The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors special meeting was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 6:03 p.m. at the Tri County Worship Center located at 1501 Schubert Rd, 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. Approximately 100 interested residents were also in attendance.

Jake Meyer stated authorization to advertise for the Road Employee needs to be done. Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing the advertising for the Public Works Road Employee, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Tax Collector Sitting Hours – Jake Meyer made a motion stating the Tax Collector will not have sitting hours due to Covid-19 for the remainder of the year, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried. The drop box in the Township Building is available during business hours.

Special Meeting – Jake Meyer stated the Board will not be voting tonight. Jake Meyer stated those opposed to having the properties in IC will speak first.

**Opposed**

Betty Martin gave to the Township a petition with a little over 100 signatures. She read the wording on the petition (copy of wording in official minutes). Betty Martin read letters from Charles Coles, Fred and Deb Newman and Sharon Walter (letters filed with official minutes). Betty Martin then read her own letter asking the Board take into consideration the Township’s Comprehensive Plan, the minutes of the past meetings etc. She outlined 5 provisions that need to be considered. Letter will be filed with the official minutes.

Judy Apgar brought pictures depicting the beautiful farm land (4) and a picture showing a rig blocking route 645. Judy Apgar stated her property borders the Bowman tract. She thanked Robbi Lane and Mike Graby for opposing change to IC during the joint meeting. Judy Apgar stated the land needs to stay farm land, we are in the country. Judy Apgar stated the Bowman’s don’t live here, so they won’t be affected daily as the residents will be.

Calvin Maciejewski stated he is a scout leader. He finds it difficult to star gaze as the existing lighting is polluting the sky. He also stated the stormwater not working on other industrial sites due to shale. That will be the same for the Bowman properties.

Steve Burkhart stated they need to preserve the farm land. Bowman’s created lots years ago and made money. Steve Burkhart stated he is in favor of medical arts, restaurant, etc. for Bethel Township, but not more warehouses. He mentioned the petition that was submitted concerning
Daub Road, nothing to do with the Bowman property zoning except that fact people don’t want more warehouses. He agrees with Cal about the light pollution.

Attorney James Smith stated he came back roads to the meeting and stated Bethel Township is beautiful. The Board needs to support farm land to keep the rural nature of the Township versus warehouse development. He said petitions have value but they also can create pressure for those asked to sign. James Smith stated Option A and B were shown. Fred Bowman said at the meeting March 9th there would not be warehouses, you are going to love the plan. Option A removes some ag land. James Smith stated he understands this has been on social media, Board members visited by State Representative, and a threat of a lawsuit by Bowman’s. He pointed out as it is currently the buffer exists between IC and residential.

Residents opposed to making the parcels IC came up and stated their names and addresses:
Charles Coles 250 Daub Rd
John Gierveld 145 Daub Rd
Linda Marks 245 Camp Swatara Rd
Joe Chmura 220 Daub Rd
Fred Martin 191 Daub Rd
Curt Behler 31 Hickory Dr

In Favor

Attorney Anthony Fitzgibbons stated there is a lot of misinformation out there. Various people will be presenting and clarifying project.

Tom Meagher, Blue Rock, showed the board for Plan B, having husbandry houses (6) new, and flex buildings. The access would be from 645, Little Mountain Rd, Daub Rd and Myer Dr for the proposed uses. Plan A would have access to development from 645 and all buildings would be accessed by internal roads; not affecting Township roads. There would be a berm so the residents would not see and reduce sounds from the flex buildings. They would be bringing three phase electric to site along with water and public sewer. They are proposing three flex buildings, and possible medical arts building, child care, restaurant(s), fitness, hotel etc. There would be a cul-de-sac for trucks missing entrance (copy of both plans will be part of the official minutes).

Fred Bowman handed in petitions in support of project. Fred Bowman stated the white hats were purchased and are being worn to show support of the project. Easily identifies supporters. Fred Bowman had a board depicting the supports and where they live. Fred Bowman stated the Bowman’s did not do the subdivision that created the lots along Daub Rd. Fred Bowman stated they want to be decent neighbors. Fred Bowman stated infrastructure is needed. Fred Bowman clarified the statement “no warehouses” to be he said no big warehouses. Fred Bowman stated 27 people commented on school taxes; 18 were in favor of project to reduce taxes, 4 not in favor and 5 were neutral. Fred Bowman read a letter from Sue Ohm 1109 Little Mountain Rd; gist was Businesses contribute to the community (don’t have copy to file with minutes).

Joyce Eckhart 1 Hickory Dr read her letter (will be filed with minutes).
Harold Boltz 131 Daub Rd stated he will subdivide, sell and move.

Residents in favor of making the parcels IC came up and stated their names and addresses:
Lisa Hassler 1681 Schubert Rd
Erin 1470 Little Mt Rd stated Plan A is a good plan. It is a responsible and good team developing.
Lance Schreckengost 1151 Little Mt Rd
Lance’s Fiancée, 1151 Little Mt Rd stated increase property values, and she was not strong armed into signing petition.
Kevin Boltz 9061 Lancaster Ave
Connie Bashore, not a resident of Bethel but is in favor as a Tulpehocken School District resident
Thomas Blouch 1770 Little Mt Rd
Elaine Blouch 1770 Little Mt Rd
Wentzel Body Shop 2395 Camp Swatara Rd
Golden Equipment 2390 Camp Swatara Rd
Gerald Bender 499 Frystown Rd
Jose Gerana, G Force 2375 Camp Swatara Rd
Soyna Santiago 2375 Camp Swatara Rd

Robbi Lane stated she has been getting harassing phone calls, visitors etc. and believes this is dividing the community. She had a State Rep visit her. She asked for people to put themselves in the Boards shoes. It is not easy. There will be some happy people and some disappointed people whatever is decided. This issue needs to be completed so the community can move forward.

Residents in favor of making the parcels IC came up and stated their names and addresses:
continued
Dennis Schools 221 Camp Strauss Rd
Ruth Ann Boltz – not live here
Nicole Dunbar 101 Myer Dr
Robert Erb 5 Schmehl Rd
Arlon Schools 231 Camp Strauss Rd
Carol Spatz 406 Musselman Rd
Ken Coots 1653 Little Mt Rd
Ken Norton 194 Camp Strauss Rd stated he knows the Board has a hard decision; he has been in their shoes. Plan A still preserves some Agricultural land and allows for mixed commercial uses.
Nathan and Tammy Dunlevy 655 Brown Rd
Edwin Moralas 640 Brown Rd
Dick and Carol Wells 655 Brown Rd
Bob and Tammy Yeager 655 Brown Rd
Barry Hower 449 Frystown Rd stated the medical arts facility would be good for our community.
Melissa and Chad Lalli 1681 Little Mt Rd
Leon Martin 820 Little Mt Rd
Corey Houser 725 Frystown Rd stated the water tower would be a plus for the fire companies improves fire safety and adds to the tax base.
Thomas Hassler 261 Airport Rd stated he is normally against warehouses, but Plan A has a berm and will not see the development. Jerry Bowman stated it is not a preserved farm, they have been paying taxes all along. They may not live there but they are still farming there. He stated the people are caring about the community that is why they are supporting Plan A. He stated they have gotten 150 more signatures then the last supervisor received in the election. Jerry Bowman asked the Board to do what the public wants.

Anthony Fitzgibbons stated they are prepared with deed restriction right now.

Jake Meyer thanked everyone for coming out. Jake Meyer stated he does want people to contact him; he feels that is part of being a public official.

Adjourn
A motion was made by Robbi Lane, seconded by Mike Graby to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:33p.m.

Anthony Fitzgibbons stated these people want to go on record in favor of the Bowman’s
Roger Himmelberger 1470 Little Mt Rd
Haley Sowers 537 Erich St Wernersville
Megan Klan 1101 Brownsville Rd Wernersville
Kayla Piccone 1534 Singer Rd Wyomissing
Ryan Blew 2900 Merritt Pkwy Sinking Spring
Tyler 766 Mohrsville Rd Mohrsville
Matt Fiorini 355 Oneinda Dr Sinking Spring

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Secretary Treasurer