

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
February 19, 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**

**Sketch Plan for JAVIX 18001 – Daub Road**

James Vozar from JVI and James from Pennoni were present to show a sketch plan for a warehouse building 624,000 square feet proposed to be located over the Daub Road. They are asking if the Board of Supervisors would be open to the idea of closing/vacating the portion of Daub Road being affected. The Board of Supervisors stated they would be open to the idea. James Vozar stated he will then proceed with due diligence.

Schubert Road speeding issue – Residents are wondering what can be done to stop the speeders on Schubert Road. Since the road has been repaired the speeding has increased. They would like to see a sign for Senior Pedestrians put up. The Board was given a quote for a senior crossing sign for \$150.00. Chief Murphy stated they will get lines painted as soon as they can; then speeding can be enforced.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from January 15, 2018, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried. Lee Groff made a motion to approve minutes from January 23, 2018, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Supervisors Comments**

Lee Groff – Lee Groff created a thank you letter to be sent to all the vendors who provided door prizes for the Thank You Dinner. Jake Meyer made a motion to have Board sign the letter and mailing of letter, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Jacob Meyer – Jake Meyer stated the Banquet was a nice event.

Mike Graby – nothing at this time

**Police Department Report – Chief Ryan Murphy**

Incidents Assigned	23	Misc. Complaints	40
Criminal Arrests	03	Non Traffic Citations	01
Traffic Citations	37	Parking Tickets	00
Follow Up Investigations	05	Phone Assignments	35
Non-Reportable Accidents	08	Reportable Accidents	06
Motorist Assists	09	Traffic Stops	22

Fire & EMS Advisories	25	Other Law Agency Assists	11
Alarms	04	Security Checks	00
School Detail	22	Vehicle Maintenance	02
Court Appearances	03	Subpoena Service	00
Warrants	03	Warnings	00

3195 mileage was noted with 219 activities. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Chief Murphy stated the tasers that the Police Department has are out dated and are no longer able to be serviced. The Sheriff's Department in Lebanon County are upgrading their tasers and are selling the ones they have. They have 7 tasers, 7 holsters and several cartridges. Chief Murphy would like the approval to purchase all items; Tulpehocken Township Police are interested in 2 tasers and holsters. Mike Graby made a motion to purchase the tasers, holsters and cartridges from Sheriff's Department, Lebanon County and sell two to the Tulpehocken Township Police Department, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing Chief Murphy to sign agreement for the purchase, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Emergency Management Coordinator - Randy Behney**

Randy Behney stated he will be attending training on February 28, 2018 on Disaster.

Randy Behney would like to attend the Sunday Training and the State Conference.

Randy Behney stated he contacted RMI concerning batteries for the two pagers. They don't hold a charge any longer. He would like authorization to purchase two batteries for \$21.50 each. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the purchase of the two batteries, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Randy Behney asked if there was any discussion on a spring safety meeting. At this point they will be looking to hold the meeting the second Wednesday in April.

**Road Master Report – Pete Davis**

Pete Davis stated they have been patching pot holes on Old Route 22. They used some old patch and it didn't hold up.

Pete Davis stated he will contact Charlie Paris about the fix on Brown Road, tar and chip areas and black topping Airport Rd.

Meckville Road Bridge – An email came concerning detour.

**Solicitor – Eugene Orlando Jr**

Transportation Impact Fee – Eugene Orlando stated he has drafted an amendment to the Transportation Impact Ordinance stating the manual to be used is the eighth edition. If a new version of the manual is used it could and has created a lower impact fee to the township. Eugene Orlando pointed out that none of the improvement has been done. He recommends the Board authorize the Engineer to prioritize the improvements related to the Impact Study for consideration. Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing the Engineer and Secretary to work together concerning projects and budget, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Solicitor and Secretary schedule the public hearing for the amendment to the Transportation Impact Ordinance, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

41 Martha Dr. DGI Berks Property – Eugene Orlando asked if the township received the Letter of Credit. Jayne Seifrit stated we have not. Eugene Orlando asked for this to be placed on the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting.

Concrete Safety Systems – Eugene Orlando stated it has come to our attention there are escrow funds being held for a plan that was never completed. It was suggested the Engineer review plan and let the Board know the findings. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Engineer review plan, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Holding Tanks – Eugene Orlando stated we have several properties that have holding tanks. A couple of the properties have been sold. It is recommended that we check and see if the permits are up to date. If they are, a new holding tank agreement should be done. If not, a letter should go out outlining the 1990-05 holding tank agreement conditions and not renew until new agreement is received. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Solicitor and Secretary work together to have holding tank compliance, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Tiger's Den Holding Tank – Eugene Orlando stated this is another issue. Jayne Seifrit stated Jeremy Bentz stated it is no longer in use. It is recommended to see if it was abandoned properly. Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing the SEO and the Secretary to see if it was done properly, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Jake Meyer asked about amending meeting minutes. Eugene Orlando stated they can be amended and need to be if they are not correct. Jake Meyer stated it is from June 2016. Eugene Orlando stated action can be taken now but an amendment from that long ago is not recommended.

### **Engineering – Gary Kraft**

Musser – Gary Kraft stated we have received the approval letter from Conservation District, but he has not had the opportunity to inspect the property. He will be getting this completed as soon as the weather cooperates.

Merkey Meeting House – Gary Kraft had a request for the release of the escrow funds for Merkey Meeting House. He recommends the Township do a partial release of \$31,944.04 leaving a balance in escrow of \$10,871.17 based on his inspection. Lee Groff made a motion to approve recommendation from Gary Kraft to reduce escrow to \$10,871.17, seconded by Mike Graby. Lee Groff and Mike Graby agreed. Jake Meyer abstained. Motion carried.

Gary Kraft stated he was looking for approved pedestrian signage. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing Engineer to investigate proper pedestrian signage, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

### **Municipal Authority – Lee Groff**

Lee Groff stated the Authority meeting was cancelled due to weather.

### **Library Board – Mike Graby**

Mike Graby stated Dean Klopp is a new member of the Library Board.

The Library asked if they could use the Township facility June 4, 11, and 18, 2018. It was noted the Township has meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. They could use the conference room depending on the number of participants. Lee Groff made a motion to approve use of the conference room for up to 15 people at no charge for the Library, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

### **Recreation Board – Mike Graby**

Mike Graby stated the Rec Board would like to purchase Christmas balls not to exceed \$50.00. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing the purchase of Christmas balls not to exceed \$50.00, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

### **Environmental Advisory Council – Jake Meyer**

Jake Meyer stated the meeting discussion centered around two issues that are harming the area. The Chestnut Oaks are dying and the Spotted Lantern Fly are harming a multitude of trees and fruits. Jake Meyer stated he is attending a mandatory training on Spotted Lantern Fly and taking a test. Jayne Seifrit stated Lee Groff is also attending only one test needs to be taken. The permits for the Township will then be issued.

### **Unfinished Business**

Welcome Sign – Discussion on where, what kind and number of signs to be placed in the Township. Mike Graby made a motion to get non-electric signs, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to purchase a lighted police sign, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried. It was stated the design is done, should get at least three quotes for 12 signs. What size signs? Board asked to have signs placed on next week's agenda.

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

Weidner Bridge – nothing new to report

Sewer gases in Township Office – Lee Groff stated the plumber was out and checked on the issue. It was stated the drains could be dry and just need water dumped in them once a week. Also, the sinks should be used so the traps get flushed.

State Convention – Randy Behney and Lee Groff will attend the TEMA and conference, Mike Graby and Jake Meyer will attend the conference and Donald Daub will attend the conference and the Sunday Evening event.

Recycling – Larry Schmehl stated there is nothing new to report.

Act 44 – need to get committee members

Local Services Tax (LST) – Solicitor is going to look into and draft an Ordinance.

LERTA – Eugene Orlando stated he looked over the Ordinance that was done in another Township. He doesn't believe the two Townships are comparable. The Township can consider each scenario when approached or asked.

Business Cards for Supervisors – Jake Meyer stated they are being designed.

Quarterly Staff Meetings – Lee Groff would like to hold meetings as an open round table type discussion. March 26, 2018 at 10:00 am in the Township Office. Lee Groff will put an agenda together.

NIMS – Lee Groff restated they can do it in the evenings and it would take about an hour to hour and a half to complete for each course.

Act 209 Transportation Impact – need to form a committee

Midway Road Closure request – nothing new received

Ag Security – The Township received two applications. There will be a hearing March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:45 pm. Lee made a motion authorizing the advertising for the hearing on March 19, 2018 at 6:45 pm, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Crossing Guard – Jayne Seifrit stated there has been zero inquiries or interest shown to be a crossing guard. We have been looking for a very long time for a backup and knowing at the end of this school the current crossing guard is done, it is more important. The Police Department covers now, but if they get a call, that becomes priority. It might be time for the Township to speak to the School about issue. Jake Meyer stated he will speak to the Superintendent of the School District.

### **New Business**

Re-Approve Logisticcenter plan – Mike Graby made a motion to reapprove Logisticcenter at Midway plan contingent on all items on Kraft Engineering review letter dated October 23, 2017 and not signing or releasing until all complied with, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Complaint Letter Warehouse Traffic – The Board discussed the issue and asked if anyone had any solutions. A letter could be sent to the Businesses, traffic cameras and a parking lot location for the trucks are a couple of thoughts. Jake Meyer stated he has experience in the truck driving profession. He doesn't believe the drivers are trying to annoy the community, it is just that there are stricter driving limits imposed and no where to park. Some thought into where they can park may need to be considered.

Insurance Application for Police – Jayne Seifrit stated the application needs to be signed so it can be forwarded to our agent. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing the Chairman to sign application, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Berks County Conservation District and Berks County Planning Commission are hosting two informational workshops on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Agricultural Center. Jayne Seifrit is interesting in attending the afternoon workshop. Jake Meyer stated he would like to attend also. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing Jayne and Jake attend workshop, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

SEO Report – This is the annual report that needs to be completed and submitted. There is not any reimbursement any more but does need to be filed. Lee Made a motion authorizing the Chairman to sign form, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Penn DOT Connects – Jake Meyer is signed up to attend.

Letter from CELG and BCW&SA – letter is for information. They are joining forces to get information out to members.

Letter received from Avril McFarlane – The Board is not interested in being a partner.

Census Bureau, Boundary and Annexation Survey – Mike Graby made a motion authorizing Chairman sign the survey, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Email complaint pothole on Old Route 22 – The Public Works Department has been out and repaired some. They need to get more patch and will continue to fill in potholes. The request to cover damages to the emailers tire is being denied.

Complaint about water being released on property from neighbor – It was stated it might be covered under our zoning ordinance. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing the Zoning Office to take a look at complaint and enforce if able, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Personal Days – The Board is looking at doing Personal Days and not sick days in the future. They will be looking at replacing in the policy. It was stated Pete Davis should have received three additional vacation days for being Road Master in 2017 and in 2018 that had not been included to date. Lee Groff made a motion to pay Pete Davis three days' vacation for 2017

and add three vacation days for 2018 to totals to be taken in 2018, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Jayne Seifrit asked for clarification for minutes, Pete Davis is to receive three days' vacation (extra) each year as long as he is Road Master. The Board stated that is correct.

### **Payment of Bills**

Payment of bills from the general fund from check 32171– 32200, open space 170, state aid 160 and street light 186.

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

### **Public Comment**

Larry Schmehl asked about the Samsung property. He said there is Styrofoam blowing along with plastic and other debris. Jayne Seifrit stated they have been monitoring and thought it was under control. Larry Schmehl stated he will get the Township some pictures.

Robert Lingle stated the pipe is clogged or something because the water is backing up on Schubert Road and is a hazard.

Carl Kauffman III stated he doesn't understand why the Township hasn't looked at placing speed awareness risers in the areas where needed.

Carl Kauffman III asked about the entrance to the Township Building light. It is not well lit.

Carl Kauffman III stated business cards could be gotten from VISTA Print to save money.

Carl Kauffman III stated the Police sign should be hard wired, not solar. The Tilden Township sign is not lit all the time because it doesn't have enough solar power to run 24/7.

Burnell Bross stated the culvert along 501 is clogged or something.

Burnell Bross asked whether he needed a permit for a wood burner. He was told yes.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mike Graby, seconded by Lee Groff to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Township Secretary