

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES July 10, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The July 10, 2023, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held in person 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. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were 8 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 19, 2023. MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

### **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

1. **Jeff Matthews** – Mr. Matthews submitted a written request to have the Board consider at their next meeting a local tax freeze for senior citizens 65+ with 5 years residency. Jeff mentioned they are doing this in New Jersey. S. Newman mentioned that she had just read an article that New Jersey has passed this statewide. J. Zator noted taxation is highly regulated by the Commonwealth State of Pennsylvania and would have to see if we have the authority to do this.
2. Shannon Parson / Glenn Miller – Bangor Elks Lodge 1106 – Shannon asked the Board permission to utilize the Meadows for the Elks 2<sup>nd</sup> annual duck race on October 14, 2023 around 10:00 a.m. Glenn indicated it will be the same as last year with the addition of putting up a 10x10 tent and serving free coffee and donuts. J. Mauser asked about how many cars will be parked there. Shannon indicated about 10. We could have the gate opened and designate an additional parking area. J. Mauser noted he is proud we have a facility that can be used for events like this. Shannon will pick up a map at the office of the Meadows and mark exactly where everything will be. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to allow permission to the Bangor Elks Lodge 1106 to host their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ducky race at the Meadows providing we receive a map marked up and submitted to the office. Vote: 5-0.
3. Martha Posner – Martha reported on Community Day, it was a huge success and a lot of fun. She thanked everyone for volunteering their time.

### **SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan** – S. Newman and J. Smethers attended the last meeting. Plainfield's Solicitor is pushing that wording be included in the plan that will spell out where landfills would be included in townships that currently don't include landfills. B. Bradley is going to discuss with Solicitor Backenstoe and get back to us. The dates of the timeline are out of reach. J. Zator discussed with the Board landfills in each municipality. Plainfield would like UMBT to have a transfer station shown in Industrial Zone and have Washington Township and Lower Mount Bethel Township allow for a landfill. There was discussion if we can have both our comp. plan and the multi-municipal plan; or if we could change the name of ours to us as another guide. J. Zator explained there could be conflicts between the two. We can keep our zoning as long as it's consistent.

We can add details of existing land uses for future land use plans. J. Mauser noted he likes our Comp. plan; and the multi-municipal plan provides benefits for grants.

- 2. Discussion regarding Ordinance to Establish a “Public Trust” to Preserve Parklands and Open Space** – J. Zator reviewed his memo with the Board. J. Mauser noted we can possibly use State, County and Township EIT money for maintenance, provided we purchased the property with Open Space Funds. This would not be needed for the Meadows or JMT since they were not purchased with Open Space Funds but are deed restricted. J. Zator noted this would be extra protection for future Open Space acquisitions and in the future we could look at protecting our Visitor Center land, Centerfield Building and Township Office. No action taken at this time. Tabled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Ott's Drive Swale** – J. Mauser, J. Smethers & S. Newman did a site visit. J. Mauser did a power point presentation showing stormwater drainage issues on Ott's Drive. It's problematic with the farmers planting crops withing the Township or State right-of-way. We should consider creating a low berm extending just below the tree by the farm lane. John explained the issues at Rasley Hill Rd., Nagy Hill Rd across from the Meadows, and depression at the JMT Welcome Center. He would like to see us cut the macadam at the trees, fill in and loop a trail around the trees. John is going to meet with the Department of Agriculture and the Conservation District and there is a Conservation District meeting tomorrow night. M. DeBerardinis mentioned 95% of the problems are due to modern farming techniques, farmers should move their crops farther from the road. When it rains in the village, it's damaging peoples' homes. There are drainage system problems on Front Street all the way to Forks Township. J. Mauser will contact Penn DOT. S. Newman mentioned Kevin McEwen spreads sludge on his property and is concerned with run off going right into Les Moore's well. M. DeBerardinis asked J. Mauser if he can purchase a memory bench for his mom after we figure out all the details for the tennis / pickle ball courts.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**- J. Smethers indicated she added two more bills Koch 33 – repairs to the truck and Embassy Bank for the truck payment. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns to pay the bills in the amount of \$70,102.42. Vote: 5-0.

## **REPORTS**

**Chairman's Report** – M. DeBerardinis mentioned the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Williams at telephone pole on corner, instead of asphalt curbing, they will pave from pole with blocks.

### **Board Members Reports**

**S. Newman** – No report.

**S. Disidore** – No report.

**J. Mauser** – No report.

**S. Burns** - No report.

**Township Manager Report** – J. Smethers indicated Bruce Fox from Allstate would like to use the Welcome Center for septic system training and have used the building before. The Board had no problem with him using it, just not July 18<sup>th</sup> when the PA Grazing Lands Coalition & Harvest Home Farm is using the Welcome Center. Jen mentioned she and Melissa had a meeting with Fidelity Bank to discuss an investment policy; there is money sitting in our accounts and would like to look into investing some of the funds to get more interest. Fidelity Bank put together a relationship review of our accounts. Jen is going to review everything and follow up with the Board at a later date about how we want to move forward.

**Road Department Report** – F. Heitzman reported the Road Department has been brush cutting on multiple roads, mowing, unclogging drains and repairing washouts and trees down from storms. They fixed Klausz Road last week with R2 & R4 stone, however, they lost all of that stone from the storms and the water is bubbling down to the shale. M. Hess has been spraying, including the trails.

J. Mauser asked J. Smethers to contact J. Lawrence at the County regarding Dirt & Gravel Road funding for low volume roads.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Public meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary / Planning Administrator  
Lower Mount Bethel Township