

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
August 17, 2020**

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, 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. A videographer (hired by Fred Bowman) was also in attendance, providing outside viewing of meeting and monitor for inside attendees to see outside attendees.

**Public Comment on Agenda**

Lisa Hassler said Robbi Lane likes to look out and see fields behind her house; Lisa Hassler stated Mike Graby said he would go with what the majority wants (comments during the Bowman property rezoning discussion). Lisa Hassler paraphrased from Municipal Authorities code of conduct and ethics and said the Board members need to adhere to: respect for others, service, freedom, make decision on what is best for the community. The medical arts facility would be a good thing for the community as an example.

**Actions from Planning Commission**

No actions at this time, however Jayne Seifrit reminded the Board once the plans are received, they will get a call to come in to sign.

**Hearing of Visitors**

Mark Hassler stated they had a problem in mid-July. They were woken up by commotion from an attempted break-in. It was handled by son as he knew the perpetrators. A call to the police and a follow up by Chief Murphy to Lisa Hassler the next day seemed to have a solution for everyone involved. Mark Hassler stated the mother of a female that was involved in the incident called Lisa Hassler and verbally raped his wife. It was stated Penny Graby told the girls mother about the incident. Mark Hassler stated it could have only come from Robbi telling Mike about the report. Mark Hassler stated he wants both to resign, he will make it his priority to see that happen. Mark Hassler stated they have contacted the Berks County District6 Attorneys Office. Robbi Lane and Mike Graby both deny what they were accused of. Robbi Lane stated she has over 22 years and knows the law. Mark Hassler knew they would both deny, he stated he has a witness.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mike Graby made a motion to approve minutes from July 20, 2020 meeting, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried. Jake Meyer made a motion to approve minutes from special meeting held July 27, 2020, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Supervisors Comments**

Robbi Lane – Robbi Lane stated we have received a phone call thanking Officer Fogarty for his professionalism.

Robbi Lane reminded everyone there is a drug drop off box in the police station.

Jake Meyer – nothing at this time

Michael Graby – Mike Graby stated the road crew received thank you for the mowing and for the paving job on Little Mt Rd. Jayne Seifrit stated another thank you to road crew came in for good job of mowing Frystown Rd and Shirksville Rd.

**Police Department Report – Chief Ryan Murphy**

Domestics	09	Burglary	02
Misc. Complaints	27	Traffic Citations	89
Non Traffic Citations	05	Court Appearances	04
Phone Assignments	31	Security Checks	05
Alarms	02	Reportable Accidents	05
Non-Reportable Accidents	05	Motorist Assists	06
Traffic Stops	70	Fire & EMS Advisories	27
Criminal Arrest	07	Other Law Agency Assists	14
School Detail	00	Suspicious Situations	15
Disorderly Incidents	13	Reckless Drivers	00
Warrants	00	Warnings	27
Parking Tickets	01	Vehicle Maintenance	00
Repos	00	Follow up investigations	04
Thefts	05		

Chief Murphy read over the report: 4896.5 mileage was noted with 251 activities. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

Impound lot – It was reported one quote came in and are waiting for the other two.

Chief Murphy asked about two ordinances. One for the parking on township roads with ability to tow after a period of time. The other one for animals on the road. There have been a couple of times where cows were on the road and cause an accident. Stephen Price stated a letter needs to go to the resident(s). He asked Chief Murphy to send names and addresses so a letter can be sent from his office.

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

Alicia Moyer stated Brian Blouch would like the Township to do a mutual aid agreement. She also stated Brian Blouch is looking to map the Appalachian Trail on the maps they use for emergencies. Alicia Moyer stated the survey for the businesses has been circulated and continues to be. She stated they are awaiting returns she has received one back so far. Alicia Moyer stated they have been to schools and discuss fire drills, evacuations, etc. for all emergency scenarios. Alicia Moyer stated they reference the IFC (international fire codes) frequently and her free month trial expired. She is asking the Board to approve a one-year subscription at the annual cost of \$86.00. It was stated the new ones could be coming out and doing a three-year would not be beneficial. Mike Graby made a motion authorizing the one-year subscription for the IFC for \$86.00, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried. Jayne Seifrit asked if Jake Meyer and Alicia Moyer would be coordinating time for credit card purchase of subscription, answer yes. Alicia Moyer stated she would do the id's. Jake Meyer made a motion to have the EMA department take over doing the id's, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed.

Motion carried. Jayne Seifrit stated the id's are something that was input into the emergency system as new hires come on, there is information on the total visibility form not known by many new hires, so the form was not used, we just input from forms already needed as a new hire. The total visibility form will be inserted into the new hire packets and forwarded to EMA department (the id's were done by EMA department in the past, but were given to the Twp Office years ago for input). Jayne Seifrit and Alicia Moyer will coordinate the switch over with the County.

### **Road Master Report –**

Municipal – Mike Graby stated they have the tiger mower still for sale and a broom sweeper. There is also pipe (not used for intended job in 2016), the original supplier stated he would buy back for \$25.00 per foot. Matt Blatt stated he would like to purchase a 20-foot and 12-foot section, he would also haul it back to Fehr's for a fee. The remaining quantity is 3 20-foot sections. Mark Hassler stated Zimmerman Pipe out of Terri Hill is about the best price for pipe. Robbi Lane made a motion to sell back pipe and have Matt Blatt purchase sections requested and haul pipe back, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

431 Midway Rd – Mike Graby stated a letter from the Township was sent and he spoke to the owner about not coming out onto the newly paved road because it is damaging the road. There are two driveways on the property and he is just coming out onto the road where there is not a driveway. Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing Robin Royer look into the issue and enforce as needed, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mike Graby stated the State roads are mowed.

Klahr Road – Mike Graby stated Klahr Road project is completed and is good.

### **Solicitor – Stephen Price**

West Run DIA and reduction – Stephen Price stated he is waiting for it to come back from Steve Buck.

Second Amendment – Stephen Price stated it was circulated previously. Jake Meyer stated they have looked at it and believes it should be drafted in final form.

Alicia Moyer asked about the Ordinance giving the Fire Companies the ability to bill. Stephen Price is working on it.

### **Engineering – Jeffrey Steckbeck**

Little Mt Road speed limit – Jeffrey Steckbeck stated he has provided a packet that shows sections of the road can be safely traveled at 22 mph and other sections at 20 mph and the remaining sections at 25 mph. He further stated Penn DOT allows for 5 mph below and the signage that is required is in packet. Jayne Seifrit will send traffic ordinance to Solicitor so the Ordinance can be amended. Jake Meyer made a motion authorizing Solicitor to amend Traffic Ordinance, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Frystown Amish School – Jeffrey Steckbeck inspected and stated all is in order. As built is required but feels they are not warranted in this case and can save the school about \$1,000.00, this requirement can be waived. He recommends waiving and releasing the escrow in its entirety. Mike Graby made a motion to release funds in its entirety and waive as built requirement, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

Jeffrey Steckbeck shared at the PC meeting there was discussion on potential fast food coming to 501 and Schubert Rd. They commented on the plan: concerns about stacking up of vehicles onto 501, internal travel lanes too narrow (12 feet to 14 feet), another ingress/egress

onto Schubert Road would be good and water source for fire suppression. Jeffrey Steckbeck is taking comments back to project engineer.

Old Route 22 – Jeffrey Steckbeck handed out TIF information and what it can be used for. The information should be looked over for future consideration.

Break in meeting at 7:46 pm to set up projector, came back at 8:00 pm. An attorney has been delayed, will continue with agenda items until he gets here.

**Municipal Authority –**

Nothing at this time

**Library Board – Jake Meyer**

Jake Meyer stated he was unable to attend their meeting.

**Recreation Board –**

Banners – Nothing received from Carl Weaver on the email sent out to Home Town Hero Banner sponsors.

**Environmental Advisory Council – Jake Meyer**

Jake Meyer stated they resumed their meeting in August. Main discussion on wet lands here at the Township property.

**Unfinished Business**

Restating Non-uniform Pension paperwork – Jayne Seifrit stated her contact person retired, it was originally going to have amendment in the bulk of this document, but actuary asked for this to be signed, they would then incorporate the amendment. Mike Graby authorized the Chairman to sign restating document, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

Openings on Recreation Board and EAC - Jake Meyer stated he will contact persons he has asked.

Custodian and Road Work positions – Jayne Seifrit gave the Board the applications that were received.

**New Business**

Brake Retarder request – The Township received a letter requesting prohibiting brake retarders being used in Frystown. No action at this time.

Martin Forestry SOOP application – No action as the Board has no comments at this time.

Land Use Letter for BTMA – Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing the Chairman sign, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Accident/Incidents involving Township Property – Jayne Seifrit stated there have been a couple of issues involving Township owned property, such as pedestrian pole, guide rails and flashing traffic light. She would like to send letters to those involved for payment. If that doesn't get any results, turn into insurance. Board agreed.

Back to Hearing of Visitors as they related to Zoning/Map changes.

Dean Klopp stated he has several points he would like to make. He stated he has been involved for seven years fighting for property rights, mainly school tax relief, it includes life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. We have rights to do what we want to do on our properties as long as they don't infringe on the neighbors. He stated the Board has a history of renegeing on property rights, but he did thank the Board for stopping LERTA's. Dean Klopp stated Mike Graby ran on no more warehouses. He pointed out the Bowman's don't live here and if go along with them there would be a loss of representation, longer this goes on it benefits the wealthy. The Township should not be bullied, the Bowman's have a self-serving interest in this project not the Township residents' interest. This is a republic, not a process that caves to whomever has the deepest pockets. Dean Klopp said the Board was elected to do a job, do it, vote tonight.

April Klopp stated she is also a public official. She said decisions are hard but decision must be made. She stated Mike Graby ran his campaign on no more warehouses. April Klopp stated they need to vote tonight.

Betty Martin read a letter (it will be filed with official minutes). Over all it was stating she believes Chairman Meyers was helping with stall tactics, which allowed the Bowman's further time. Vote tonight.

Judy Apgar stated she is on a fixed income, she showed pictures of her view, showing farm fields). She is concerned with trucks, workers if flex buildings are built. Vote tonight.

Kevin Boltz stated zoning not meant to have neighbor control the whole neighborhood. He believes the amenities outlined in Plan A are good for the community and he is in favor of Plan A.

Fred Bowman stated there would be better paying jobs, services for the community. He stated Attorney Fitzgibbons wasn't here for some of the discussion so he wanted to highlight some and rebut others. He stated they are not rich/wealthy, developing with positive amenities for the community.

Anthony Fitzgibbons stated he thought this was only for language for the referendum. He is fine with putting together language that will work for everyone.

Lance Schreckenngost stated the Board should vote for what the majority wants, Plan A. Vote tonight.

Erin Himmelberger reiterated her comments from July 27<sup>th</sup>. Well planned, follows best planning.

Jerry Bowman stated this is dragging on. It should have been done a year ago. He feels a not-elected supervisor should not be allowed to vote. Stephen Price stated that is not how it works and that vote has as much weight as the other two. Jerry Bowman stated it should go on a ballot. It was stated it cannot be on the voting ballot; topic does not qualify.

James Smith showed a brief slide presentation stating vote no and vote now. He asked: do you really trust what the Bowman's have said, use deed restrictions, Harold Boltz at last meeting stated he would sell his IC property get the money then move... the deed restrictions not on Boltz property. It is in the hands of the elected officials, who better to make the decision. Vo No Vote Now.

Anthony Fitzgibbons stated the deed restrictions absolutely would protect.

Jake Meyer explained why he will vote the way he will. He has friends on both sides of the IC vs AP issue. He stated it is a small parcel of land to be rezoned. Zoning can change. 11% reduction in IC from the previous proposed zoning map to this proposed map. Pointing out Salem Road back to what it was and the Musselman tract out of IC. He thinks his job is to vote

on what is the right thing for the residents and the Township. Jake Meyer stated he is a religious man and has been praying to do what is best. The plan that has been filed will have trucks on our back roads and will need to be repaired at the tax payers expense. Jake Meyer stated people comment on empty warehouses... we get tax money even while they are sitting empty. We have no additional services while they are empty... not costing the Township. Jake Meyer said he hopes Trump wins the election; we will need flex/manufacturing buildings. The world is changing and we have planned for IC along the interstate.

Mike Graby stated he met with Barry Jozwiak. Mike Graby was told by him warehouses that sit empty for a long time get reassessed, and lowered. Mike Graby stated the people he spoke with don't want more warehouses and not in favor of Plan A.

Robbi Lane stated she came to this toward the end. She has looked at both sides, both plans, not everyone will be happy with the vote. Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing the Solicitor, Engineer and Secretary work on removing new proposed IC at the Bowman area and keep it AP, seconded by Mike Graby. Robbi Land and Mike Graby ayes, Jake Meyer opposed. Motion carried.

### **Payment of Bills**

Payment of bills from the general fund from check 33335– 33355, traffic impact account 152 and street light 216.

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

### **Public Comment**

Lisa Hassler stated she did a right to know requesting the ad(s) and quotes for the work that was done adding a breezeway and a sidewalk. It was stated those items were below cost of requiring quotes and advertising. She was told the shop improvement was over \$14,000.00. Jayne Seifrit stated both projects were below \$10,000.00 the limit is \$11,300.00.

Thomas Hassler stated the dead trees along the roads need to be taken care of for safety. It was stated a sentence will be placed on the website.

Personnel – Mike Graby made a motion to pay Pete Davis for 10 vacation hours earned but not taken per policy prior to resignation, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mike Graby, seconded by Robbi Lane to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Secretary Treasurer