

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA GOTOWEBINAR.COM**

CALL TO ORDER - The April 6, 2020 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 7:00 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, J. Zator, J. Coyle, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. There were 15 attendees present on the webinar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – M. DeBerardinis announced an Executive Session via webinar was held on 3/24/20 for Personnel; and 4/4/20 & 4/5/20 webinars were held for informational purposes and to set up of tonight’s live stream meeting. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 2, 2020. One correction to be made in bold – Pg. 3 (d) 8th sentence, should be **Kraft** Code Service. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to approve the minutes as amended. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns abstained. Motion passed 4-0-1.

PRESENTATIONS - None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

1.Elaine Lilly – She spoke about her concern that sludge is being spread on field located on Martins Belvidere Hwy. considering the virus, the sludge could have virus in it and contaminate wells and soil. S. Newman suggested J. Smethers get her phone # to Howard Klein and he will contact her.

2.Phil Landry – He asked about the update with his prior questions re: R. Angle and Gravel Hill Enterprise easement access to Gravel Hill Enterprises and its zoning laws. J. Smethers indicated S. Calluori was looking into it and she will follow up with her. There was discussion about Catherine Buehler’s questions, if J. Zator has reviewed and has any answers. J. Zator responded he does and is ready to schedule an Executive Session with the Board. S. Newman said she would like to see this move forward quickly. J. Smethers will schedule the Executive Session via email.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2020-08 Appointing Kraft Code Services as the Alternate 3rd Party Inspection Agency. J. Zator noted paragraph #1. Construction Code Officials should be changed to Building Code Officials. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to adopt Resolution 2020-08 Appointing Kraft Code Services as the Alternate 3rd Party Inspection Agency with the revision as recommended by J. Zator. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Ratify Declaration of Emergency Disaster approved March 17, 2020. J. Smethers indicated the Declaration of Emergency Disaster is only good for 7 days. She asked that the Board ratify the Declaration of Disaster Emergency and extend the declaration. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to ratify the Declaration of Disaster emergency that went in effect on March 17, 2020. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Extend Declaration of Emergency Disaster. MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to extend the Declaration of Emergency to run concurrent with the Commonwealth of PA Emergency Disaster order in accordance with the Governor of Pennsylvania. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

c. Appointment of Elected Auditor. We received a letter of interest from Elaine Pivinski for appointment as Elected Auditor. Elaine called in and expressed her interest in serving. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to appoint Elaine Pivinski as Elected Auditor for LMBT to complete the term effective until the next election. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

d. Appointment of EMC and Deputy EMC. We received a letter of interest from Tyler Hriczak to be appointed as Deputy EMC. Tyler called in to express his interest and qualifications. M. DeBerardinis thanked Tyler for volunteering especially to get us through these tough times. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis to appoint J. Smethers as acting EMC and Tyler Hriczak as acting Deputy EMC. Motion amended to do the motions separately. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Newman to appoint J. Smethers, Twp. Manager as Acting EMC. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Newman to appoint Tyler Hriczak as Acting Deputy EMC. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

e. Discussion on Rockfall Mitigation Along the I-80 Corridor. S. Newman explained previously we have supported Mayor Starr, Knowlton Twp. and Mayor Duffy, Hardwick Twp. in opposition of this project; it's under substantial review by NJDOT. S. Newman asked for BOS approval to send the letter she prepared to Sutapa Bandyopadhyay – Planning and Program Development Manager FHWA – NJ Division. This letter is to support NJDOT doing an Environmental Impact Statement. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to authorize Chairman DeBerardinis to sign the letter on behalf of the LMBT Board of Supervisors supporting an Environmental Impact Statement be done. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0. S. Newman will email letter to Mayor Starr & Mayor Duffy.

f. Resolution 2020-09 Check Signing During Declaration of Emergency Disaster. J. Smethers explained this is just through the Emergency Disaster period; she left blank for the BOS to decide to reduce the number of signers from three, to either two or one. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to adopt Resolution 2020-09 reducing the number of check signers from three to two. Roll call: M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Disidore – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – J. Smethers read the bill list totaling \$60,094.00. **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 is on file in the Township Office.

REPORTS

Township Solicitor Report – Written report submitted. J. Mauser asked J. Zator about the trail easement not listed on parcel list with the County. J. Smethers mentioned she had sent this inquiry to J. Coyle. J. Zator indicated once the easement is recorded it's there forever, even if it doesn't reflect in the County records, it doesn't mean it's gone. J. Mauser will furnish J. Coyle with the information he is seeking via email. **Township Engineer Report** – J. Coyle discussed correspondence re: Gravel Hill Enterprises.

They have filed for an individual permit for their project. GHE met with the Conservation District on 2/2/20 and LMBT was not included in the conversation. He asked via J. Zator / T. Harper to send a letter to GHE and follow up with Conservation District stating LMBT should be included. Act 14 Municipal notice for Bridge 41; he asked they put together a response to DEP (J. Coyle & S. Newman draft the letter). They are expanding an additional 38 feet; the information provided is very vague. There was discussion about the size of the bridge. He would like DEP to do a presentation to the BOS showing us the plan and photos of the bridge. J. Coyle said typically they apply for a JP11 point permit for a large structure. J. Coyle asked to coordinate with S. Newman and J. Mauser to draft the letter to DEP. The bridge is supposed to be constructed in 2021. J. Coyle and J. Mauser were supposed to meet regarding the trails; hopefully they will be able to meet in the near future.

Chairman's Report – M. DeBerardinis spoke under Road Dept. report.

Board Members Reports – S. Newman reported residents have made masks they would like to contribute to the community. Elaine Pivinski's son has converted his distillery into making hand sanitizer and has small bottles available. M. DeBerardinis asked J. Smethers to check with our Emergency Responders and possibly arrange for drop off in the vestibule area. S. Burns she also has masks in Ziploc bags and sanitized. S. Disidore suggested we see what supplies we have available and depending on need make available on a first come first serve basis. S. Disidore – No report. S. Burns mentioned the neighborhood watch program at UMBT and would like to consider something like that for LMBT. There have been reports of beer bottles being thrown in the yards around the village as well as speeding and blowing car horns in the evening hours.

S. Newman noted the UMBT Neighborhood Watch program is successful. J. Mauser – He reported he is working with J. Smethers on the DCNR grants and deed restrictions. We can also give credit to DCNR for the LV small greenways grant.

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers reported the office is closed to the public. She is in the office M-Thursday, Melissa comes in on Fridays. They are both working remotely from home. She explained she has had a lot of meetings with County Emergency Management and other Township Managers. She is also working with the Fire Dept. In lieu of the Spring Newsletter, an information pamphlet was sent out to all residents regarding the Corona virus.

Zoning Officer Report – None.

Road Department Report - M. DeBerardinis reported the Road Department is practicing a safe work environment and working on a weekly rotation; 2 out of 3 men coming in and with 1 being out alternating weeks. They are also doing single man projects and are getting a lot done individually. M. DeBerardinis speaks to them every day and has explained to them if they are uncomfortable with that arrangement to let him know.

S. Newman asked if we could let residents know about the Zoning Ordinance Workshop set for April 20th @ 7 p.m. via webinar, be announced on our website and Facebook. We won't need attendance by J. Zator's office, J. Snook or T. Edinger however P. McInerney would like to be included.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mel Ciociola thanked the Board for streaming the meeting, it's a good idea for residents. He asked if the Zoning meeting is a closed session. The Board indicated all meetings are open to the public. P. Landry also thanked the Board.

ADJOURNMENT – MOTION by S. Newman, second by M. DeBerardinis to adjourn the Public Meeting at 8:40 p.m.

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