The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 7:16 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the meeting were Jacob Meyer, Robbi Lane and Michael Graby. Also, in attendance were Solicitor, Stephen Price, Engineer, Jeffrey Steckbeck and Township Secretary Treasurer Jayne Seifrit. Several interested residents were in attendance and joined via Zoom.

Jake Meyer stated just prior to this meeting the Board held an executive meeting concerning possible litigation.

Public Comment on Agenda
Fred Bowman stated it is unfair to vote on an issue without everyone that wants to comment on the issue being present. In person is very limited and at a past meeting it was stated it will be tabled until face to face meeting can happen. He stated the issue of rezoning will affect the entire community. He doesn’t care if it takes until 2022. Mike Graby stated there are other projects being affected by holding up the vote. One project is looking at going elsewhere.

Lisa Hassler stated the Board should listen to those people that signed the petitions. It is noted some people signed both petitions; for and against. The Board should want to hear from them. Robbi Lane stated this zoning issue has been talked about and has been going on for years. Robbi Lane stated it is dividing our community.

Actions from Planning Commission
Bethel Business Park – Steve Buck stated the Plan is ready for final conditional approval. Jake Meyer made a motion to approve final plan condition on all items being completed on SESI review letter dated May 12, 2020, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

Hearing of Visitors
Willis Geesaman stated he is having an issue with his drug addicted son. Willis Geesaman stated his son has stolen a credit card, a check, parts from the salvage yard, broken into building(s). etc. to fund his habit. Willis Geesaman stated the Bethel Township Police have been contacted numerous times to no avail. He has done the leg work for surveillance footage, found where the parts were being sold to etc. He stated the Police still have not done their job. When he spoke to the Police, he was told they don’t have enough evidence. He spoke with the Berks County DA’s office and he was told the Police Department needs to do their job. The Police recount the event outcomes slightly different, but still not to an arrest of the son. Willis Geesaman stated the Police Department is just sucking tax dollars from the Township; what can be done?

Approval of Minutes
Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from June 15, 2020 meeting, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.
Supervisors Comments

Robbi Lane – Robbi Lane apologized for the previously exchange comments.


Michael Graby – nothing at this time

Police Department Report – Chief Ryan Murphy

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Chief Murphy read over the report: 5635 mileage was noted with 300 activities. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Impound lot – still looking into possibility, obtaining estimates. Jake Meyer noted the EAC is going to be doing work at the wetlands. So, it will be clear to where the impound lot can extend.

Emergency Management Coordinator – Brian Blouch, by zoom, Alicia Moyer Deputy EMA

Brian Blouch deferred comments to Alicia Moyer as she was present in person. Alicia Moyer stated the survey for the businesses has been circulated and continues to be. She stated they are awaiting returns.

Road Master Report –

Klahr Road and parking area at the garage bids received – no date for the work to be started, yet

Crafco – no action at this time, will be removed from agenda at this time

Solicitor – Stephen Price

Second Amendment – Stephen Price stated it was circulated after last months meeting, no action at this time.

West Run DIA and reduction – Stephen Price stated he and the Township Engineer have completed at this time and it has been given to the professionals for West Run developers.

Zoning Ordinance and Map amendments – changes would require posting of properties and advertising for a public hearing. Many people want to speak for and against the zoning
district changes, and it needs to be fair and allow all to speak. Attorney Jim Smith asked for ten minutes to confer with his clients and those opposed to IC. Mike Graby made a motion to have the Bowman properties that are currently in AP to remain in AP and change the proposed map to reflect AP not IC, seconded by Robbi Lane. There was a 10-minute break for people to talk. During the break the Township Attorney and Township Board discussed alternative actions. It was decided to have an outside meeting at a place to be determined but at 6:00 pm on July 27, 2020 with a rain date of August 3, 2020. Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing the advertising of the special meeting once meeting place is determined, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Nothing resulted in motion by Mike Graby and second by Robbi Lane for AP or IC at Bowman properties.

**Engineering** – Jeffrey Steckbeck

Little Mt Road speed limit – Jeffrey Steckbeck stated he is looking at two ways to do traffic study. One would be using 85% of monitoring on site about 9 hours at a cost of $1,000.00 the other is five test runs by him and a person recording to speeds. Doing report and would take about 4 hours at a cost of $450.00. Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing the five test runs report, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Brown Rd coring – Jeffrey Steckbeck stated Brown Road was cored and results are the road is anywhere from 12 inches to 14 inches in depth. It would be a good candidate for a full depth reclamation. He is getting an estimate. This may be done by NorthPoint.

Old Route 22 – Jeffrey Steckbeck is looking to put packet together for remaining section of Old Route 22 from Gravel Pit Road to 419. Jeffrey Steckbeck stated it should be ready for August meeting.

TIF – Jeffrey Steckbeck stated he will have the priority list ready.

Recreation Board – Jake Meyer stated the Recreation Board would like to have Engineers input on placement of pavilion and building for utilities etc. Mike Graby stated there are high tree stumps on the Airport Road property. Grinding/removal of stumps need to happen.

Check other Roads – might have Jeffrey Steckbeck ride along.

**Municipal Authority** – Jake Meyer

Nothing at this time

**Library Board** – Jake Meyer

Jake Meyer stated he met with a State Representative and was told in the state budget they are funding 100% of libraries, pensions and schools.

**Recreation Board** –

Banners – The Board stated they have agreed to replace Home Town Hero Banners by request at a past meeting. Jake Meyer stated he feels we should be honoring all year round and it will be cost effective to replace versus take town and put up. Jayne Seifrit will email Rec. Board and Carl Weaver.

**Environmental Advisory Council** – Jake Meyer

No meeting
Unfinished Business

- Openings on Recreation Board and EAC - Jake Meyer stated he has not been able to check on open position possibilities.
- Animal Control information – remove from agenda

New Business

- Chapter 102 for Kervin Hursh – Mike Graby made a motion authorizing Chairman sign form, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.
- CM High Maintenance Agreement – The Board looked at the two proposals received, one for just the three traffic lights and the other for three traffic lights and the two flashing signals. They discussed the price difference. Robbi Lane made a motion to have the Chairman sign the proposal for the three traffic lights at a cost of $940.00, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

- Payment of bills from the general fund from check 33298– 33328 and street light 215. Robbi Lane made a motion to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.
- Actuary bills – Jake Meyer made a motion to pay out of general fund to preserve the balances in the pensions, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Public Comment

- Lance Schreckengost talked about Plan A versus Plan B; he feels there is no question that Plan A is the better plan.
- Attorney Jim Smith questioned the potential litigation from executive session prior to the meeting. He asked if it was coming from the Bowman’s. It was stated the Township received correspondence from the Solicitors for the Bowman’s. Jim Smith would like to have copies of those correspondences. Township Solicitor will take care of request.
- Steve Burkhart asked when the last expansion of the IC district was done. That was not known. There are petitions against expanding.
- Fred Bowman stated there are petitions in favor of the Bowman Project too.

Adjourn

- A motion was made by Mike Graby, seconded by Robbi Lane to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Secretary Treasurer