

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
May 20, 2019**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 7:01 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 Stephen Price; Engineer Jeffrey Steckbeck and Township Secretary Treasurer Jayne Seifrit. Several interested residents were in attendance.

Public Comment on Agenda

Hearing of Visitors

8391 Old Route 22 – James Strauser stated he received a letter concerning zoning violations on his property. He stated he purchased the property four years ago. He does have a truck at his property and buys and sells logs. He feels he was not fairly treated. He described the activities on his property and asked the Township to look at his nice-looking property. David Bahner stated the activities on the neighbor's property are disturbing his family. He stated there is noise very early in the morning when he starts the truck, noise from the log trucks at all times. It is not zoned for the activities that are happening on the property. There was spirited discussion between James Strauser and David Bahner. Jake Meyer stated he would like to go out to the property. Issue will be placed on the agenda for Tuesday May 28ths meeting. David Bahner will get the pictures to the Township.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from April 15, 2019, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried. Lee Groff made a motion to approve minutes from Joint BTMA meeting April 18, 2019, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from Joint meeting with Planning Commission on April 23, 2019, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Lee Groff made a motion to approve minutes from April 23, 2019, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comments

Lee Groff – nothing at this time

Jacob Meyer – Jake Meyer stated he has received a flyer from the Berks History Center. It lists their activities; can be posted in the lobby.

Jake Meyer stated he received a termination letter from Orlando Law Offices. Mike Graby made a motion to accept letter from Orlando Law Offices, seconded by Jake Meyer. Mike Graby and Jake Meyer agreed, opposed was not asked for, Lee Groff did not vote. Motion carried. Mike Graby made a motion to terminate Kraft Engineering, seconded by Jake Meyer. Mike Graby and Jake Myer agreed. Lee Groff opposed. Motion carried. Jake Meyer made a motion to appoint Mogel Speidel Bobb & Kershner as solicitor, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. Engagement letter signed by Chairman. Mike Graby made

a motion to appoint Steckbeck Engineering and Surveying Inc., seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mike Graby – nothing at this time

Police Department Report – Chief Ryan Murphy

Incidents Assigned	00	Misc. Complaints	33
Criminal Arrest	01	Non Traffic Citations	00
Traffic Citations	32	Parking Tickets	03
Follow Up Investigations	01	Phone Assignments	17
Non-Reportable Accidents	12	Reportable Accidents	06
Motorist Assists	07	Traffic Stops	27
Fire & EMS Advisories	21	Other Law Agency Assists	14
Alarms	03	Security Checks	02
School Detail	21	Vehicle Maintenance	01
Court Appearances	03	Subpoena Service	00
Warrants	00	Warnings	06
Suspicious Situations	12	Disorderly Incidents	10
Reckless Drivers	03	Domestics	00
Thefts	03	Repos	00

2918 mileage was noted with 203activities. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Chief Murphy stated their copy machine is no longer working. They have received two cost estimates. One is for a refurbished machine and the other is for a new one. They are looking at the refurbished one. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing they purchase the refurbished machine for \$1,659.00, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Murphy asked if a decision was made on hiring Matthew Fogarty. Lee Groff made a motion to hire Matthew Fogarty, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Robesonia Borough is requesting fire police for their event June 22, 2019. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing fire police to assist with the event if they desire, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Coordinator - Randy Behney

Randy Behney stated they are almost done with run cards for Bethel.

It was stated the Solicitor should be consulted concerning the background checks.

Randy Behney stated there was an incident earlier today that was very involved. Randy Behney sated Chief Murphy handled getting the resources needed. Jake Meyer commended the first responders.

Road Master Report – Pete Davis

Weed Spraying – Pete Davis stated they are calling back and forth, will continue to try to contact so we can get on the schedule.

Old Route 22 - Pete Davis said there are two spots that he wants the contractor to look at before the project is considered complete. Pete Davis stated the line painting will be done when Penn DOT can schedule.

Mowing – Pete Davis stated they have started mowing Township roads. State roads will be happening in June.

Solicitor – Stephen Price

Stephen Price stated he and Eugene Orlando have spoken and there will be a smooth transition from prior to current. All listed items below will be addressed in the near future.

Traffic Ordinance –

Littering Ordinance –

Dedication of Central Blvd and portion of Fort Motel Dr -

Stephen Price stated the Library has decided to go with the lowest bidder for their project. The Board of Supervisors can take action. Mike Graby made a motion to approve the lowest bidder for the Library renovation project, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Engineering – Jeffrey Steckbeck

Jeffrey Steckbeck stated the Board received two bids for the Airport Road Rec Area Improvement Project. He stated it was anticipated to cost around \$58,000.00 - \$68,000.00. The bids were over \$75,000.00. Lee Groff made a motion to reject all bids, seconded by Mike Graby.

Musser – Jeffrey Steckbeck stated he would like to meet with the Musser's to discuss issue. Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing Engineer meet with Glenn Musser, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority – Mike Graby

Mike Graby didn't have anything to report.

Library Board –

Jake Meyer stated the Library Board will move forward with the renovation project.

Jake Meyer stated they are having a fund-raising meeting May 21, 2019.

Jake Meyer stated they had a rummage sale as a fund-raiser.

Jake Meyer stated the Library is no longer having hot spots for sale.

Jake Meyer stated there has been a drag queen program within Berks County. It was stated the Library Director sets the programming agenda and the Bethel Tulpehocken Public Library will not be scheduling the drag queen program.

Recreation Board – Lee Groff

Lee Groff stated the Recreation Board would like to build a Facebook page and is looking for the Board of Supervisors to authorize. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the Rec Board to build Facebook page, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Lee Groff stated the GTRP grant requires a resolution. Lee Groff made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-31 for the GTRP grant and submit grant once Solicitor looks over, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

It was noted the Public Works department need to know where to hang the two additional banners, they were not listed on the list they received.

Environmental Advisory Council – Jake Meyer

Jake Meyer stated the EAC is working on marking some drains and checking the ones previously marked for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Jake Meyer stated the wetland will be marked here at the parking lot so they can be cleaned up and look like wetlands should.

Jake Meyer stated a joint clean up of the Airport Road property will happen and start at 8:00 am.

Mike Najarian stated the garbage clean up on 645 ramps on I-78 netted 79 bags of garbage.

Unfinished Business

Welcome Sign – Mike Graby stated he is waiting to hear back from vendor.

Policy revisions – Jake Meyer stated they have done revisions and will hand out the revised copies to the members. Place item on agenda for Tuesday's meeting.

Website – Jayne Seifrit stated Mountain Creek Technology has been to the office. Waiting to see how much behind the scenes needs to be done.

Pension – Lee Groff stated a PSATS representative came to a meeting with the Board and employees. They talked about the 457b and 401A investments mainly and glossed over the pension as the Township has one in place. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing Jayne Seifrit get the documents in place for next meeting for the 457b and the 401A, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Custodian – Jayne Seifrit stated the Township received three applications. The Board will look over and check references, place on agenda for next meeting.

Horning's Market – Jayne Seifrit updated the Board on the information received pertaining to the file. At this time all is in place and the letter of credit for the HOP can be released. Jake Meyer made a motion to release the LOC for HOP, seconded by Lee Groff. All agreed. Motion carried. Jayne Seifrit stated the escrow being held by the Township tied to road right-of-way acquisition is also completed, she would like to return unused portion once all billing is received. Lee Groff made a motion authorizing the release of escrowed funds once billing is received, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

New Business

Resolution – If there is a Resolution the Board wishes to place before the County it needs to be submitted by June 30, 2019. None at this time.

SWIF – Letter received to reduce premiums by 5% for WC (Fire Companies).

Turnback – Jayne Seifrit stated Penn DOT would like to know what the status is concerning turnback. It was stated if we cannot recoup funds spent, we would not be interested in the Turnback. It was stated we now have a nice road (Old Route 22) and the other (state) roads are not in as good a shape. Jayne Seifrit will send Solicitor resolutions/paperwork, to be sure there is nothing existing to keep the Township from not doing Turnback.

McDonald % MacGregor, LLC – Letter received concerning accident on Route 501. The Solicitor stated he will be responding to the letter.

9311 Old Route 22 – trailer being used as a billboard – The owner of the property was present and said he has contacted Penn Dot and it is not a problem.

381 Musselman and 1300 Little Mountain Rd grass/weed issues – The Township received a complaint about the growth of vegetation on the properties. Lee Groff made a motion

to have the Secretary send the reminder of vegetation ordinance compliance to 381 Musselman Rd and 1300 Little Mountain Rd, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Letter for matching funds for grant – The GTRP grant requires a letter committing the matching funds – Lee Groff made a motion to approve signing the letter committing funds, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Payment of bills from the general fund from check 32755- 32797, open space 181-182, and street light 201

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

Public Comment

Herb Zechman asked what is happening with the Act 537? It was stated time to review with Engineer and Solicitor needs to happen.

Carl Kauffman III asked about the Chestnut Street traffic issue. It was stated the Chestnut Street in Frystown, no parking signs.

Carl Kauffman III asked if the Board noticed the weeds at Sheetz. It will be looked into.

Carl Kauffman III stated there are ruts in the grass area in Green Alley. He thinks the grass area should be removed to avoid the ruts.

Carl Kauffman III asked about speed enforcement on Old Route 22. Chief Murphy stated they will be enforcing.

Lisa Hassler asked why the Township is spending money on an issue on Meckville Rd (Musser). Jayne Seifrit stated the issue happened while complying with Land Development process.

David Bahner stated he would like them to stop at his residence when they come out to the Strauser property. He will give his number after the meeting.

Real Estate Broker asked about 81 Daub Road as it relates to the closing of Daub Road, he stated there seems to be a shift. Jake Meyer stated there is not a shift, it was stated previously the Board is open to the idea, but not voted on to remain open or to close Daub Road.

Steve Burkhart stated he feels the minutes reflect he is in favor of Daub Road being closed. That is not the case, he is opposed to closing Daub Road. He also wanted to point out the interchanges have been IC and he would like to remain in IC as he has been for the past 31 years. Jake Meyer stated the meeting on May 28, 2019 will happen but there will not be any decisions at that meeting. He would like to have the Engineer and Solicitor have time to see issues and try to wrap it all up in June.

Larry Schmehl asked about the Trash Ordinance. It was stated they are looking to have input from Police Chief and Solicitor.

Larry Schmehl asked about where the feasibility study stands for the cul-de-sac and gate at the end of Martha Dr and Brown Rd. He was told it has not been decided yet.

Larry Schmehl asked what the Board is going to do with Daub Road. It has been talked about for months. Mike Graby made a motion to keep Daub Road open, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Bob Kessler stated years ago when the line was being put in place along Old Route 22, he met with Rufus Geesaman, Randall Haag and Rik Longacre, Schlouch Rep, he was told they would not have to hook up to the line. He just wanted the Board to be aware of meeting.

Carl Kauffman III asked if there was going to be police at the Memorial Day Parade. Chief Murphy stated the part time police are escorting.

David Peters stated while he is looking at the governing document, he feels there are items that can happen at the discretion of the Board. He also stated in his opinion the zoning is out of whack from the comprehensive plan.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mike Graby, seconded by Lee Groff to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit/Secretary Treasurer