

approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – JUNE 3, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The June 3, 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, D. Ascani, J. Smethers, M. Mastrogiovanni, J. Coyle & P. North (present on zoom). There were approximately 7 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 6, 2024. MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by S. Disidore, to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None.**

**Rec. Board Update.** Nicole Palmeri, Rec. Board Chair. gave a report:

**Plant Sale** – Nicole reported it was a great success! They changed the location to Centerfield due to the rain and got many compliments on the space. Nicole thanked Mark and Fred for all their help setting up and breaking everything down. The cost of plants from Gift Box were \$842, sales were \$1373 with a \$531 profit including food. Nicole thanked Chris Cook and his wife for donating 6 dozen cupcakes for the Rec Board to sell along with the bagels.

Next year they will be looking to set the date for Saturday before Mother’s Day at the same location.

**Market aspect** – All the vendors did well. We received many compliments on the people we had selling things – honey, fresh lettuce, canned goods/meat, handmade items, Garden Club - Everyone liked it and asked if it would happen again and asked the Board permission to do this twice a year at Centerfield. Spring and Fall – Fall we will sell Mums from Giftbox. The Board had no objection. M. DeBerardinis said he can get mums wholesale if she would check with him before ordering.

**Community Day** – This coming Saturday. The Rec. Board is looking forward to working with the Fire Co. again. We have lots of great attendees and many volunteers. The Girl Scouts will be on kids activities and we have about 50 tricky tray baskets. There will be caution tape/stakes to rope off resident yards and will ensure everyone is aware not to go on the grass.

**Movie night at Pacchioli Field** – October 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> is the rain date.

**Town Wide Yard Sale** – June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – 8am – 2pm – Melissa will make FB event/post and then we will list the street names for those who want to participate.

**SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Approval of Elevation Study along Martins-Creek Belvidere Highway for Stormwater Issues.** This was discussed at last month's meeting. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by D. Ascani to authorize J. Coyle to do an elevation study from the state culvert to the township culvert. J. Mauser requested to have J. Coyle review the information and do an elevation study of the culvert at Hillendale and the continuing deterioration of that macadam over that road and review the program for Farmland Preservation. There was discussion about if an intermediate temporary berm can be installed to allow these people from getting flooded. J. Mauser mentioned there is loss of soil on the upward property. Vote: 5-0. J. Mauser asked if the Zoning Officer can look at the slope at the other side of the fence at Centerfield and see what permits they had pulled. J. Smethers will check with A. Disante.
- 2. Discussion/Approval of Extra Pickleball Courts Painting –** J. Smethers indicated the courts are done; just the fence needs to be installed. Jen is looking into the possibility of adding two additional courts if they will fit. If they do fit, we need to decide if we want to have the painting done and is waiting for H & K to get back to her with the costs.
- 3. Discussion/Approval of Public Works Cinder Shed Purchase –** J. Smethers indicated the cost for the new cinder shed is approximately \$341,050. We received less funding than we had hoped for from LSA and the County. Therefore, we need to decide how to proceed with the available funding. We have \$20,000 from the county, \$22,020 from Monroe LSA, \$151,515 from ARPA, and our match contribution of \$65,978 for a total of \$259,543. We also have other funds we could use: \$23,000 in Centerfield improvements; \$25,010.00 in Planning and Zoning fund; \$53,000 in Capital Improvements. There was discussion about putting it out to bid or get more quotes. J. Coyle recommended getting two more co-star quotes, putting it out to bid, but that would take at least 2 months. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M. DeBerardinis to get 2 more co-star estimates for the cinder shed. Vote: 5-0.
- 4. Update of HMGP Elevations Grants for 5821 and 5841 Del Haven Road –** Jen gave an update. These two grants are approved and moving forward. PEMA/FEMA wants us to put this out to bid to see if they will give more grant money than what was committed. Jen noted she is working with Forks Township using a joint Engineer. It is going to cost \$600,000 - \$700,000 to elevate these two properties. Jen is scheduled to have a zoom tomorrow to see if the county would pay upfront or give us the money in advance.
- 5. Discussion/Approval to Purchase Centerfield Signs –** Jen provided the BOS with the Draft signs for the courts and the prices. Jen did not include an updated sign for the playground since Fred has extra signs. Elvira has asked that the plastic sign be moved from in front of the fence/arbor and be moved to a different location. The Board agreed not to move the sign, but a new sign can be purchased. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to authorize J. Smethers to purchase the signs and purchase a playground sign to match the others. Vote: 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Authorization to Apply for Hotel Tax Grant** – J. Smethers is requesting to apply for either a good concession stand with bathrooms and get rid of the porta-potties, a bandstand, amphitheater, or additional pavilion at Riverton. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to authorize J. Smethers to apply for the hotel grant for future entertainment at Riverton field and also for the LMB Sandt' Fire Company tent rentals 40x80, 30x30, table rentals, folding chairs and band for their annual "May Day". Vote: 5-0.

**2. Approval to Continue to Participate as Part of the Urban County Designation for CDBG.** This will allow the township to be included in the County's urban designation, so we are permitted to apply for grants such as CDBG from the County. The Board had no objection.

**3. Approval to Provide Rich Budihas with a Key and Security Code to Welcome Center.** J. Mauser indicated Rich Budihas is the new President of the Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association. Since the meetings are held at the welcome center, John asked to give Rich a key and security code so he can open the building for the meetings. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by J. Mauser to approve giving R. Budihas a key and code for the Welcome Center. Vote: 5-0. R. Budihas mentioned there is a jet ski by Eastern Industries property. Rich will contact Norfolk Southern to get permission to have it removed.

**4. Ratify Resolution 2024-09** - A Resolution Authorizing the Application for the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) Funds for the LMBT Trail System Reconstruction Project. J. Smethers indicated to make up the difference of \$15,000 for the grow Norco grant we didn't get, she w applied for the greenways grant for new LED lights at the Centerfield Building, office & garage. **MOTION** by J. Mauser, second by M. DeBerardinis to ratify Resolution 2024-09. Vote: 5-0.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS** – J. Smethers mentioned the Garden Club gave her a bill for reimbursement of flowers at the Centerfield School. In the past they would come in for approval in advance, which they did not do. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by D. Ascani to pay the bills with exception of the Village Garden Club in the amount of \$88,042.79. Vote: 5-0. J. Smethers will send the Garden Club a letter clarifying that they need to submit an itemized list of what they purchased and in the future get permission from the Board of Supervisors before expending township funds.

## **REPORTS**

**Township Solicitor Report** – Written report submitted. P. North will review inactive items with J. Smethers to see if they can come off.

**Township Engineer Report** – No further comments.

## **Board Members Reports**

**J. Mauser** – John reported on June 23<sup>rd</sup> will be LMBT Sandt's Eddy Fire truck dedication at 12 noon with an open house from 1-3, food will be served.

**D. Ascani** – Dave requested that the Board of Supervisors, J. Smethers and the Zoning Officer take a tour of the township to look at various property maintenance issues. He would also like to see a weekly zoning report. The Board agreed.

**S. Disidore** – Susan reported her, Jen & Chris Cook attended the meeting at UMBT regarding ALS / BLS services in the Slate belt. It was a very informative meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Bethel Fire Hall. Susan mentioned how helpful it was to have all Municipalities, Fire Co. & officials from the Slate Belt present.

**C. Cook** – No report.

**Township Manager Report** – J. Smethers mentioned disbanding the Centerfield Park Committee Park Committee. The Board discussed forming a new committee which would include members from the Rec. Board and Fire. Co. to work on future events. The next meeting a Resolution will be put on the agenda to disband the Centerfield Park Committee.

J. Smethers and G. Russo mentioned an LSA grant she will be applying for, the Fire Co. is looking to purchase a new truck at Bonner Chevy in Kingston, they are co-star affiliated.

**Road Department Report** – F. Heitzman reported the Road Crew have been mowing all the parks, helped set up for “May Day” for the Fire Co., helped set up the Plant Sale for the Rec. Board, mowing and spraying trails at Riverton and the Power Co., patching, had trucks inspected and replaced the pipe at Miller Road.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – J. Matthews asked what the status is of the Gravel Hill Cameras. J. Smethers indicated she is working with Jason Swanson and is waiting to see if Met Ed. will allow us to use their pole, or if we need to get our own. J. Smethers mentioned they are pulling in materials, but materials are not going out.

Bruce Smith – Bruce asked what the status is on the Gackey property. J. Smethers will follow up with A. Disante tomorrow.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The Board of Supervisors Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary - Lower Mount Bethel Township