Justin Coyle and M. DeBerardinis will be meeting on Gravel Hill Rd. regarding stormwater drainage issues. The Planning Commission will be meeting on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> to review the resubmission of the H & K expansion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – D. Ascani referred to the Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> minutes that mentioned 3 hunters that applied for permits and were denied. Talen had given out 200 permits in 2020 / 2021; but this year only gave out 100. He asked about the process of issuing of permits being 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve. He doesn't think that's fair and believes Talen gets first dibs. David suggested a drawing system for permits and a deadline. Dave mentioned tax payers pay for the Road Dept. to do work back there and the Fire Company also covers emergency service there. Tax payers own this property and we should control it. J. Mauser indicate the Board will address hunting permits again in January.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Board of Supervisors Regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary / Planning Administrator  
Lower Mt. Bethel Township