

**Bethel Township
Board of Supervisors
Zoning/Map Amendment Hearing
January 18, 2021**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors Zoning/Map Amendment Hearing was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 6:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the hearing were Robbi Lane, Michael Graby and Jacob Meyer. Also, in attendance were Solicitor Stephen Price, Engineer, Jeffrey Steckbeck, and Township Sec. Treas. Jayne Seifrit. There was a court reporter present for official purposes.

Jake Meyer stated there is a sign in sheet. Jake Meyer turned the hearing over to Solicitor Stephen Price.

Stephen Price stated the reason for the hearing is to receive testimony for the Zoning/Map Amendments. Stephen Price entered exhibits into the hearing. Stephen Price used the sign in sheet to call people wanting to speak.

Fred Bowman was told there would not be a regular hearing tonight. He is not prepared based on the information he was given by Jayne Seifrit from the Township. He understood we would bring it to order, enter exhibits and then continue the hearing until a later date and time due to not a full Board being able to be present. Fred Bowman stated he would like the letter from Attorney Anthony Fitzgibbons be read out loud. Stephen Price read the entire letter. Fred Bowman will be bringing items to be part of the proceedings to the Township.

Dean Klopp reminded the Board of the petition he had done 2 months ago. He stated it clearly showed 97% of those surveyed do not want more warehouses and they want farms saved. Fred Bowman stated of the 615 people surveyed by them, only 27 people do not want more warehouses, however they were still in favor of Plan A.

Lisa Hassler stated the biggest grievance is down grading properties. She has concerns when a property (es) is zoned for example IC then rezoned to Ag. Lisa Hassler also stated it is not done consistently. Some of the property owners could be in violation of contracts (lenders etc.) as a result of down grading zoning.

Connie Bashore expressed her frustration about not able to attend all meetings and not able to gain entry and the zoom meetings were not successful.

Joyce Eckhart – signed in but did not speak.

Gerald Bowman stated he is also unprepared. People want an open meeting. Plan A is saving Plan A farm land. Plan B will cost tax payers half a million dollars. Gerald Bowman would like to read letters to get it into the record. He read letters from Benjamin Fake, Susan Myer and Sue Um. Topics from the letters: postpone vote, do at a larger venue, and in favor of Plan A. Other letters were made part of the record.

Bruce Bashore stated Berks County has a lot of farm land. He would like to see amenities/business in our community

Nathan Tallman – nothing at this time

James Smith has two parts. 1) Incorporate all pieces of evidence into the record. 2) He checked outside and no one is outside and waiting to come in to be a part of this preceding.

Kevin Boltz – Did not have a lot of notice the hearing was back on. He is in favor of Plan A.

Elvin Shilling stated he is in favor of the Bowman Plan. He is a property rights person. We should be looking at the resident's rights with their property

Dwayne Brubacker is against devaluing his property; going from IC to Ag.

Steve Burkhart has been here since the beginning. It has been going on for a very long time. He is in favor of preserving farm land. Plan A has flex buildings could be called warehouses. Legal jeopardy by doing for some but not all.

Lloyd Brubacker stated the meeting was cancelled that is why there are not more people here. He is against devaluing the property from IC and Ag.

Marjorie Hix said she is not against warehouses. She mentioned roads busier.

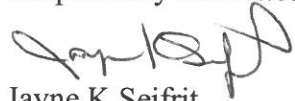
Betty Martin nothing to say at this time.

Bill Fox, Attorney for M B Investments, is imploring the Board keep it in IC. He stated they didn't want to develop at this time, but feel they needed to file plans so the current zoning would remain as they have a right under the MPC. A letter was submitted to the Township Chairman of the Board dated December 28, 2020 and another letter to Solicitor Stephen Price dated December 28, 2020 and another letter dated January 14, 2021 stating the objection to rezoning the property. Bill Fox reiterated IC is welcome in the close proximity to I-78 per our comprehensive plan, and a large amount of the Township is AP and EP. They feel they are being forced to develop.

Stephen Price expressed his thanks on how everyone was courteous. Apologized for the misinformation but stated concessions were made to accommodate everyone involved.

The hearing closed at 7:05pm, the Board of Supervisors meeting will start approximately at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted



Jayne K Seifrit
Township Secretary