

**Approved**

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. CENTERFIELD SCHOOL**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The September 13, 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 7:15 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, S. Disidore, S. Newman, J. Mauser, S. Burns, J. Zator, J. Coyle, J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni via zoom. There were 7 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – There was an Executive Session held tonight from 6:00 – 7:10 p.m. No action was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2, 2021. MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to approve the minutes as revised. Vote: 5-0.

**COURTESY OF FLOOR**

**1. Martha Posner – Rec. Board Chair. – Summary of Community Day.** Martha thanked everyone that helped and came out for Community Day. She explained the issue with waiting to purchase signage and banners and difficulty of making purchases. Suggestions for next year's Community Day are to eliminate vendors except make and take type of vendors, food trucks, continue selling wine and maybe add a local beer vendor. They would also like to look into Bingo and asked the Board's permission to contact the PA Gaming Commission for a gaming license. For next year, they would also like to purchase feather flags and 1 more banner. Martha mentioned the cake walk and sack races being a big success. She also mentioned she sent thank you notes to businesses that gave donations. They would like to have next year's Community Day in June. The next event is going to be the Tree Lighting and will serve hot chocolate and cookies. Martha mentioned the YMCA continuing to have classes at Centerfield, but Jiva Fitness might also be interested. J. Mauser suggested the Rec. Board present their budget to the Board including a list of activities and budget amounts the Rec. Board needs. They might also want to look into monthly bingo at Centerfield, but not sure with Covid, they should follow the CDC guidelines. Martha indicated the Rec. Board will talk about their budget at their next meeting and present their budget to the Board of Supervisors.

**2. Garden Club – Free Little Library.** The Garden Club would like to construct a Children's Free Little Library at the Centerfield Building. They will find out if the Girl Scouts are still interested in doing that project. Elvira mentioned the generous donation Carroll Engineering donated for their Arbor and Fencing for the Centerfield school playground. They have raised over \$3,000 and are going to order the arbor. J. Smethers and J. Mauser met with the County regarding updating the slides at the Centerfield playground. M. DeBerardinis mentioned they will be removing those 2 metal slides. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to allow the Garden Club to construct a Children's Free Little Library at the Centerfield playground. Vote: 5-0. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore that the 2 metal slides be removed from the Centerfield playground to make room for the arbor & fencing. Vote: 5-0.

M. DeBerardinis and J. Pilyar will meet at the Centerfield school on Saturday.

**Courtesy of the floor cont'd.** Bob Vishnesky mentioned his flooding situation on Martin Creek/ Belvidere Hwy. J. Mauser shared pictures showing the flooding back in 2020 from Martins Belvidere Hwy. crossing the road to the culvert by the telephone pole; the culvert is sinking. There is a potential safety problem there.

J. Mauser shared a video and mentioned the Vishnesky's well was flooded; at Birch Lane a box culvert still had water back-flowing into the subdivision. The flooding goes through everyone's yard. The situation is the culvert adjacent to the Vishnesky property crossing the Martins Creek/Belvidere Highway is not able to handle the flow and Penn DOT should be contacted. The Hess family had a similar problem but didn't want to sign the release document. F. Heitzman explained the flow towards the pipe cannot get to the drainage area. M. DeBerardinis suggested a meeting be scheduled with himself, J. Coyle and Penn DOT. J. Coyle agreed to upgrade it all. J. Mauser indicated the ditch is in the right-of-way and included in the conservation plan. S. Disidore also asked if anything needs to be done on the Kiefer property. The meeting will be set up with M. DeBerardinis, J. Mauser, J. Coyle and Penn DOT.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1.Award 2021 Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Disposal and Recycling Contract.** Ron Carlson from Waste Management was present. J. Smethers reviewed the 2 bids we received from Mascaro and Waste Management; with Waste Management being the low bid. The only thing we added was Christmas tree pick-up, the rest of the contract is the same we have had in the past; weekly garbage pick-up, bi-weekly recycling. R. Carlson explained the price increases are due to recycling prices going up owing to the stricter collection process for contaminated recycling items. Also increased prices due to lack of drivers, increased pay and sign on bonuses in an attempt to get more drivers and helpers. The price has more than doubled. The sanitation tax will be increased to \$317.00 yearly per household if awarded to Waste Management the low bidder. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Newman to award the contract to Waste Management for weekly trash pick-up and bi-weekly recycling. **MOTION** amended by J. Mauser, second amended by S. Newman to award the 5-year contract to Waste Management in the amount of \$2,295,696.00 as long as the revision is made to the contract according to P. North's notes regarding the monthly rate subject to Waste Management submitting a corrected Price Sheet for those options. Vote: 5-0.

**2.Soil Erosion Concerns 5851 Del Haven Road.** J. Mauser shared with the Board photos of the resident's home with Soil Erosion problems. They are working with Frank Brooks, Northampton County and CALV to acquire a Community Development Block Grant for assistance with the stormwater / soil erosion issues. Remediation will include installing sandbags and corrugated piping. We currently have 2 inlets on the lower section of Del Haven Road, an additional two or three inlets should be installed to alleviate ponding water on Del Haven Road. The resident is willing to provide an easement to the Township for the additional inlets. They are working with the County to cover the costs. J. Mauser requested permission to pay J. Coyle's engineering costs for the project and then will get reimbursed by the County for soil and erosion controls on 5851 Del Haven. **MOTION** by J. Mauser that the Township act as a pass thru agent, meet County qualifications, using County funds up to \$30,000. S. Newman recommended maybe in the future establishing a policy, possibly a line item in the budget. J. Smethers indicated we have the Capital Reserve Fund. J. Mauser will pay the upfront costs to the Township Engineer and get reimbursed by the County. **MOTION** amended that J. Mauser will pay the upfront costs to the Township Engineer and get reimbursed by the County and a Stormwater Culvert Improvement Easement be completed; we can use the \$161,000.00 to front the costs of repairs and be reimbursed from the county for all expenses. Agreement. J. Smethers will also check the American Rescue Fund money regulations which may be used for the installation of additional inlets and connecting piping. Motion seconded by S. Newman. Vote: 5-0. J. Coyle suggested looking at stormwater erosions problems and possibly a series of inlets which would be piped to the river.

**3.Administrative Staff Liaison Appointment.** M. DeBerardinis indicated the Vice-Chair. serve in this capacity for the oversight of the office operations and communications, and assist with vacation / time off of staff and covering the office. This would fit well within the Vice-Chair. position.

S. Disidore said it makes sense, just like the Road Department has a Roadmaster. Annually, the Vice-Chair. can be appointed to this position. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to appoint the Vice-Chair. (S. Newman) as Administrative Staff Liaison. Vote: 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Authorize Audit Services Request for Proposal to be Advertised.** J. Smethers indicated this is a new RFP. **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser to authorize the Township Manager to proceed with the RFP for Professional Audit Services. Vote: 5-0.

**2. UMBT Softball Request to Use Riverton Field.** This is their annual request and asked the fees be waived. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns to grant the request of UMBT Softball to use the Riverton Field and waive the fees providing they complete the proper paperwork and provide us with their schedule. Vote: 5-0.

**3. Trick or Treat – Date and Time.** **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to set the Trick or Treat for Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 4-6 p.m. Vote: 5-0.

**4. Ratify Authorization to sell H10-11-5V-0117C – Repository Sale Property.** **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to ratify authorization to sell H10-11-5V=0117C. Vote: 5-0.

**5. Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation.** **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by S. Newman to approve the Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation for the following year. Vote: 5-0.

**6. Authorization for the Solicitor to Prepare a Holding Tank Ordinance in Consultation with the Township SEO and Township Engineer.** J. Smethers explained the section of the SALDO regarding holding tanks was accidentally removed when it was updated a few years ago. J. Zator indicated it will be prepared as a stand-alone ordinance. P. North said the cost would be minimal since he'd use a "cookie cutter" ordinance. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Burns to authorize Zator law to prepare the ordinance with input by the Township SEO and Twp. Engineer. Vote: 5-0.

**7. 2021 Hunting Permits – JMT and the Meadows.** J. Mauser is working with Talen on the Hunting permits. Talen in the past issued 200 + permits and without notifying the township reduced the number to 100 for the 2021-2020 season; they are already taken. J. Mauser suggested we let it go for this year and next year develop our own plan. M. DeBerardinis indicated they are trying to create their own hunting preserve, and that next year we should have township-based permits; maybe suggest 150 for next year. J. Mauser indicated Chris Early is our new contact at Talen. M. DeBerardinis noted his concern with sharing Township Parking. S. Newman asked about hunting on County parks.

**8. Township Credit Card Policy.** **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by M. DeBerardinis to increase Melissa's spending limit from \$500.00 to \$1,000. J. Smethers recommended we get Visa gift cards with set amounts for the Rec. Board members to make purchases as well if the \$1,000 isn't enough to cover the costs incurred with special events, or they need to make their own purchases. Vote: 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS.** **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to pay the bills in the amount of \$79,497.73. Vote: 5-0.

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

## **REPORTS**

**a. Solicitor's Report** – Written report submitted. J. Zator mentioned an article in the Morning Call regarding Solar Farms and discussed certain points of the article.

**b. Engineer's Report** – J. Coyle reported Upper Mud Run Rd. construction is continuing. They did a guiderail evaluation and no drainage problem. He has a meeting tomorrow with JPS to remove the large boulders. The lower end of UMMR is set to be paved the end of the week or next week. There is additional cracking in the road which will cause future problems. They will be meeting with FEMA on Wednesday regarding Little Creek Road and UMMR. Justin mentioned they all met (Justin, P. McInerney, S. Newman & J. Smethers) at the H & K site for a visit per the Land Development plan. Justin also met with M. DeBerardinis at Del Haven Road.

### **Board Members Reports**

**S. Disidore** – No report.

**J. Mauser** – John reported there was extensive trail damage; he spoke to F. Heitzman and Talen regarding the washout. He has been talking to Mark Jackson regarding the agreement of sale. John mentioned the Oughouton Creek project has \$50,000 - \$100,000 in damage.

**S. Burns** – Samantha requested to plant some flowers / bushes in front of the office. They are inexpensive right now. She contacted Allied 5 about the floor, it's imperative they come out now before the weather gets cooler. Samantha asked if Fred can take down and charge the speed sign when he sees its not charged. Samantha asked about looking into cameras at the office and Centerfield.

**S. Newman** – Sandra asked about the email regarding questions about Gravel Hill not going the correct route. J. Smethers forwarded those questions to DEP. Sandra reported the Bangor Area School District has disaffiliated themselves with the BACIDA. She asked J. Smethers to contact R. Grucela to have him back here to report to the Board. Sandra discussed with the Board the agreement between the IDA and Lou Pektor. Sandra indicated she and J. Smethers will work on a plan for a covid policy following the CDC guidelines. M. DeBerardinis said they would need to meet with the union rep. regarding any policy put in place.

Chairman report – M. DeBerardinis asked about the water test and notification from DEP for Centerfield. J. Smethers indicated she received the call Friday at 5:15 p.m. and they were re-testing today. She contacted Ed Ostabuehler from DEP, but hasn't heard back from him.

Manager's report – J. Smethers reviewed her written report with the Board. J. Smethers mentioned J. Larrison is requesting to do a hay ride at the car show. The Board was ok with the request. Jen indicated Brian Fenstermaker from Sen. Scavello's office contacted her regarding request for funding to continue the road study for Front Street with Carroll Engineering. They recommend we apply for the Monroe & Northampton County LSA grants, Senator Scavello will support our request. They are due September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board said ok to apply. Jen asked for permission to purchase a projector for zoom, lap top for Melissa to do minutes and work from home and new computer for Anthony, the Zoning Officer, as his computer is giving him trouble. We can use the American Rescue Plan money to cover the costs. The Board agreed to the purchases.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Board of Supervisors Regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary / Planning Administrator  
Lower Mt. Bethel Township