The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 6:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA. Meetings recorded but only kept until meeting minutes are approved.

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

Public Comment on Agenda

Actions from Planning Commission

_Hoover_ – Received an email withdrawing existing plan from James Sanchez, Engineer.

_Moyer Subdivision (Ralph)_ – Mike Graby made a motion to accept extension until January 8, 2022, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

_Maine Drilling and Blasting Annexation_ - Mike Graby made a motion to accept extension until January 8, 2022, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

_Moyer Subdivision (George)_ – Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing Chairman sign the Planning Module & Non-building Waiver, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Additional items for the agenda – voted on to have action taken at this meeting

_Leigh Beamesderfer_ – probation was until August 18th

_NorthPoint request for reduction of financial security_ – authorization to send letter

_550 & 551 Brown Road_ – extension

_County Breakfast with the Commissioners_

Robbi Lane made a motion to have items added to the agenda due to time limits, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

_550 & 551 Brown Rd_ – Mike Graby made a motion to accept extension until January 31, 2022, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

Listed below are the other items that were listed on the additional items list.

_Budget_ – dates

_Rec Board_ – Frystown Pavilion

Hearing of Visitors

_Library_ – Steve Burkhart was not present.

Dennis Seiverling asked about the warehouse on Old Route 22 doing improvements on the other side of the road and why was dirt placed in the shoulder. Jeffrey Steckbeck confirmed dirt is an acceptable shoulder fill.

Dennis Seiverling was telling about the address change from Old 22 to Old Route 22. He was angry because he was not notified. Jayne Seifrit stated it was changed to make it consistent with the rest of Old Route 22. The County 911 system is working on having address road names and numbers corrected, for better response for first responders. It was done with the 911 system, Harrisburg USPS, Bethel USPS and the Township. The information was sent and the Township was told it would be communicated to the residents through the postal system. Once it was known that Harrisburg did nothing, then the Bethel Post Office sent notifications to those residents needing to correct their address to include Route in the address.
Helen Strickler expressed her frustration and anger at the high cost of sewer bills. The Board and solicitor informed her that the Municipal Authority sets the rates and that they are a separate entity. She was encouraged to attend their meetings, held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Fred Bowman stated he has been attending meetings since July 2018, he read a letter stating his observations: Bethel Township is getting wealthy, it should be looked into lowering taxes; no newspaper or newsletter to keep residents informed; finance committee should be set up; more resident participation; Supervisors attending other Township meetings, Jake does them all including County ones and why does the Township not have an experienced road master? The read sheets will be filed with the official minutes.

Library HVAC bids – Jake Meyer read the two bids the Township received; they were Spotts Brothers $48,300.00 and George Strohm $44,750.00. There was lengthy discussion on the HVAC systems. Kaitlin, Paul, Betsy and a couple other attendees questioned the renovation plan – or lack of a specific plan. They also expressed their frustration about lack of communication, as workmen arrive for repairs and the library staff were never informed. The current renovation plan seems to be just a band aid approach with no clear path to a complete renovation. Library board & staff asked if a contractor or dedicated lead person would take on the renovation project, in an effort to keep things moving.

It was mentioned a community person offered to build a library building and then rent it to the current library. Nothing more came from that at this time. Mike Graby made a motion to approve George Strohm for heating and air condition $44,750.00, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried. Robbi Lane asked if there was water in the library after the last storm. It was stated there was. There was discussion on the roof. There needs to be a defined scope of work because it will need to be bid.

Jeffrey Steckbeck stated using Costars might be able to help with roof repairs; will place on the October meeting. Jake Meyer stated he believes there needs to be a project manager, Robbi Lane agrees. Lisa Hassler asked about timing for the addition.

Approval of Minutes
Robbi Lane made a motion to approve minutes from August 16, 2021, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comments
Robbi Lane – Robbi Lane made a motion to authorize the solicitor to do a resolution to memorialize 4-minute rule for public comment, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Robbi Lane stated this is a Township Meeting and not a comedy show. This is not a place to slander anyone and the personal attacks will not be tolerated. Robbi Lane read a letter she received. She received two letters that were identical except for the person signing the letter. The letters were from Lisa and Mark Hassler. Then she stated she received the same in an email, a day later. Robbi Lane stated she makes decision that she feels are the best for the residents. Lisa Hassler stated the letter is a response to receiving oaths of office. There was more discussion on past information.

Jake Meyer – Jake Meyer stated there was an executive session for personnel August 10, 2021. Jake Meyer stated the Township has received the bill to repair the loader, it was for $1897.01. The air condition does not work in the loader, that will be repaired.

Jake Meyer stated Meckville Road Bridge inspection was done and there needs to be some debris removed. Form needs to be signed. Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing Chairman to sign form, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.

Michael Graby – Mike Graby stated Ed is temporarily off work right now. Mike Graby has an application for a Part Time as needed maintenance/laborer. Mike Graby made a motion to hire James
Seger as a part time, as needed maintenance/laborer, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Police Department Report** – Chief Ryan Murphy

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Chief Murphy read over the report: 4327 miles were noted. Full copy of the report will be filed with the official minutes.

**Emergency Management Coordinator** – Brian Blouch

Brian Blouch and Alicia Nye showed pictures of the damage caused by Ida throughout the Township. Robbi Lane thanked Brian, Alicia, police department, fire companies and road crew for their efforts during the flooding from hurricane Ida. Jake Meyer stated he was also out during the flooding.

Brian Blouch stated all damage needs to be photographed. If it is not then they take the stance that it didn’t happen. Brian Blouch stated at this time there is not PEMA or FEMA money coming to Berks County. There could be loans.

Brian Blouch stated the fire companies are asking if the Township would pay for tablets. Each fire company is looking for 4 and the EMA would like 2. The tablets would be used for dispatching. They currently use cell phones and the pins are small and there are many pins. This will be placed on October’s agenda. Jayne Seifrit will look into cost going government.

Snow Blowing – Brian Blouch stated we need to get names and people lined up for snow plowing/blowing. We need a form to send out. Jayne Seifrit and Brian Blouch will work on this project.

**Public Works Department Report** –

Legion Dr – Mike Graby stated H & K Group did a good job. The work is acceptable and is approved.

Faust North Road – pipe work done and they will be working on the stream.

Flooding – Mike Graby said areas that were reported to the Township were taken care of by the two guys that were working.

**Solicitor** – Stephen Price

Nuisance Ordinance - Stephen Price passed out the nuisance ordinance. Board will look over for next meeting.

911 – Resolution – Robbi Lane made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-29, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.
Engineering – Jeffrey Steckbeck
NorthPoint reduction – Mike Graby made a motion to reduce financial security to $589,965.66, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.
TAC – Jeffrey Steckbeck gave an overview of result coming out of the TAC meeting. They recommended project to be included and a few to be removed. The fee would be coming to $3,110.72 per peak hour pm trip. Mike Graby made a motion to approve amendments and new fee, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried. Robbi Lane made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to prepare Ordinance for October meeting, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.
Brown Rd – They are filling in shoulders and will be seeding with grass.

Municipal Authority –
Dave Younker reiterated the meeting nights and time.

Library Board – Jake Meyer
They are planning a 5-K run in fall. Road closure, police department will coordinate with the library for the event. Apple dumpling sale is happening now. There will be a gingerbread house event later in the year.

Recreation Board – Jake Meyer
Jake Meyer stated they had questions on the nuisance ordinance. Jake Meyer stated he will look over it to see that their concerns are addressed.
Jake Meyer reported Rec Bd is looking into pickle ball courts, Pavilion, and EAC recommendation to pave paths at Airport Rd. Pavilion is ready to be advertised in PennBid and will also place an ad in the Reading Eagle stating it is being done through PennBid.
Jake Meyer stated the Recreation Board would like to have a part time maintenance person.
Jayne Seifrit said township just hired a part time person, what is their main focus, is that position covering request from Recreation Board. Robbi Lane said not really let’s see how this works out and go from there.
Jake Meyer asked about the repair for the existing pavilion at Frystown. The Supervisors discussed at their July meeting with no action taken. It will be placed on the October BOS agenda.

Environmental Advisory Council – Jake Meyer
Mike Najarian stated the Eagle Scout project of clearing some of the area next to the Township building is completed. Mike Najarian stated they are working with the conservancy for maintaining it and what to plant.

Unfinished Business
Committee Openings - Environmental Advisory Council – still looking
Telephone – Jayne Seifrit explained what was learned. It would be a great saving to the Township. Robbi Lane made a motion to change to Granite Telecommunication for our telephones, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.
County Convention - Jake Meyer is attending.
American Rescue Plan Allocation funds – Township received number that goes on everything, first report due October 31, 2021.

New Business
Penn DOT winter maintenance agreement – Mike Graby made a motion to sign the agreement with Penn DOT for winter maintenance, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.
Burger King HOP Documents – Mike Graby made a motion authorizing Chairman sign, seconded by Robbi Lane. All agreed. Motion carried.
Masano Bradley – letter to retain them as Zoning Hearing Board Attorney
MMO’s for Police and Non-Uniform Pensions – Robbi Lane made a motion to have CAO sign the form, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.
Trick or Treat Night – Robbi Lane made a motion to have Trick or Treat on October 31, 2021 from 6 pm – 8 pm, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.
Trustee Insurance, Executive Board voting sheets – Robbi Lane made a motion to have Chairman sign and affirm votes for the two members, seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed. Motion carried.
Complaint Letter for water on Legion Dr – Mike Graby stated last year when they pave the section of Legion Drive, they offered to put in the macadam curbing, but he didn’t want that. They did a swale instead. Mike Graby will talk with him.
Website – Jayne Seifrit stated the website is in need of an update. We had a new company and they left the area without finishing the updates. We have reached out the Tulpehocken School District to see if there could be a partnership with Sr. Project or community hours. We are waiting to hear back. Alicia Nye said she may have someone if the school contact doesn’t work out.

Payment of Bills
Payment of bills from the general fund from check 33830-33860, Open Space 191 and street light 229.
Robbi Lane made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Seconded by Mike Graby. All agreed, motion carried.

Public Comment
Thomas Hassler asked about the status of the lighting. Jeffrey Steckbeck stated he received a report today, they did adjust lighting downward on a couple fixtures. They measured the lumens and will be sending a report.
Dennis Seiverling stated the contract that was just signed for winter maintenance is for the most undesirable roads in the Township; roads narrow and he used to plow them for the State.
Randy Behney asked for the loader repair amount, it was $1897.01. Randy Behney asked what was spent on the John Deere, he was told it was $5,780.00 x two months.
Alicia Nye stated the Community Fire Company of Frystown is having a Chicken Bar BQ October 2, 2021 for $10.00 each. There was a comment about increasing the donation amount to the fire companies. Jayne Seifrit stated budget time is coming shortly.
Budget dates – Place on October agenda, get dates for next meeting.

Adjourn
A motion was made by Robbi Lane to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mike Graby. All agreed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne Seifrit
Secretary/Treasurer