

approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER – The April 1, 2024, regular meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063 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, C. Cook, J. Mauser, J. Smethers and J. Zator (zoom) at 8:00 p.m. There were approximately 15 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 4, 2024. MOTION by S. Disidore, second by J. Mauser, to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 4-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Jeffrey Matthews – Mr. Matthews discussed the wrestling club and operating a business and if this is costing the township money.

LMB Sandt’s Eddy Fire Company – George Russo Jr. was present and discussed the safety gear to be purchased. They need to purchase 4 sets of turn out gear out of the matching fund for the new guys that have been trained. The estimated total will be \$17,159.00, they will be using some money from the Fire relief fund; also, they would like to buy some gear including boots and helmets from matching fund.

J. Larrison was present to discuss the wine and wreath fundraiser. They are looking to hold a wine and wreath fundraiser at the Centerfield Building the Saturday after Thanksgiving. S. Disidore mentioned our operating use policy doesn’t allow alcohol and we need to be consistent. The Fire Co. appreciation event was a closed event, and she is not sure about BYOB for all events going forward. It would be ok if they got a vendor to sell beer and wine like we do on Community Day. There was discussion about the policy. The Board asked J. Smethers to check waivers & policies from other townships.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING - None

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Resolution 2024-08 – This resolution is for the Execution of Fire Apparatus and Vehicle Use Agreements with LMB/Sandt’s Eddy Volunteer Fire Company. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to adopt Resolution 2024-08 Authorizing the execution of fire apparatus and vehicle use agreement with Lower Mount Bethel Sandt’s Eddy Fire Company. Vote: 4-0.

Discussion/Approval of Camera System for Entrance to Gravel Hill Enterprises. J. Smethers explained she is waiting for the quote from Fox Brothers. She will reach out to Swanson Electric to schedule an onsite meeting before the next supervisors’ meeting. Tabled.

UMBT / LMBT Intermunicipal Agreement for Softball – M. DeBerardinis noted the revisions to the agreement includes #8 – UMBT shall be responsible to obtain federal and state criminal background checks on all coaches (and any team parents or volunteers who will be interacting with any minors) along with also obtaining state child protection and child abuse checks. These checks shall be at the sole cost of UMBT which will pay for all background check expenses. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve the UMBT / LMBT Intermunicipal Agreement for Softball with the revisions. Vote: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Resolution 2024-07 a Resolution Approving an Application to Northampton County Open Space Initiative Livable Landscapes Grant Program – J. Smethers indicated this is to request funding to repair the walking trail along MCBH that was destroyed during the flooding last July. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve Resolution 2024-07. Vote: 4-0.

Approval to Apply for the Grow NORCO Grant for Walking Trail – **MOTION** by S. Disidore, second by C. Cook to approve J. Smethers to apply for the Grow NORCO grant for the walking trail. Vote: 4-0.

Approval of the 2023 Audit - MOTION by M. DeBerardinis, second by S. Disidore to approve the 2023 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report. Vote: 4-0.

Approval of the Cyber Incident Response Plan - J. Smethers explained the insurance company is requesting/requiring we have a plan in place. This is basically their template plan modified for LMBT. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by C. Cook to approve the Cyber Incident Response Plan. Vote: 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS - MOTION by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore to pay the bills in the amount of \$131,058.62. Vote: 4-0.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report – M. DeBerardinis will report under Road Department report.

Board Members Reports

J. Mauser - John reported on the 5520 Martins Creek Belvidere Hwy. property issues as a result of the flood. Jen drafted a letter and sent it to J. Zator. There are stormwater issues on Martin Creek Belvidere Hwy. by Hillendale Road. There are upland drainage and culvert issues and the macadam is caving in. John will bring it up to the Dept. of Agriculture and Northampton Conservation District.

C. Cook – Chris reported information on the Wrestling Club. He stated that the club is insured, and the parents don't leave. Mike who runs the program is a resident of the township and runs a program at a Catasauqua school. It is not for profit and good for the kids.

S. Disidore - Susan noted the wrestling club does pay for use of the building according to the fee schedule and the building is used for many things. Susan asked J. Smethers if we heard from B. Bradley, LVPC. Jen replied we have not.

Township Manager Report - J. Smethers stated that the Sanitation CD was not renewed because we can get a better rate. She will reach out to Fidelity Bank for additional options.

Township Solicitor Report – Written report submitted. Joe mentioned the LMB Sandt’s Eddy agreement with the Township was more involved than he anticipated and beyond his area of expertise.

Road Department Report – M. DeBerardinis reported we have an agreement with the Little Creek Rd. resident to have the Road crew saw cut the road. We need to find a way to resolve the flooding issues on Hutchison Ave. Mike discussed the plan he put together with J. Coyle and would like to look for funding to complete it in phases. Fred informed him the boom mower is in bad shape. Fred will look at getting quotes to repair vs purchasing new. Fred ordered pipes for projects, finished pulling out the playground equipment at Centerfield and checked debris in drains.

PUBLIC COMMENT – J. Matthews commented on the Wrestling Club and if it’s costing the Township money. Another resident mentioned the google address for the Wrestling Club comes up as the Centerfield Building, that should be changed back to say the Township Building.

ADJOURNMENT - The Board of Supervisors Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Smethers, Township Manager - Lower Mount Bethel Township