

## **LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES JULY 8, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The July 8, 2019 Regular Monthly 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). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael DeBerardinis at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Supervisor Disidore, Supervisor Newman, Supervisor Ascani, J. Coyle, J. Mazin for J. Zator and M. Mastrogiovanni. J. Smethers & Supervisor Burns were absent. There were 8 people in the audience. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES JUNE 3, 2019 @ 7 P.M.**

Minutes were presented for approval. No further corrections were needed. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by S. Disidore to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 4-0.

### **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

James Merklinger – Mr. Merklinger spoke about the Gravel Hill Stump Grinding operation. He explained the stumping process and mentioned his experience working for a utility company and the fact this will affect UMBT, LMBT and Northampton County. PA DEP is very lax. The Board mentioned the Township has a settlement agreement in place from 2015. Mr. Merklinger suggested the Township hold a bond and put strict regulations, inspect and monitor the operation. M. DeBerardinis thanked him for coming. Regina Marinelli – She asked about the status of traffic and dirt on Front Street and the noise from target practice at the quarry. M. DeBerardinis said he had no updates. J. Smethers was working on those items and will ask her for the status when she returns.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Bob Bysher, NA Studios (New website)

B. Bysher did a presentation of the new website for the Board and audience. D. Ascani asked about additional costs of updating the website. B. Bysher said there is an annual fee of \$175.00 after re-organization. The staff will be able to do all the updating and will provide training once Jen returns. D. Ascani asked about archiving older information; old photos and newsletters. B. Bysher indicated the current newsletter is on the website and minutes are archived 5 years. S. Newman mentioned she met with B. Bysher and will be included in the training, she noted how nice the website looks.

Township Solicitor report – Written report was submitted, no further comments.

Township Engineer's report – J. Coyle reviewed his written report. There was discussion about #4. Fairview Avenue stormwater / drainage mitigation (site meeting scheduled for 7/23/19 with USDA and NCCD at the Palmeri property). The Twp. Engineer and Twp. Solicitor left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

### **TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

1. Slate Belt COG's Articles of Agreement (Multi-Municipal Plan). S. Newman explained the COG has been in the process of updating the plan for about 2 years. The draft submitted has some typos and omissions, Page 17, Article 11 is a new section. There was discussion by the Board. S. Newman mentioned the COG now has a new Director. Bangor might consider re-joining. She mentioned if you pull out of the plan, you do not get your money back. Either way we won't pay any more for participation. S. Newman asked the Board to review and email her any suggestions and comments.

2. Review LMBT / Talen Hunting Permit – J. Mauser was not present, but submitted his report on the LMBT / Talen Hunting Permit. The report includes eligibility for the program with the Game Commission. Archery hunting for deer would be from Sept. 21 to Dec. 14 and from Dec. 26 to Jan. 25, 2020. The Board discussed these dates. The spring turkey season would have a youth special season on Apr. 25, 2020. The regular spring turkey season would be from May 2 to May 30, 2020. Al Sutter offered to have Talen handle the permit issuing for both properties. All permitting information would be shared with LMBT.

In the past about 100 to 150 licenses were issued for just archery deer hunting. For 2019, it was suggested 175 permits be issued. D. Ascani asked that the permit information be included on our website.

J. Mauser has asked the BOS to approve going forward with the joint hunting permit for 2019 and ending on May 31 2020 for the John Mauser Trail. Brad Kreider will be at the August 5<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting to finalize permit considerations and any other questions. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to approve the joint Archery hunting permit with Martins Creek, LLC (Talen Energy) and Lower Mount Bethel Township for Deer and Spring turkey hunting pending verification of the start date. Vote: 4-0.

3. PA Spotted Lanternfly Cooperative Eradication Program – The Board asked for clarification regarding the Treatment Release Form that needs to be executed. Melissa will reach out to Tammy Craig from the USDA. Tabled to August 5<sup>th</sup>.

4. MCAA request for contribution. J. Pilyar was present on behalf of the MCAA. We received a request from Jack Kinney for an additional \$500.00. This is in addition to the \$1,200.00 annual contribution by the Township. S. Disidore asked if this will be done annually or just this year. The Board discussed which budget line item this additional money would come out of. **MOTION** by D. Ascani, second by M. DeBerardinis to approve the additional \$500.00, J. Smethers will figure out which line item the money should come out of. Vote: 4-0. J. Pilyar mentioned the sign at the ballfield is going to be moved due to site problems when pitching.

5. Martha Posner – Report on Community Day – M. Posner indicated Community Day was very successful and will be looking to get more donations next year. They raised just under \$600.00 for the Fire Department. The Fire Department has asked the Recreation Board to help with their Car Show. The Board thanked M. Posner and Recreation Board for bringing it all together.

6. Garden Club - Memory Garden. J. Pilyar was present on behalf of the Garden Club. They had submitted a plan at the last meeting. They would like to put the memory garden between the Monuments and the Basketball court up at Centerfield. R. Grucella mentioned a possible grant through the Chamber of Commerce. There was discussion about maintenance of the garden. Ray DiFebo is going to design it at no charge. M. DeBerardinis suggested getting donations. M. Posner mentioned painting a mural on the cement wall. M. DeBerardinis said there was discussion before about this, however the wall needs repair first.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS** – M. DeBerardinis read the total invoices in the amount of \$43,584.83. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to approve the bills. Vote: 4-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – All correspondence are located in the Township Office.

## REPORTS

Chairman's Report – None.

Board Members Reports. S. Newman submitted her written report and she reviewed with the Board. S. Newman commented on the I-80 Rockfall Mitigation Project and indicated NJDOT is asking for comments by 8/1/19 re: traffic lane closures, overturned tractor trailer and road issues. She mentioned UMBT Clean-up program. LMBT should do something similar since we are now involved with the Keep PA beautiful program and are required to have 2 cleanups per year. She mentioned the SBCOG participation with the collection of hats, gloves and coats for Veterans. They would like municipal offices to have a collection bin. Once we have that in place, we should put something on the website. S. Newman mentioned she is working on getting specs and quotes for replacement signs for the Municipal Garage, Municipal Center sign at Centerfield and the Municipal Office.

D. Ascani – H&K / Easton Block has approved donating material (#6 stone or shot rock) for the Creek Restoration project at the meadows. They will haul it to us.

Zoning Officer Report. Written report was submitted by S. Calluori.

Road Department Report – F. Heitman reported the Road Department has completed all the markings with J. Mauser at the trails, this will hopefully prevent people from getting lost. There was a washout on Lower Mud Run Road they took care of and did some patching on 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue, Regular maintenance and mowing.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – The Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary*

*Lower Mount Bethel Township*