

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – AUGUST 21, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: The August 21, 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, and M. Mastrogiovanni. There was 3 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 7, 2023. MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Burns to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan** – The Planning Commission met on August 15th to review the draft Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. S. Disidore was present at the PC Meeting. The Planning Commission did not make a formal recommendation, but reviewed and discussed the draft Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comp. Plan and are in agreement with Township representatives. Once the final plan is completed, it will go back to the Planning Commission for a recommendation. The Planning Commission was in agreement with the Township representatives (S. Disidore, S. Newman and J. Smethers) objectives that are: The plan is very vague, 2). They like our Comp. Plan better we passed last year, 3). It is a great tool that helps with grant opportunities, so we should move forward and stay involved with the Slate Belt Multi. Municipal Plan. They also suggested that an exit clause be included in the final plan. There was also discussion about the issue Plainfield’s Solicitor has with Solid Waste Land Use in the Slate Belt and the format of the land use plan. Plainfield’s Solicitor would like to see other municipalities located within the Comprehensive Plan region to specifically provide for solid waste uses in their current zoning ordinance, which we are not in agreement with. Plainfield feels they have met its fair share of solid waste disposal and does not anticipate rezoning to expand the current solid waste district. S. Disidore indicated the steering committee will be meeting before our next Board of Supervisors meeting.

- 2. Award Tennis/Pickleball Courts Contract** – The low bidder for the project was H & K Group, Inc. at \$195,440.49. The Board agreed to take out the 7” park bench and concrete pad for \$8,003.04. M. DeBerardinis mentioned storm damage to the Bocci ball court. The Road Department will do the demo of the tennis court, pull out the bocci ball court, fencing and black top. We’re going to see if there is any interest in the batting caging to donate to a local baseball team.

MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to award the bid for the Tennis / Pickleball Courts to H & K Group Inc. excluding the park bench and concrete pad in the amount of \$187,437.45. Vote: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - None

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – S. Disidore asked about the Little Creek Road paving project. M. DeBerardinis indicated it is ½ way completed, some of that might need additional paving, but we won't be able to do anything until the bridges are fixed. Michael noted the County Bridge Commission already have the bridge work out to bid and are starting the work on Monday. Once they repair the bridge in the middle, then we can reassess what additional paving needs to be done and they can continue paving. The additional money to finish the paving project is still in the liquid fuels fund. We have a zoom meeting with FEMA this Thursday to see what the status is regarding storm damage relief. M. Posner asked if the meeting is available to the public. Michael said it is not, but we will ask if we can share the information with the public. **MOTION** by S. Mauser second by S. Disidore to pay the bills in the amount of \$223,638.64. Vote: 5-0.

Chairman report – M. DeBerardinis reported we provided dumpsters for the last month for residents that had extensive flood damage. We are done providing dumpsters at this point, they are very expensive. Michael mentioned he is getting a tremendous amount of calls from residents. He recommended we put on the township website we will no longer be providing dumpsters for flood relief, that we needed to do that for those that had significant damage for safety purposes. Also we should consider putting updates on the bridges and status of FEMA / PEMA. S. Disidore noted we should be careful what information we put on the website.

Board Members Reports

S. Newman – Sandra mentioned at the Planning Commission meeting Bruce Smith asked about the feasibility of Planning Commission agenda and minutes on the website. This should also be offered for all Committees and Boards for transparency. We will get prices from our web designer and discuss during budget time. S. Newman asked about the status of the cameras for GHE. There has been no activity up there. She will check with J. Smethers if she made those arrangements.

J. Mauser – John reported on PA Ave. there is a building right up against the creek. J. Coyle can do calculations and check with watershed experts. John suggested a pathway be placed at Libby Bush's place; PEMA won't pay for it but might pay for what we lost. We can excavate 7 inches and put down stone fines. John and A. Disante checked out the flow of the 611 culvert from the train trestle and it needs to be opened for proper flow. M. DeBerardinis suggested concrete grids on the 4-foot section.

S. Burns – Samantha reported Farina from Lehigh Valley Breathes Project. They will be installing a purple air monitor on Front Street near the light which measures all PM2.5 and black carbon. They need Wi-Fi and power, so Al Picotti has agreed to have the monitor installed at his house. Samantha has also located a noise metering system that we can borrow. It would be unofficial, over 66 decibels are a hazard and we are in the range of 110-130 all day long. Once we get the report, we can look into getting a real study.

Road Department Report – F. Heitzman reported Garr Road is temporarily open. They put the pipe in the ground and just need to pave the bad spots. Frank Ruggerio excavated for us at no

charge to get the pipe out of the ground. They took the barriers down at Little Creek Rd, cleaned up trails, mowing and Mark was spraying. F. Heitzman, J. Coyle and J. Mauser will be meeting tomorrow at the Clamps property at 2 p.m. to figure out where our right-of-way is since our easement washed out from the storm.

M. DeBerardinis discussed with the Board a way to thank and recognize all the people that went above and beyond helping us get through the storm damage. Possibly recognizing them at a public meeting and put something up at the township building. We will get a list together and figure out how we want to acknowledge everyone.

M. DeBerardinis mentioned fixing the rest of PA Ave. there's a lot of debris and the stream needs to be dredged all the way up.

J. Mauser said J. Smethers should contact Chris Kulick, DEP Northeast office to get an emergency permit. J. Smethers and J. Mauser also need to talk to Chris Kulick about the Norfolk Southern Riverside parking lot.

PUBLIC COMMENT

E. Bush – Erica noted most of her questions were answered earlier regarding the County fixing the bridges. She also mentioned her neighbor, a farmer is not permitted to go thru the Hopstetter's property which is causing a problem getting in and out of their property. She also mentioned the bridge is in the wrong location.

ADJOURNMENT – The Workshop meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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