

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – June 2, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER The June 2, 2025, meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DeBerardinis at 7:00 p.m. Also in attendance were, S. Disidore, C. Cook, D. Ascani, J. Mauser, J. Coyle, Twp. Engineer, J Zator, Township Solicitor, J. Smethers, and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were approximately 30 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. M. DeBerardinis announced there was an Executive Session held tonight before the meeting for a legal review. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 5, 2025. MOTION by J. Mauser, second by D. Ascani to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

1. **G. Russo, Fire Chief** - G. Russo presented John and Suzanne Mauser with a plaque for their generous personal donation of \$100,000 towards their new Brush Truck. J. Mauser mentioned how proud he is of the men and women in this community and thanked the EMS and Fire Company. The Board of Supervisors thanked John and Suzanne for their generous donation.
2. **N. Palmeri – Recreation Board update.** Nicole thanked everyone that helped at Community Day and noted they are making great strides with the Fire Company. They made under \$500.00 on the hotdogs, and about \$800.00 on the Tricky Tray. The Rec. Board and Fire Company would like to share the storage space in the Rec. garage. The Fire Company is going to help clean it out. This will be on the July agenda for approval. Hotel Grant – The Rec. Board is going to put in for an icemaker that can be shared by the Fire Company and the Rec. Board. It will be stored at the Fire Company building. Movie Night – three movies will be shown at Riverton Ball Field June, July and August (rain location will be at Centerfield). The Local Scoop will be selling ice cream. The Creekers asked the Rec. Board for hotdogs for their Community Day in June. However now they don't need them. The Rec. Board is going to ask the Creekers to change the name from Community Day to something different for next year, not to get confused with the Rec. Board Community Day.
3. **Tara Mezzanotte - DWG Area as one of the ten Gateway Community Pilot Program under the Explore Act.** Tara gave an update and read portion of the Congressional support letters received from Ryan Mackenzie, US Congressman and Lamont McClure, County Executive. Tara will also be following up with a letter from Congressman Kean.
4. **Jackie Ascani** - Jackie mentioned there is an Air B&B near her property. Memorial Weekend it was rented and there were young children on their property, climbing mountain and jumping over the swale. Jackie noted her concerns with liability. These Air B&B are transients and not long term. There is another Air B&B in the village and Del Haven Road. Owners of these Air B&B are not taking the proper procedures for permitting. Jackie mentioned the Township is not a hotel district and this is a business, there are no repercussions or consequences and asked the Township look into this and get a handle on it.

R. Budihas - Approval of Township In-kind Contribution of Labor for the MJWA Stream Crossing Sign Replacement Project. R. Budihas explained the current signs were erected in 2005 and many are missing, in disrepair and in need of replacement. Out of the 32 signs, 23 need replacement. The MJWA is applying for a grant with anticipated completion date in 2026. The MJWS is requesting the Township make an “in-kind” contribution of the labor required to put the signs up. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M DeBerardinis to approve an in-kind donation by having the Road Crew install the signs when they have availability, the poles are already in place. Vote: 5-0.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING

1. Approval of Minnich – Lot Line Adjustment – 9149 B North Delaware Dr. G10-7-6 / G10-7-6A.

J. Coyle indicated this is a very simple lot line adjustment and recommended approval. The Planning Commission gave a favorable recommendation. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to approve the Minnich Lot Line Adjustment for 9149 B N. Delaware Drive. Vote: 4-0-1, D. Ascani abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Approval on Gravel Hill Solar Camera or Hard-Wired Camera – M.

Mastrogiovanni noted J. Swanson and Met-Ed had a site visit on Friday, 5/30/25. The recommendation from Swanson and Met - Ed is to go with the original plan of placing the camera on the pole already there. J. Smethers mentioned there is no meter there. C. Cook will contact Danielle at Met-Ed. Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Appointment of Megan Hart as Township Manager/Treasurer. MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by C. Cook to appoint Megan Hart as the Township Manager / Treasurer effective June 3, 2025. S. Disidore mentioned the Meyner Center assisted in the search and interview process. There was a discussion when J. Smethers services should cease for the transition period. The Board of Supervisors will decide at the next BOS meeting.
- 2. Appointment of Melissa Mastrogiovanni as Assistant Township Manager/Secretary. MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by D. Ascani to appoint Melissa Mastrogiovanni as Assistant Township Manager / Secretary. Vote: 5-0.
- 3. Appointment of Megan Hart as Emergency Management Coordinator, the Right to Know Officer, the NTCC Delegate, the Representative to the Non-Uniform Employee Pension Plan, the Delaware Valley Trust Delegate, County 911 Representative, and the Slate Belt Council of Government Representative. MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to appoint Megan Hart to assume these positions. Vote: 5-0.
- 4. Appointment of Joseph Zator, Township Solicitor, now part of the King, Spry, Herman, Freund and Faul LLC Law Firm. MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore appointing Joseph Zator, Township Solicitor as part of the King, Spry, Herman, Freund and Faul LLC Law Firm. Vote: 5-0.

5. **Approval of the Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement for the New International Plow / Dump Truck.** J. Smethers reviewed council's opinion regarding the lease purchase agreement, and everything is in order. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve the Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement for the New International Plow / Dump Truck financing for 7 years (amount financed is \$166,194.26) with the first payment due on 5/15/26. Vote: 5-0.
6. **Approval of Resolution 2025-09 – A Resolution to Approve and Authorize the Execution and Delivery of Schedule of Equipment No. 01 – New International Plow / Dump Truck with Upfitting .** **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by C. Cook approving Resolution 2025-09. Vote: 5-0.
7. **Approval of Resolution 2025-10 – A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Mount Bethel Township Acknowledging Willow brook Farms for Agricultural Farming Practices in Lower Mount Bethel Township.** **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M. DeBerardinis approving Resolution 2025-10. Vote: 5-0. J. Mauser suggested framing the Resolution and inviting B. Kiefer to the July 14th meeting to present it to him.
8. **Authorization to Advertise the Bid for the LMBT Trail Reconstruction Project –** J. Smethers indicated the contract from the state has been executed and Livable Landscape Grant for \$158,000.00 and are ready to proceed with the project. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M. DeBerardinis to authorize J. Coyle to advertise the bid for the LMBT Reconstruction Project. Vote: 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – J. Smethers had one addition to the bill list to Lobar Construction for the Cinder shed. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M. DeBerardinis to pay the bills in the amount of \$385,982.85. Vote: 5-0.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report – No report

Board Members Reports

D. Ascani – Dave would like a monthly report from other staff including the zoning report for property maintenance for the clean-up efforts. The BOS suggested a broader spectrum for reports similar to the Solicitor's report.

J. Mauser – John reported the Delaware River Sojourn event is scheduled for June 19th depending on the conditions of Foul Rift. There is a clump of four trees at the Meadows across from Good Rd on the downstream side, he is working with the Fire Company to remove.

C. Cook – No report

S. Disidore – No report.

Township Secretary Report - Written report submitted.

Township Solicitor Report - Written report submitted J. Zator indicated he received official legal documents for the MC OPCO (Talen) Real Estate Tax Assessment.

Township Engineer Report – J. Coyle reported he met with J. Mauser, and M. DeBerardinis regarding the Upper Mud Run Road and Little Creek Road damage from the major flood. They were not successful with FEMA / PEMA in obtaining funds. J. Coyle mentioned the portion of Upper Mud Run Road in Plainfield is closed permanently because of the road pavement separating. It will be monitored by Public Works, it's a continuous problem. J. Coyle will look into contractors with design and build experience for slope stabilization.

Road Department Report – F. Heitzman reported the cinder shed is completed, new tires put on the mower, their patching holes, mowing grass at the parks, cleaned up scrap and Mark has been spraying the trails and guard rails.

Township Treasurers Report – J. Smethers reported the township was awarded the NC LSA grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the Fire Company Rescue Boat and Monroe County LSA in the amount of \$30,000 for the Riverton Band shell. Jen also put a grant in with Grow Norco in the amount of \$50,00 for the Riverton Band Shell.

PUBLIC COMMENT - J. Matthews mentioned industrial waste (bio-solids) being spread on farms and can anything be done to stop it. J. Mauser noted this is a permitted in PA according to DEP, they make the rules. J. Matthews asked what the Manager salary is going to be. M. DeBerardinis indicated it will be in the budget. J. Matthews asked how much is left in the Street Light Fund. J. Smethers indicated about \$7,200. No further comments.

ADJOURMENT - The Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary / Planning Admin. Lower Mount Bethel Township