

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
September 17, 2018**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 7:03 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the meeting were Jacob Meyer, Lee Groff and Mike Graby. Also, in attendance were Solicitor, Eugene Orlando; Engineer, Gary Kraft and Township Assistant Secretary Lisa Ilus. Several interested residents and members of the historical society were in attendance.

**Public Comment on Agenda**

**Hearing of Visitors**

Dolores Hill spoke to the Board about saving the farmstead at 9024 Old Route 22. She gave Chairman Meyer pages of a petition that she wrote that had numerous signatures of residents who were also interested in saving the farmhouse. She shared the floor with Barry Miller who spoke of the historical background and wrote about the historical significance of the stone house. He gave each of the Board members a copy to read. Marion Oxenreider also spoke of how she would like to see the house saved since her parents lived there for over 40 years. Barry made a request that if the house is demolished it be done in a manner that possibly historical items may be saved. Jake Meyer followed by saying that the property has an owner and the group should think about contacting and meeting with them. Barry asked if they could get that information from the Township. Jake said that is possible.

Lisa Hassler – not present

Noah Sauder, 330 Bordner Rd, asked the Board if it would be possible to look into widening the intersection at Bordner Rd & Martin Dr, that the trucks entering his property would have an easier time turning around. Gary Kraft asked a few questions and asked if the property owner could make a driveway on their property. The owner does not want to cut down trees and expose the property to the elements. Jake Meyer suggested a meeting with the BOS, Gary Kraft and the property owner at the site. Put on the agenda for the Sept. 25, 2018 meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Lee Groff made a motion to approve minutes from August 20, 2018, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from Zoning Ordinance and Map meeting on August 28, 2018, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Lee Groff made a motion to approve minutes from the LST Hearing, August 28, 2018, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from August 28, 2018, seconded by Lee Groff. 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	00	Misc. Complaints	30
Criminal Arrest	01	Non Traffic Citations	01
Traffic Citations	54	Parking Tickets	00
Follow Up Investigations	05	Phone Assignments	20
Non-Reportable Accidents	04	Reportable Accidents	01
Motorist Assists	05	Traffic Stops	68
Fire & EMS Advisories	22	Other Law Agency Assists	24
Alarms	03	Security Checks	03
School Detail	06	Vehicle Maintenance	00
Court Appearances	02	Subpoena Service	00
Warrants	05	Warnings	17
Suspicious Situations	12	Disorderly Incidents	12
Reckless Drivers	02	Domestics	07
Thefts	01	Repos	00
Vehicle Maintenance	02		

3740 mileage was noted with 232 activities. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Cages on Municibid – Pictures and information placed on Municibid 9/14/2018, bidding starts 9/15/2018 at 6:00am.

Lee Groff made a motion for Bethel & Frystown Fire Police to assist the Pioneer Hose Co #1 and the Borough of Robesonia with their Halloween Parade on Nov 4, 2018. Seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Emergency Management Coordinator - Randy Behney**

Randy Behney reported there was one property that reported flood damage that was submitted to the County.

Randy Behney has a form that should be filled out and submitted to the County that it may be counted to benefit from County aid.

Randy Behney reported that October 6, 2018, Bouchette Vineyards is holding the Artisans in Bethel event. Randy would like to meet with the owner, Chief Murphy and the fire companies to work on an emergency service plan for that day. Randy will contact owner to set up.

Randy Behney mentioned setting up an Emergency Service Meeting and coordinate so that Tulpehocken Township can attend.

**Road Master Report – Pete Davis – absent**

Jake Meyer stated there was a joint request for certification of 3<sup>rd</sup> party representation. The legal counsel for personnel matters was consulted.

Jake Meyer made a motion to deny the request for certification of 3<sup>rd</sup> party representation for public works. Seconded by Lee Groff. Jake Myer and Lee Groff agreed. Mike Graby did not respond. Motion carried.

Jake Meyer said a mistake was made last year when the Township purchased an excavator. Two flaws with the machine 1) it has metal track and cannot be driven on the road to a job site and 2) it needs a very large trailer that the Township doesn't have to haul it to job sites.

The Township has been renting one, but it seems it needs to be repaired more than it is working. The excavator needs to be sold and replaced with one more suitable. Jake Meyer feels they can sell the excavator for \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. While they were at Best Used Trucks looking at a machine with 800 hrs and priced at \$36,000.00 or \$37,500.00, they spoke with a John Deere representative. He mentioned that since John Deere is a Co-Stars supplier we could possibly buy a new one for \$2,000.00 more.

Lee Groff made a motion to put the current excavator on Municibid for sale. Seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mike Graby made a motion to purchase a mini excavator from John Deere with a not-to-exceed price of \$39,500.00. Seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

An executive session was called at 7:47pm to get direction from the solicitor and reconvened at 7:57pm.

The Board is preparing to vacate one road and a section of another road.

Mike Graby made a motion to have the solicitor and the engineer draw up a proposed ordinance to vacate the last 600' to the gate of Fort Henry Rd. Seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mike Graby made a motion to have the solicitor and the engineer draw up a proposed ordinance to vacate Redwood Rd. Seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Lee Groff asked the solicitor if the Township had anything regarding unsafe properties. The solicitor replied the Township has a Safe Property and Structure Ordinance.

**Solicitor** – Eugene Orlando Jr

41 Martha Dr, DGI Berks Property – nothing at this time may be taken off agenda.

**Engineering** – Gary Kraft

Musser – nothing

Sheetz – Gary Kraft stated he considers the revised calculations provided as adequate under the Township's SWM Ordinance and it may be taken off the agenda.

Brown Rd cul-de-sac – Gary Kraft provided copies of the NorthPoint plan of the cul-de-sac on Brown Rd. He asked the Board if they have any issues where the turnaround is. The Board had none. Gary Kraft will let Ludgate know.

**Municipal Authority** – Mike Graby – did not attend

**Library Board** – Mike Graby – nothing at this time

Jake Meyer reported he met with Kaitlin at the library and signed the report for the grant and Kaitlin mailed it in.

Gary Kraft stated he finalized his site plan for the library expansion and sent it to Nest Architecture.

**Recreation Board** – Lee Groff

Meeting is this coming Thursday

**Environmental Advisory Council** – Jake Meyer

Spotted Lanternfly event – Jake Meyer said the event went well and was attended by 23 people, he thought was a good turnout. Channel 69 News was also in attendance.

## **Unfinished Business**

Welcome Sign – nothing yet

Policy revisions – nothing new to report

Weidner Bridge – Tulpehocken Township have a few more signs to install. Have not heard if completed or not.

NIMS – need to work on

LERTA Midway Industrial South request – Representative could not attend. Placed on agenda for the Sept 25, 2018 meeting.

Act 537 – John Brown feels he should be exempt from hooking up to the sewer line. He has a good, properly working septic system. Options to hook up would be if there is bad water, the septic system fails or if the property owner wants to hook up. John Brown feels the cost is a burden for some people.

Solicitor Gene Orlando stated the Municipal Authority operates under the Township Ordinance. There are ordinances for connection. Gene Orlando stated the ordinance can be modified to make changes in the public sewer districts that are fair and even. Discussion must take place between the Board of Supervisors and the Municipal Authority and their Solicitor.

Jake Meyer made a motion for the Township solicitor to speak to the Municipal Authority solicitor regarding the Act 537 ordinance. Seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

Jake Meyer made a motion that any Township representative that would like to go to the Berks Co Assoc of Twp Officials Annual County Convention on October 18, 2018 may attend. Seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Berks Co Agricultural Land Preservation Board letter – Board would like to think about it and revisit the sign project program.

Jake Meyer asked the Board to check schedules for next meeting so budget meetings can be scheduled.

Trick or Treat – Will take place in Bethel on October 31, 2018 from 6-8 pm. Lee Groff made a motion to have 2 police officers and the fire police to assist. Seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Lee Groff made a motion for the Chairman to sign the police pension plan and the non-uniformed employees' pension plan minimum municipal obligations. Seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

## **Payment of Bills**

Payment of bills from the general fund from check 32444– 32474, street light 193, capital reserve 163, 164.

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

## **Public Comment**

Donald Daub wondered if something could be done to repair road issues on Old Route 22. Jake Meyer said renegotiations with Penn Dot need to take place. Donald Daub also mentioned a lot of water at the Lamplighter Hotel and seems to think it is State property and the situation needs to be addressed.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mike Graby, seconded by Lee Groff to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Ilus,  
Twp Asst Secretary