

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

The September 8, 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 7:20 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, J. Zator, Twp. Solicitor, J. Smethers, Twp. Manager and M. Mastrogiovanni, Twp. Secretary. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 17, 2020. The following corrections were made in bold: **Pg. 1** - #1 – 2nd sentence should state **is for sale but** not included in the commercial piece. Pg. 2 – under Board Member Reports misspelling of **Oughoughton**. Pg. 2 – last paragraph should state Justin had mentioned the only way Penn DOT **would give us back the road** would be from the stop light to the Y before Uhler Road. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the minutes as amended. Roll call: S. Disidore – aye; S. Newman – aye; S. Burns – aye; J. Mauser – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye; Motion passed 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - August 25, 2020 for Sanitation Contract & Union Contract. No action was taken; September 8, 2020 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. to discuss Legal matters. No action was taken.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

1. Martha Posner – Recreation Report – Fire Dept. Fundraiser. Martha explained the boxed meal fundraiser and indicated almost everything is being donated. Fidelity Bank donated \$1,000, Hillside Smokehouse is only charging us their cost of \$350.00 for 250 servings (M. Posner and L. Fink are paying), Easton Baking is charging us their cost for the rolls (R. Marinelli is paying on behalf of Agri-Dynamics), Containers are being donated by V. Bastinelli. We also received a Giant gift card - \$50.00 and Wegman Gift Card - \$100.00. The Recreation Board is volunteering to make the food and boxing it up. The Fire Dept. will be in charge of giving out the meals Saturday, October 10th 4-6 p.m. St. Rocco's is letting us borrow their lighted sign for the event. Martha mentioned political signs being stolen in the Township, she asked that we post on our Website and Facebook page, that this will be reported to the State Police. J. Leggett commented signs are being trashed and spray painted. Basket ball nets are being replaced. At the next Rec. Board meeting, they will be organizing Rec. Board functions. H. Klein discussed with the Board the gardens at Riverton. He needs some help with the upkeep and asked we put in the newsletter that we are seeking volunteers.

PRESENTATIONS – None

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Engineering Study/Crosswalks – Front Street. S. Burns indicated her and Melissa met with Marvin from LTAP. She provided the Board with the Crosswalk Study from Penn DOT. Justin has provided his estimate for an engineering study (\$3,000 - \$3,500) to see about restricting trucks on Front Street/Front Street turnback. Samantha provided the Board with information that shows an increase in truck traffic. Our new Penn DOT representative is John Davis.

S. Disidore asked what point on Front Street would we have to take back. J. Coyle indicated he met with Mike Rehbert and Dennis Toomey last year and they verified we would have to take back from the stop light in Martins Creek to the Y at Uhler Road.

Justin voiced his concern with marking crosswalks, it gives people a sense of security. With increased truck traffic and increased speed, no sidewalks, he doesn't think it would be a good idea to push for crosswalks and suggested doing the traffic study. The traffic study would include warrant to restricting trucks and present an alternate route. J. Smethers said we could use liquid fuels for the study, plus we have money in the budget. J. Coyle indicated Penn DOT would give the municipality a lump sum fee, that would be negotiated with Penn DOT. J. Coyle explained UMBT took back River Road and received \$900,000.00 to cover maintenance. You could also ask for Penn DOT to cover costs of milling. M. DeBerardinis would like to see the costs for upkeep and maintenance if we take back the road. S. Disidore agreed.

H. Klein asked J. Coyle if he has any idea what kind of truck traffic increase and affect there would be from the River pointe Logistics Development. Justin responded it may have an affect on LMBT, but not sure yet what the developer will be putting in. Justin recommended LMBT send a letter to UMBT stating impact there could be on LMBT roads, especially the increase truck traffic.

Public Comment by M. Posner – The bridge on 611 is already weak, additional heavy traffic would be detrimental to that bridge. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to authorize J. Coyle to move forward with the traffic study of Front Street. Roll Call: S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye. S. Burns – aye. Motion passed 5-0. Justin will use traffic study from LTAP as part of his study.

MOTION by S. Newman, second by M. DeBerardinis to send a letter to UMBT voicing our concerns with increased truck traffic impacting LMBT from the proposed River pointe Logistics Development. S. Newman will draft the letter and M. DeBerardinis will sign the letter. Roll Call: S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

2.Girl Scout Troop 8323 request to use Centerfield Building –Kim Snook, Leader of Girl Scout Troop 8232, asked if they can start again meeting indoors at the Centerfield Building when the weather gets too cold to meet under the pavilion. They have used our facility for the past few years. Kim said it would be less than 10 people and they will social distance. The Board decided to keep the same policy in place and keep the building closed. M. DeBerardinis said we don't have the cleaning supplied and resources to clean the building. Request to use the building was denied.

3.Little Free Library Eagle Scout Project – Scott Vakiener, Eagle Scout was present on Zoom and explained the projects he would be interested in doing. He needs to put in 100 hours and explained he can accomplish this by doing 2 Free Little Libraries and a Welcome sign, or 1 gaga pit at Riverton Field. Scott explained a gaga pit is like Dodge ball and kits are durable and virtually maintenance free. J. Mauser said the gaga pit is a great idea and would recommend it by the playground / pavilion area. The Board liked the idea of the gaga pit. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to have Scott move forward with the gaga pit, draw up site plans and proposal and bring it back to the Board. Roll Call: S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Resolution 2020-11 – Approving Updates and Revisions to the Emergency Operations Plan.

J. Smethers indicated she took pages from the EOP and listed positions with input by J. Larrison and T. Hriczak as to who should be listed; in the past this was left blank. Jen mentioned with the CBDB relief grant we were awarded; this needs to be completed. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to adopt Resolution 2020-11 – Approving Updates and Revisions to the Emergency Operations Plan. Roll Call: S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Approval of Public Notification System – J. Smethers indicated she received two proposals for the public notification system – Code Red and RAVE. Code Red is much cheaper and has similar features. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve Code Red for our Public Notification System. Roll Call: S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns – aye. Motion passed 5-0. S. Disidore asked that the residents not be auto enrolled; they should have a choice whether or not they want to be on the notification. J. Smethers will look into that. We received \$5,300 in grant money; Jen is going to ask the County if we can use grant money towards the annual maintenance.

6. Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation - Act 205 of 1984 requires I (Jen) inform you of the pension plan Minimum Municipal Obligation for the following year by the last business day in September. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman acknowledging receipt of the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount is \$17,085.00. Roll Call: S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser – aye; S. Burns – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

7. PPL Grant of Right of Way – PPL is requesting a Grant of Right of Way. As part of their agreement with Talen Energy, they need to remove certain facilities from their properties. They need to install several poles, three (3), one (1) anchor guy and have the aerial wires pass over, along these properties and they need a Grant of Right of Way executed by LMBT which would allow PPL to place these facilities onto subject parcels. Fred has met with PPL and he said he is ok with where they plan to locate the facilities. J. Smethers is checking with P. North to see what items we want included in the Grant of Right-of-Way. PPL is also checking with their attorney and are waiting to hear back from them. Tabled to the October 5th BOS meeting.

8. Sanitation Contract – Tabled.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS J. Smethers read the bill list totaling \$39,683.18. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve paying the bills. Roll call: S. Disidore – aye; M. DeBerardinis – aye; S. Newman – aye; J. Mauser - aye; S. Burns aye. Motion passed 5-0.

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

REPORTS

Township Engineer Report – Justin reported Planning Commission meetings have been cancelled and no subdivisions submitted. He talked to Fred regarding the Fairview Avenue drainage project they completed which is working well and drainage is good. UMBT is having a Public Hearing tomorrow (September 9th) regarding the text amendment relating to the River pointe Logistics Development. Justin indicated he will have the traffic study ready for October.

Township Solicitor Report – J. Zator indicated his written report was submitted. Anything further was discussed in the Executive Session. No further comments.

Chairman’s Report – M. DeBerardinis said he will speak under the Road Dept. Report.

Board Members Reports

S. Burns reported a township resident, Violetta Depamphilis, was attacked a pit bull on 2nd Ave. M. DeBerardinis said the State Police were called and it was handled. S. Burns mentioned political signs being damaged and asked if something can be done. M. DeBerardinis suggested contacting the State Police. J. Smethers will post on Facebook and Website.

S. Newman reported the EAC letter is included in packet; Bill Humphries asked if the BOS wants to send their own letter. The Board was fine with the EAC just sending the letter. I-80 Rockwall Mitigation Project – 2 Zoom meetings are scheduled with 5 State Elected Officials; Bi-State Elected Officials United to Preserve the Gap. This group is holding a press conference 9/16/20 at the UMBT Community Park and inviting multiple State Officials to attend. They will be informing NJ DOT how opposed they are to this project. S. Newman acknowledged J. Smethers for all her hard work during these unexpected circumstances. J. Mauser said we have a great administrative staff.

J. Mauser reported the Oughoughton stabilization is 2000 feet, we received 21 truckloads of free fill material to straighten out the logging road on the JMT. Mark & Fred did a wonderful job. The dog signs are up at The Meadows and we will be closing out the grant for this year. There are spotted lantern flies all over the township, the Road Dept. are putting up signs. John said he is very pleased with the Road Department despite current conditions. S. Burns mentioned multiple spotted lantern flies being dead on a milk thistle plant. She has photos and will send to M. Deberardinis.

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers indicated the Newsletter will go out the beginning of October; articles are due to Melissa the end of the month. J. Smethers, S. Burns & J. Mauser met with Williams Gas Co., the gas line is no longer in LMBT. Metering station and anticipated construction will be completed in 2023. We should try and ask them for money to help pay for new tennis courts. Jen indicated she has started working on the 2021 budget. S. Disidore asked if there’s money in the budget for Movies in the Park and maybe look into buying the equipment. Susan asked if taking back the Road would impact our insurance costs. J. Smethers she can find out; she is currently looking into getting better rates for long-term & short-term disability and checking with Delaware Valley Trust who we have our other policies with.

Zoning Officer Report – J. Smethers indicated she met with Jeff Young from Barry Isett’s office. Their hourly rate for 2021 will not increase and will continue to honor the \$50.00 per hour rate. S. Calluori asked if we can hold the Kaplin ZHB outside the Centerfield Building, like at 5 p.m. before it gets dark. The Board said “no” to an outdoor meeting. S. Calluori will continue to stay on the payroll for B. Isett’s for awhile to tie up loose ends.

Road Department Report – M. DeBerardinis reported a couple of trees came down and they have been doing a lot of mowing. The Road Department is doing well.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT - The Public Meeting was Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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