

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
November 21, 2016**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Kauffman III at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the meeting were Jacob Meyer, Michael Graby and Carl Kauffman III. Also in attendance were Solicitor, Eugene Orlando Jr. and Township Manager Jayne Seifrit. Several interested residents were in attendance.

Public Comment on Agenda

Hearing of Visitors

Library – Lee and Betsy

Lee wanted to thank the Board for the support they give to the library. She also wanted the Board to know how much they appreciate the Township employees. A request for cones; they appear, crime scene tape, it is delivered. Library keys forgotten at home: keys are provided. They just wanted the Board to know the Township staff is great. The Board appreciated Lee and Betsy letting them know and know it will continue in the future. Jake Meyer stated the Library is the third most circulated in the Berks Library System. Bethel Tulpehocken Library has many programs that are used by a three county community (because of the close proximity to Schuylkill and Lebanon Counties). Betsy stated when she attends county wide training and meetings she hears other programs have three or five attendees while ours has ten to twelve.

Approval of Minutes

Carl Kauffman made a motion to approve minutes from October 17, 2016, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to approve Comp Plan Hearing minutes from October 25, 2016, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to approve Special Comp Plan meeting minutes from October 25, 2016, seconded by Carl Kauffman. All agreed. Motion carried. Carl Kauffman made a motion to approve minutes from October 25, 2016, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Jake Meyer made a motion to approve Budget meeting minutes from November 16, 2016, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comments

Carl Kauffman – Carl Kauffman stated the two trees have been taken down at the ally at the post office; he is not sure who will be fixing the grass at Sheetz.

Jacob Meyer – Jake Meyer stated the road work is winding down; they are getting plows and trucks ready.

Mike Graby – nothing at this time

Police Department Report – Ryan Murphy

Incidents Assigned	16	Misc. Complaints	104
Criminal Arrests	00	Non Traffic Citations	02

Traffic Citations	22	Parking Tickets	05
Follow Up Investigations	05	Phone Assignments	18
Non Reportable Accidents	07	Reportable Accidents	03
Motorist Assists	02	Traffic Stops	21
Fire & EMS Advisories	12	Other Law Agency Assists	08
Commercial Alarms	04	Residential Alarms	03
Security Checks	14	School Detail	18
Court Appearances	06	Criminal Arrests	02
Subpoena Service	00	Vehicle Maintenance	03

Report totaled 251 activities, 2688 mileage was noted. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Motion Light – They will look to see where they would like light (s).

Officer Szkwarek Probation – Officer in Charge Murphy stated Todd Szkwarek will conclude his year of probation November 23rd. He feels he has performed his duties and can be taken off of probation on his anniversary date. Carl Kauffman made a motion to take Officer Szkwarek off probation effective November 23, 2016, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Coordinator - Randy Behney

Randy Behney stated sign is up on 501 for the industrial park. He hopes that will help direct traffic.

Road Master Report –

Meckville Road Bridge – Jayne Seifrit said Charlie Paris called and stated the State does not want to keep the bridge; they will be putting the replacement cost in the Turnback. The second bridge was slated to be repaired in late 2017. They will be delaying turning the roads over until the bridge is repaired in spring.

Merkey Drive – Pete Davis stated he met with Penn Dot about the guide rails being too close to the roadway. Penn Dot will be moving the guide rails further away from the roadway.

Bashore Street Bridge – Pete Davis stated the Bridge inspector will be out next week to inspect the bridge after repairs made to it and hopefully remove the weight restriction.

Airport Road and Mill Road pipe and Blackberry Alley – Pete Davis stated they fixed the pipes that were done earlier.

Weed Spraying – Mike Graby stated he has not had a chance to look over material. No action at this time.

Schubert Road Pipes Bid – Mike Graby made a motion to award the project to Landis Deck and Sons, Division of H & K Group Inc. for \$44,880.55, seconded by Carl Kauffman. All agreed. Motion carried.

Back Hoe, Grader, and Roller bids will be going on until tomorrow, will place on agenda for tomorrow evenings meeting.

Track Hoe/Excavator bid– The Township received one bid, Barry Bashore Inc. for \$21,000.00. Jake Meyer made a motion to purchase track hoe from Barry Bashore Inc. for \$21,000.00, seconded by Carl Kauffman. Questions; Corey Houser asked why a track hoe because it is not as versatile as the back hoe we have bids on currently. It also needs to be trailered from place to place. Does the

Township have a trailer to haul it; no. Vote called for: All agreed to purchase Track Hoe, motion carried.

Solicitor – Eugene Orlando Jr

Denying Permits – Eugene Orlando stated he has starting drafting documents, but hasn't gotten any feedback from Township Manager or Engineer. We will do in the near future.

PIB loan – Eugene Orlando stated we will be ready to do the Ordinance at the December 19th meeting.

LERTA Resolution – Carl Kauffman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-36 administrative actions for rules and regulations and the application, seconded by Mike Graby. Statement and Questions: Dean Klopp commented about socialism and poor business. He stated the LERTA was not given to small business, only large businesses that have money to pay fees. He feels the rich get richer because of irresponsible actions like LERTA's. Ken Norton asked where have there been LERTA's and then successfully kept or lowered taxes. Ken Norton stated the more received the higher the spending. Eugene Orlando stated this resolution only serves to set the administrative piece of the Ordinance that has already been approved in July. Vote was taken, all agreed. Motion carried.

Right-to-Know – Eugene Orlando stated there is an appeal in progress, there will be more information when available.

Engineering – Gary Kraft

Not able to attend, items for Engineer will be placed on agenda for November 22, 2016.

Municipal Authority – Carl Kauffman III

Carl Kauffman stated the Authority is looking at their budget for 2017.

Library Board – Mike Graby

Nothing new to report

Recreation Board – Mike Graby

Mike Graby stated the Tree Lighting will be held November 27, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Environmental Advisory Council – Carl Kauffman

Jake Meyer stated he was not able to attend meeting but he knows members of the EAC attended the Kittatinny Coalition meeting; they were the only EAC in attendance, which stressed preservation of environment.

Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council – Carl Kauffman, III

No one was able to attend.

Unfinished Business

Traffic Light in Bethel – Township received the permit to install the No Turn on Red from 6am-6 pm signs. Mike Graby made a motion to have C M High install the four signs, seconded by Carl Kauffman. All agreed. Motion carried.

Airport Road Bridge – waiting to hear back

Welcome Sign – Jake Meyer stated he has received three possible layouts. He will share with other Board members.

Budget – Jayne Seifrit stated the numbers were adjusted for insurance and doubled checked for correct line item, not shifted. Jayne Seifrit stated we received a phone bill for the phone at the garage. It almost doubled because we were taken off of a promotional deal. Pete Davis stated they do not use it often enough to justify the cost. There were several suggestions: IP phone service, magic jack, an extension from the office phone and check with the installer of the phone system to see if there is a solution. Carl Kauffman made a motion to okay budget and authorize Township Manager to advertise the proposed budget with possible adoption on December 19, 2016, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

PIB Loan – no action at this time Ken Norton saw there is no action to be taken at this time but would like the Board to consider not taking out the million dollar loan. Ken Norton stated the payback is coming from the liquid fuels therefore those funds would not be available for ten years for other roads. Jake Meyer stated they are working on a road plan. Bill Hertzog asked what funds the Township will receive from the increase in the vehicle registrations. He sees the Penn DOT fees have gone up drastically and wants to know what the Township receives. Jayne Seifrit told him at this time the County Commissioners have voted to keep the money for the County and only for bridges.

New Business

Land Use Letter for MRD/Dieffenbach – Carl Kauffman made a motion authorizing Township Manager to complete and sign form, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Fire Company Fuel Donation – Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing the budgeted funds not used for fuel can be paid to the Fire Companies to be used as needed, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Police Chief – Carl Kauffman made a motion to promote Officer In Charge Murphy to Bethel Township Police Chief as of November 21, 2016, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Thank You Event – Mike Graby will bring the information to the November 22nd meeting. He checked at the Mt Aetna Fire Company banquet room and it would be about \$14.00 per person.

Payment of Bills

Payment of bills from the general fund from check 31528– 31567 and street light 171

Jake Meyer made a motion to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Dean Klopp questioned using LERTA increases for Schubert Rd. Jake Meyer stated he has some homework to do, so he asked Dean Klopp to put it in writing.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mike Graby, seconded by Carl Kauffman to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Township Secretary