

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
January 15, 2018**

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

Attending the meeting were Jacob Meyer, Mike Graby and Lee Groff. Also in attendance were Solicitor, Eugene Orlando Jr., Engineer, Gary Kraft and Township Secretary Treasurer Jayne Seifrit. Several interested residents were in attendance.

Public Comment on Agenda

Hearing of Visitors

Steve Billman – Logisticcenter at Midway

Steve Billman presented diagrams of a detour they are proposing for closing Midway Road from I-78 to Old Route 22. They are requesting the road closure for a month so the road can be reworked, widened and concreted. They would like to have the road closed from April 15 – May 15, 2018 pending weather. The Board stated they would like to see Airport Road Bridge opened prior to the closing of Midway Road as that is currently what locals use. Steve Billman is going to take the information back to those involved and will be in touch in the near future.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from December 18, 2017, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Jake Meyer made a motion to approve minutes from December 28, 2017, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Lee Groff made a motion to approve the January 2, 2018 minutes with the correction of removing Carl Kauffman and replacing it with Lee Groff as seconding the motion under the Assistant Sec. Treas. wage section, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comments

Lee Groff – nothing at this time

Jacob Meyer – nothing at this time

Mike Graby – nothing at this time

Police Department Report – Chief Ryan Murphy

Incidents Assigned	18	Misc. Complaints	29
Criminal Arrests	02	Non Traffic Citations	00
Traffic Citations	16	Parking Tickets	00
Follow Up Investigations	01	Phone Assignments	19
Non Reportable Accidents	05	Reportable Accidents	06
Motorist Assists	01	Traffic Stops	12
Fire & EMS Advisories	18	Other Law Agency Assists	14

Alarms	09	Security Checks	02
School Detail	21	Vehicle Maintenance	02
Court Appearances	01	Subpoena Service	00
Warrants	00	Warnings	02

1772 mileage was noted with 160 activities. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Chief Murphy stated the mounting system needs to be purchased and installed for the MCT. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the purchase and installation of mounting system for the MCT in new car, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Murphy stated the car will need to be lettered once we receive it. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing Brown Signs do the lettering on the new vehicle, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Coordinator - Randy Behney

Randy Behney was not able to attend the meeting. He wanted the Board to consider meeting dates for Safety meetings and also he will get with Lee Groff about the EOP.

Road Master Report – Pete Davis

Pete Davis stated he has ordered the maximum amount of salt from the state contract.

Pete Davis stated they have been fixing and replacing signs.

Pete Davis said they have been removing ice from the roadway.

Solicitor – Eugene Orlando Jr

Act 44 – Eugene Orlando stated the Act 44 Resolution was completed at a prior meeting. The Board needs to appoint a committee to comply with the Resolution and develop forms to be used in conjunction with the Resolution.

Engineering – Gary Kraft

Musser – nothing at this time

Logisticenter TIF – Gary Kraft explained the trip manual has been updated several times since our Ordinance was enacted in 2009. The way the Township Ordinance is currently, developers can use data from newer manuals. When this happens refunds may occur because trips are lower and the calculation result is a lower amount to the Township. Logisticenter of Midway had a study done in 2006 and one done in 2017 using current manual. It is resulting in a refund of fees paid of \$399,252.00. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing refund of funds to Logisticenter of Midway, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. There could be a way to freeze, only allow the manual to be used that our Ordinance was based on for future projects. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to look into and revise Ordinance to freeze, dictate what manual is to be used for calculations, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Berks Park Lot 3 – Gary Kraft stated in 2015 there was a request for releasing funds on the Lot 3 project. At that time there was storm water issues, cracking in the concrete and E & S approvals needed. The Bond is for the maintenance amount and \$33,000.00 for previously listed items. They have received E & S approval, basins are working and they are scheduling the

cracks to be repaired as soon as weather permits. They are looking to have the Township approve the maintenance period to start. This item will be placed on Tuesday's agenda.

Sheetz – Have not heard back on items outstanding.

Municipal Authority – Lee Groff

Lee Groff attended the MA meeting and stated one of the members is going to make a manhole cover lifter for \$499.00 versus the cost of \$1,500.00 that was quoted by another company. Lee Groff also stated the hauled in waste is being discontinued as of January 15th due to the Authority losing money. One of the haulers is looking to draft a proposal for the Authority to consider because he would like the Authority to still allow hauled in waste.

Library Board – Mike Graby

Mike Najarian stated the Library meetings will be held the third Thursday of the month in 2018.

Recreation Board – Mike Graby

Mike Graby stated the Rec Board would like to see about putting a covered hole in the right-of-way for the Christmas tree to be inserted each year at Bressler's. Jayne will look to see if we have plans that show the right of way.

Environmental Advisory Council – Jake Meyer

The EAC reorganized, it is the same as last year. It was stated ongoing projects will be moving forward.

Unfinished Business

Welcome Sign – Lee Groff stated there is an electronic sign in Frystown; maybe the Fire Company would put Township information on it. Lee Groff stated he likes the idea of incorporating the Library sign with Township information. Free standing welcome non-electronic signs at other areas of the Township. The electronic signs are very expensive.

Policy revisions – Jake Meyer stated they will be completed soon; he hopes to get with Donald Daub soon.

Weidner Bridge – nothing new to report

Flood Plain Administrator – Jake Meyer stated he checked with Robin Royer about being named Bethel Township Flood Plain Administrator. Lee Groff made a motion to appoint Robin Royer Flood Plain Administrator and have Chairman sign form, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Sewer gases in Township Office – There are still sewer gases in the Township Office. Lee Groff will contact Mitch Keath.

Vacancy Board – Jake Meyer stated he spoke with Gerald Seiler about staying on as a Vacancy Board member. Lee Groff made a motion to reappoint Gerald Seiler as Vacancy Board member, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board member – No one contacted Carl Kauffman Jr to see if he is still willing to serve on the Board. Jake Meyer will contact.

Maintenance Employee wage – Jayne Seifrit stated setting the wage for 2018 was missed during reorganization. Lee Groff made a motion to set hourly wage at \$15.45 an hour, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

State Convention – Jake Meyer and Lee Groff will be attending. They will let Jayne know what they would like to sign up for if anything extra. Jayne Seifrit would like to know by January 31st.

Recycling – Larry Schmehl stated he has gotten positive responses from people to volunteer for a two hour shift to man the recycling area. He is proposing two days a week, Friday and Saturday. There should be a member of the Board as a primary contact. Lee Groff stated there are grants out there for recycling, but we need to be careful on the rules to receive grant; may be too restrictive for Bethel Township. Larry Schmehl stated he would like to go to Cogle’s Recycling to see how it all works. Jayne Seifrit will make a list of the Businesses that do recycle and are on the reports that the Township receives. Jake Meyer made a motion to have Lee Groff be the principal contact/liaison for the recycling, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Multi Municipal Recreation Grant – Jayne Seifrit stated John Zimmerman from Tulpehocken Township was asking whether the Township will move forward with the Multi-Municipal Recreation Grant. Jayne Seifrit stated Bethel Township was not aware the grant application was approved. John Zimmerman stated it was, so they are looking for a commitment letter for the project and funding portion. Jake Meyer made a motion to move forward with the multi municipal grant for recreation including funds, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Fold Up Stop Signs – Lee Groff stated he has been in several different areas and noticed signs, lights etc. for emergency uses. He noticed signs are 36 inches and some have flashing lights mounted on top to catch the traveling public’s attention. There was a question raised if any were solar lights. Lee Groff said he will check into.

New Business

Local Services Tax (LST) – It was stated this is a tax that would be paid by employees that work in Bethel Township. It was stated the implementation of the tax would be for 2019 tax year and would help cover costs related to increased services. The maximum tax is \$52.00 that is the amount the Township is looking at collecting. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Solicitor draft an ordinance for the LST, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

LERTA – Lee Groff stated he believes LERTA should be available for all within the Township. The County has a County wide LERTA. Something to think about for the near future.

Business Cards for Supervisors – Lee Groff stated the Township office has been making cards for use. He feels we should get some made with the design that will be used on the signs. Lee Groff and Jake Meyer stated they would like business cards. Mike Graby stated he did not feel he needed any. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the purchase of business cards, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Quarterly Staff Meetings – Lee Groff stated he would like to see quarterly staff meetings, which includes all departments together. Jake Meyer and Mike Graby agreed to implement at this time. Lee Groff will plan and get dates together.

Thank You Dinner – Lee Groff made a motion to have Mike Graby to get information together for Thank You Dinner, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried,

NIMS – Lee Groff stated he is a certified trainer for NIMS. The Board of Supervisors should have at a minimum level 700 and 200. He stated they can do it in the evenings and would take about an hour to hour and a half to complete for each course.

Complaint – The Township received a complaint regarding hammering at all times of the evening and into early morning hours. The Police will look into the complaint.

Ag Security – The Township received an application from Jeff Brown to have a parcel he owns placed in the Ag Security Area. Jayne Seifrit also stated the Township needs to do a 7 year review. Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing the advertising of receiving application for 7 year review and addition of Jeff Brown’s application, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Signature Cards for the Banks and the Credit Card – Jake Meyer made a motion to sign all signature cards and Credit Card form removing Carl R Kauffman III and adding Lee V Groff, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Payment of bills from the general fund from check 32132– 32156 and street light 185. Mike Graby made a motion to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Larry Schmehl stated the flags are looking tattered at the entrance to the Berks Park 78. Jayne Seifrit will contact the Industrial Park manager.

Larry Schmehl stated the plastic on the Samsung property is terrible. They need to clean up the plastic and not allow it to blow around. Jayne Seifrit will contact James Mascaro.

Larry Schmehl stated the tire stack is growing at Midway Salvage. Jayne Seifrit will email Robin Royer

Adjourn

A motion was made by Lee Groff, seconded by Jake Meyer to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Township Secretary