

Approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MINUTES – June 19, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER - The June 19, 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, J. Smethers and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were no members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 5, 2023 – Edits were made as follows: Pg. 1 - #1 – should say LMBT Slate Belt Heritage book and compiled should be compiled; Pg. 2 - #3 S. Newman thanked B. Humphries for recommendations and help with formatting changes; Pg. 4 – J. Mauser – Township, last sentence of S. Disidore’s report – there is not case law regarding having both; Ms. Wassell – M. DeBerardinis will look into; change J. Matthews to Mr. Matthews. **MOTION** by S. Newman, second by J. Mauser to approve the minutes as revised. Vote: 4-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan** – S. Disidore indicated she, S. Newman, and J. Smethers had a zoom meeting today. The steering committee is moving towards approving a draft and then sending it to the neighboring municipalities, municipalities’ PC, and LVPC for review & recommendations. There is a 45-day review & comment period; thereafter each municipality will hold a public hearing to adopt and approve a resolution. The municipalities and boroughs that participated will enter into an intermunicipal agreement. LVPC would like to see it finalized by the end of the calendar year. Susan mentioned Portland is now back in. There will be a meeting with LVPC, Townships and Boroughs. The original draft was very cookie cutter, but now the revised draft plan shows current & future land use and map. Also added was a Data Companion to the Comprehensive Plan. It was noted, back in January, that J. Snook did a review on the strength of the plan. There was also mentioned of having J. Zator do a legal review and see if we can include our LMBT Comp. plan in the Slate Belt plan. J. Mauser suggested we have J. Zator explore options we have as far as having both plans, also J. Smethers will contact PSATS. M. DeBerardinis noted the Multi-Municipal plan has great benefits, we just need to know if we can fall back on ours and maybe we can make the LMBT comp. plan an addendum to the Multi-Municipal plan. It was noted that Plainfield does not want to expand their landfill, their Solicitor is protecting them from expansion, and had suggested other township include a land fill in their land use. This topic will be put on the BOS agenda every month under old business to give updates as the Multi-Municipal plan moves forward.
2. **Agreement for Professional Services – PEMA Hazard Mitigation Program Grant** – J. Smethers explained the PEMA elevation grants for 5821 and 5841 Del Haven are starting to move forward again. The application was submitted as one Northampton County project however, the project includes our two residents and one in Forks Township (2611 Old River Road). Jen has been working with Donna Asure, the Forks Township Manager, both have been working with the County to get the homes elevated using Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (HMPG) funds. In discussions with the county, they both agreed to work together on engineering and bidding the projects as one which would get us both a better cost. Donna agreed to use Carroll Engineering, the agreement is between LMBT, Forks and Carroll Engineering. Donna had her board sign off yesterday. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve the agreement for Professional Services with Carroll Engineering jointly with Forks Township. Vote: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to pay the bills in the amount of \$12,813.09. Vote: 4-0.

REPORTS

Chairman’s Report & Road Department report - M. DeBerardinis reported the Road Department has been trimming & cutting tree branches on the roadways. We need to send a letter to the resident at 6305 4th Ave. regarding trimming their trees back off the roadway.

Board Members Reports

J. Mauser – John received a call from R. Leggett regarding an oak tree across the stream, 100 feet back from the bridge. M. DeBerardinis indicated Fred & Mark took care of trimming the tree. It’s not an issue right now and not in right-of-way or in the stream or on the bridge. John will give R. Leggett a call back. John commended the road department for doing a nice job maintaining the parks and mentioned the blue birds and tree swallows are back. J. Mauser will ask Talen about hunting on the other portion of their property. M. DeBerardinis suggested we issue the hunting permits on July 17th after the Game Commission issues the state licenses on June 26th. We will only issue 150 to the people that reported their harvest.

S. Newman – Sandra asked M. DeBerardinis about the train idling problem on Alpha Ave. M. DeBerardinis hasn’t heard any more complaints.

S. Disidore - Susan asked about the status of the ordinance memorializing our Open Space Parks, she would like to see that completed by the end of the year. J. Smethers will follow up with J. Zator.

Township Manager Report – J. Smethers indicated a resident asked not to pay their streetlight for a vacant lot on Little Creek Rd. The streetlight has not been there since they worked on the road. She did pay her other bill. The Board agreed the bill does not need to be paid since the streetlight was removed. Jen will contact the resident and let them know. Jen mentioned the new custom table & chairs would be around \$30,000; non custom would be around \$5,000 - \$6,000 and also look into a 95” large screen tv that’s wireless for zoom meetings. John didn’t know if that would be useful for hooking up the laptop and projector.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT – The Workshop meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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