

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
December 17, 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, Zoning Officer Robin Royer and Township Secretary Treasurer Jayne Seifrit. Several interested residents were in attendance.

Public Comment on Agenda

Hearing of Visitors

Approval of Minutes

Lee Groff made a motion to approve Redwood Rd Vacation Ordinance Hearing minutes from November 19, 2018, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to approve Special Meeting for Vacation of Redwood Rd Ordinance minutes, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from Joint Zoning Ordinance and Map meeting on November 19, 2018, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Lee Groff made a motion to approve minutes from November 19, 2018, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comments

Lee Groff – nothing at this time

Jacob Meyer – Jake Meyer stated he sent a letter to Penn DOT Municipal Representative Supervisor concerning the Turn Back Old Route 22. Jake Meyer stated he received a response; he summarized the letter. The Penn DOT rep. told the reason for some of the delay is the bridge on Meckville Road was let, but it is the last one of several on the contract and is now slated to be started late Spring early Summer 2019. The condition of Old Route 22 should be corrected by the Municipality as they are receiving liquid fuels, Jake Meyer stated this is a direct conflict what our assigned Penn DOT Municipal Rep, Charlie Paris, has been saying. Charlie Paris told us we should be doing the minimum. Jake Meyer also stated the money in the existing paperwork will not match cost as those numbers are from 6 years ago. Jake Meyer stated the Board needs to consider what the next step(s) will be for Old Route 22.

Mike Graby – nothing at this time

Police Department Report – Chief Ryan Murphy

Incidents Assigned	00	Misc. Complaints	31
Criminal Arrest	01	Non Traffic Citations	01
Traffic Citations	56	Parking Tickets	00
Follow Up Investigations	02	Phone Assignments	29
Non-Reportable Accidents	04	Reportable Accidents	05
Motorist Assists	06	Traffic Stops	50
Fire & EMS Advisories	25	Other Law Agency Assists	14

Alarms	10	Security Checks	04
School Detail	26	Vehicle Maintenance	04
Court Appearances	03	Subpoena Service	00
Warrants	00	Warnings	11
Suspicious Situations	06	Disorderly Incidents	08
Reckless Drivers	00	Domestics	10
Thefts	01	Repos	00

2595 mileage was noted with 238 activities. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Part Time Probation – Chief Murphy stated Officer Lerch and Officer Dronick will be completing their probationary period successfully and asks the Board to approve removing them from probation. Lee Groff made a motion to approve Officers Lerch and Dronick be removed from probation, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Hire PT Officer starting 2019 – During the budget process it was asked if the Township could hire a part time police officer for about 16 hours a week to conduct tractor trailer inspections. It was included in the 2019 budget. Chief Murphy recommended hiring Donald Rusnak for the part time position. Lee Groff made a motion to hire Donald Rusnak starting in 2019 on a probationary period per police contract for 16 hours a week, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Coordinator - Randy Behney

Randy Behney stated they did a walk through of the warehouse at Old Route 22 and Midway Rd.

Road Master Report – Pete Davis

Line Painting – Pete Davis said we were not scheduled and will need to wait until next year. He will contact the company to be placed on schedule for early in the season.

Mack Truck – The cinder box is not working properly, they need to take it to EM Kutz to have it recalibrated.

Old Route 22 and Schubert Road – Pete Davis said the tile line work was done on sections of Old Route 22 and on Schubert Road near Emerich’s.

Ford Truck – Pete Davis said the leaf spring needs to be replaced and the throttle needs to be repaired.

Track Hoe – will look to sell in spring

Pete Davis said they will talk to Mike Pollock concerning cost estimate for Old Route 22.

Solicitor – Christopher Garrell

Eugene Orlando stated he received letters from Attorney Susan Bucknam concerning Agriculture Zoning District language that is currently in our Zoning Ordinance and it runs a foul in her opinion with regulations in the State ACRE statute. Eugene Orlando sees there are two immediate issues, 1) there was not an application applied for and 2) the current ordinance and ACRE law needs to be reviewed to see if there would be recommendation to change current ordinance. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Solicitor, Zoning Officer and Engineer to take a look at the current zoning and the ACRE law to compare and make recommendations as needed at the earliest time, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Engineering – Gary Kraft

Musser – Jayne Seifrit asked Gary Kraft if he received a phone call from the Musser's. He did not.

Duke Realty financial security release – Gary Kraft stated he inspected the property and recommends the Board release \$2,869,851.60 and retain \$792,358.78. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing the release of \$2,869,851.60 and retain \$792,358.78, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority – Mike Graby

Mike Graby didn't have anything to report.

Library Board –

Mike Graby didn't have anything to report.

Recreation Board – Lee Groff

Viking V agreement – Lee Groff stated he will check with the Rec. Board Thursday night.

Banners – Lee Groff stated he and Randy Behney took down banners today with the rest to be taken down Tuesday. The Township received a letter from Carl Weaver, Lee Groff read the letter. It pointed out Carl Weaver is disappointed the Township didn't think enough of the banners to want to preserve them, and stated the road crew didn't believe it is their job to keep putting them up and taking them down. Mike Graby said he called Carl Weaver and explained the cost etc. The plan is to have the banners remain up and replace the damaged ones as needed. The cost would be less to replace banners than to take down and put up annually. Pete Davis stated it is not an issue for the road crew to put up or take down.

Lee Groff stated the Township received a letter from DCNR concerning the Grant for the Frystown Playground. The Township's application was right on the cut line for funding. If funding becomes available, we could get some funding, we should know by January 23, 2019.

Gary Kraft stated he met with the Rec Board prior to this meeting. The Rec Board would like the Board to authorize DeVon Henne to mark the property for clearing brush etc. at the Airport Road property. Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing DeVon Henne mark the property line in preparation of clearing some brush, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Environmental Advisory Council – Jake Meyer

Jake Meyer reported the EAC was talking about working with the Rec Board on the Airport Road project.

Jake Meyer stated Mike Najarian went to the State of the Environment Breakfast and learn Berks County has not improved.

Jake Meyer stated the EAC would like to sponsor the Junk Fair prizes again in 2019, and continue to do trash pick up at the ramp (s) in April. It was asked if they would consider trash pick up along Brown Road and Martha Drive.

Jake Meyer stated they are going to investigate recycling program.

Unfinished Business

Welcome Sign – nothing yet

Policy revisions – Jake Meyer stated in the new year.

Weidner Bridge – Jayne Seifrit stated Tulpehocken Township has submitted the bills to the County for payment. We have not heard an update.

Act 537 – no discussion, John Brown called the Township to say he will have information in the new year.

Budget – Tax Levy Resolution 2018-27, taxes have remained the same. Mike Graby made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-27 with no tax increase, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-28 setting the budget for 2019 at \$1,440,645.00, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting dates – wait until after Planning Commission meeting.

Township Board member terms expire end of 2018 – It was stated Rodney Keeney would like to be off the Rec. Board, Cliff Yeakley doesn't want to serve as alternate on Zoning Hearing, Martha Olesh is thinking about service to EAC, Harold Gruber needs to be called to be sure he will continue to serve. The Board will check with Planning Commission members to see if they are willing to continue at the Planning Commission meeting.

New Business

PSATS Small Employer Exception Submittal Certification – Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Chairman to sign form, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Telephone – Township received a letter increasing the telephone lines per each. Jayne Seifrit checked with Verizon, the difference was minimal, wait for actual bill, but at this point we might want to stay with Comcast.

Resolution Hazard Mitigation Plan – Lee Groff made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-29, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Horning Market Escrow – Jayne Seifrit stated she has received an HOP for Horning's Market (501), can the escrow be released? Eugene Orlando stated the deed needs to be transferred to Penn DOT for the land from Bross property. The cost would be minimal. It was decided to wait until the transfer has taken place.

Electric Bill Changes – Jayne Seifrit stated Met-Ed will be billing hourly versus how it is done now. Board may want to consider options, letter was in their bins.

Election Board Form – Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Chairman sign the form, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

BCIDA – Letter was received about what they can do with the property they own across from the Martha Drive entrance.

Funds Unencumbered 2018 – It was suggested they think about during Planning Commission and discuss after.

Public Officials Day – January 9, 2019. Jake Meyer stated he went last year. They can sign up themselves or let Jayne know and she will sign them up. Jake Meyer stated he is going to attend. Lee Groff is checking his schedule.

Payment of Bills

Payment of bills from the general fund from check 32563– 32593, street light 196, open space 175 and state aid 165.

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

Meeting suspended at 8:03 pm to allow the Planning Meeting to convene.

Meeting reconvened at 9:20 pm

New Business

Lee Groff thought of an item missed under new business. Lee Groff stated Mike Graby contacted Mt Aetna Fire Company for dates available for thank you event. Mike Graby stated the dates are February 9 or 16th. The Board checked schedules and opted for February 9, 2019. Lee Groff asked for authorization to ask for donations from area businesses. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing Lee Groff to ask area businesses for donations, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Zoning Officer

The Board asked Lisa Hassler if there is still an issue at the driveway. Lisa Hassler stated they are still parking there, but not far enough out to block sight distance.

Complaint at 8371 Old Route 22 - Lee Groff stated he has checked and the issues raised have been in place for many, many years. The Board will not be taking any action at this time.

8541 Old Route 22 – Robin Royer stated they replaced pipe.

Property Maintenance information – FHA information was given to the Board.

Actions from Planning Commission

NorthPoint – Lee Groff made a motion to accept extension letter until March 23, 2019, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Met-Ed – Mike Graby made a motion to approve recommendation from Planning Commission to waive requirement of Land Development for 5,000 square foot Pole Building at 5601 Four Point Rd, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

West Run – Mike Graby made a motion to approve recommendation from Planning Commission to have new plan sheets 2,3,4, 9 and 10 be reviewed by Township Engineer, and if satisfactory replace existing pages 2,3,4,9 and 10 in approved plan, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mike Graby, seconded by Jake Meyer to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit
Secretary Treasurer