

**Bethel Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Conditional Use Hearing  
July 15, 2019**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors Conditional Use Hearing was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 6:30pm. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the hearing were Lee Groff, Michael Graby and Jacob Meyer. Also, in attendance were Solicitor Stephen Price., Zoning Officer Robin Royer, and Township Sec Treas. Jayne Seifrit.

Jake Meyer turned the hearing over to Solicitor Stephen Price.

Stephen Price explained how the hearing will be conducted.

Stephen Price stated the reason for the hearing is to receive testimony for the request from James Strauser to operate as a Trucking Owner-Operator at 8391 Old Route 22. Stephen Price entered exhibits into the hearing. Those being: 1 notice of hearing, 2 proof of publication, 3 posting of property, 4 application and 5 the zoning ordinance. James Strauser was sworn in, he was asked questions resulting in the following answers: James Strauser, owns with wife, 8391 Old Route 22, 8.7 acres, house, detached garage and an enclosure for horses. He has two trucks and he receives or purchases logs that he sorts for resale. He does not have any employees. Trucks could start at 5:00 am – 7:00 am and leave; could be back on property by midafternoon depending on log pickup location. He parks the trucks in the back on the stone.

Stephen Price asked if there were any question for James Strauser from the public. David Bahner from 8381 Old Route 22 asked who drives the second truck. He was told at times it is leased to a friend. David Bahner asked where he parks the trucks – in the back. Where he turns the trucks around – on his own property. David Bahner questioned what are they repairing at the garage – it was stated it is none of his business what happens in the garage on his property.

Stephen Price asked if there was anyone to testify in favor of the application. No response.

Stephen Price asked is there was anyone to testify against the application. David Bahner wants to speak against application.

David Bahner stated the overview of requirements for a conditional use per section 1049 and subsections of 1049. David Bahner stated the conditional use is limited to the owner of the property, no parking in the front or along the side, turn around is an issue, no more then 2 trucks at this time there are three. It is stated no truck repairs, he stated repairs are happening outside. There have been trucks idling for over an hour, once he knows of a truck on from 7 pm -9 am (overnight). David Bahner stated the PA Motor Diesel idling law is not complied with by James Strauser. Truck repair is supposed to be within an enclosed structure, no external storage. David Bahner has pictures, they were marked as exhibit 6.

Jake Meyer asked how long this has been happening. It has been happening since 2015 but David Bahner stated it has intensified. James Strauser stated he moved there in February 2015. In March of 2015 one of his friends came and there was a problem because of the color of his skin. David Bahner flatly denies being racist, he has family different from himself. He stated he loves all people.

Stephen Price stated the Board can take up to 45 day to render a decision. It can be at a regular meeting. The Board would like to wait until the Zoning Hearing Board makes their decision.

Lee Groff made a motion to close hearing, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne K Seifrit  
Township Secretary