

**Bethel Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting held August 10, 2023**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors met on August 10, 2023, in the Township meeting room 6:00 PM. In attendance and voting were Supervisors: Chairwoman Robbi Lane, Vice-Chairman Michael Graby and Supervisor Jay Bicksler.

Also present were Township Solicitor Elizabeth Magovern; Township Engineer Jeff Steckbeck; Chief Murphy; Township Secretary Bobbi Westhafer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Bobbi-Jo Peiffer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Lane called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

The meeting continued with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS Nothing at this time

PUBLIC HEARING – 121 Airport Road Leon and Arlene Sadler farm. Hearing to enter into Ag Security area.

ACTIONS FROM PLANNING COMMISSION - Ag Security board approved security area for Leon and Arlene Sadler. The PC said they will table the approval to the BOS. There is not enough information for the PC to approve and make a recommendation for BOS to approve the request.

Vice Chairman Graby made a motion to approve Ag security for Leon and Arlene Sadler along Airport Road. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Graby made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0).

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Chairwoman Lane advised there was an executive session held on for personnel reasons all three members were in attendance.

Vice Chairman Graby advised he received 3 quotes for a 12x20 shed for the Recreation Board to store the Christmas tree and ornaments. Myerstown sheds and fencing \$7,035.00, Better Built Barns \$7,392.00, Jono Hardware \$7,153.00.

Supervisor Bicksler made a motion to purchase the shed from Myerstown shed and fencing at the price of \$7,035.00. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Graby and passed unanimously (3-0).

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Murphy

Chief Murphy read the July 2023 Police Report as follows:

Mileage	4718	Fuel	249.534 Gallons
Domestics	04	Thefts	04
Traffic Citations	68	Non-Traffic Citations	00
Warnings	40	Criminal Arrest	01
Phone Assignments	15	Parking Tickets	00
Residential/Commercial Alarms	04	Reportable Accidents	03
Non-Reportable Accidents	06	Reckless Driver Complaints	04
Motorists Assists	06	Traffic Stops	88
Fire & EMS Advisories	33	Other Law Agency Assists	14
Suspicious Situations	02	Disorderly Incidents	14
Miscellaneous Complaints	25	Court Appearances	07
Repos	-	School Zone	04
Follow up	-	Security Checks	-

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT – Brian Blouch

Nothing at this time

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Michael Graby

Vice Chairman Graby informed attendees that the John Deere Tractor that was previously broken down is now fixed.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Elizabeth Magovern

Nothing at this time.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Jeff Steckbeck

Engineer Steckbeck’s report dated August 10, 2023.

1) Roads & Transportation Capital Improvements Plan

- a) *Route 501 & Airport Road Intersection Realignment Project* – H.O.P. application has been reviewed by PennDOT, and comments are being addressed. ELA Group, our expert traffic engineer, has been retained to address some of PennDOT’s tedious comments.
- b) *Midway Road improvements on south side of I-78* – Survey work was completed, and design drawings are underway.
- c) *2023 Paving Projects* – Pennsy Supply contracts were executed and returned. The project is back on schedule, with a target start date of August 16th for the paving work on the 7 roads discussed previously.

d) *Martha Drive Reconstruction* – Bids were received and opened this morning at 10:00 a.m. We received 5 bids, see attached bid tabulation. The low bidder was Kinsley Construction, with a total bid price of \$754,036.00. Kinsley's chief estimator contacted me on August 3rd to inform me that they made a math mistake in their bid of more than \$100,000. They are contemplating withdrawing from the project. I told him to submit a formal letter to me and the Township and I would review it with the Solicitor so we can advise of the formal process to be undertaken. We have not yet received the letter.

2) **Bridges**

- a) *Old Rt 22 bridge east of Gravel Pit Road* – SESI survey work has been completed. Geotech consultant, ECS, has completed their fieldwork and report. Design drawings are underway.
- b) *Old Rt 22 bridge, east of Midway Road* – SESI survey work has been completed. Geotech consultant, ECS, has completed their fieldwork and report. Design drawings are underway.

3) **Drainage**

- a) Nothing new to report.

4) **Zoning**

- a) We continue to work with Robin when she consults with SESI.

5) **Conditional Uses and Hearings**

- a) No active conditional use applications or hearings.

6) **Subdivision / Land Development Applications Under Review**

- a) *Country Cottage Gardens* – Revised Final Plan was previously conditionally approved. Still waiting on Applicant to comply with conditions, sign agreements, and provide financial security.
- b) *550 & 551 Brown Road* – Revised plan was reviewed, and a comment letter was issued on July 11. The Applicant provided a 6-month time extension through January 2024. No response to our review letter has been received.
- c) *MB Investments (Route 645 warehouse project)* – PennDOT Traffic Impact Study still underway. No updates at this time.
- d) *RLP Martha* – Still monitoring Applicant's completion of the 10 conditions of Final Plan Approval. Applicant has received plan approvals from the water and sewer authorities. PennDOT permit application to extend the sewer line has been filed.
- e) *R&L Carriers* – Supervisors did not receive a time extension request from the Applicant prior to your June meeting and voted to reject the plan at that meeting. SESI issued the formal rejection letter required by the MPC, with acknowledgement of receipt by the Applicant.

7) **Subdivision / Land Development Inspections**

- a) *Central Logistics West Run* – Maintenance bond reduction to \$15,000. Repair work is still pending for one section of depressed concrete apron in roadway.

- b) *Helena Ag* – Site work is approximately 99% complete. Awaiting as-built and request for release of financial security. Owner is contemplating a change in building size and location. This would necessitate a drainage pipe relocation.
- c) *Bethel Business Park Lots 4 & 5* – Warehouse is complete and as-built drawings were received. Inspections have been performed, and we recommend the release of the financial security in the amount of \$642,036.00.
- d) *Hoover Well Site* – Construction is underway. DEP permit application for new well pending.
- e) *Airstate Group* - Construction has commenced. Concrete apron construction on Old Rt 22 is planned for the first three weeks of September. The detailed schedule has been submitted to the township office and road master. SESI has approved the traffic control plan and is reviewing submittals for approval of materials to be used.

8) Recreation, Parks, Open Space

- a) *Airport Road Park* – The pavilion ceiling has been completed. Pickle ball courts are on hold.
- b) *Frystown Park* – Pickle ball courts have been completed. The final pay application from CMS in the amount \$65,840.50 has been received, reviewed and approved and we recommend payment.

9) Library Project

- a) The rear addition has been completed. All furnishings and books from the old library have been moved into the new addition, and it is open to the public. The front addition commenced last week. Footers are constructed, flooring and wall framing is getting started.
- b) Pay Application #6 received. Work completed is outlined on pay application. SESI has performed inspections and verified the amount of work identified on the pay application has been performed. We recommend payment in the amount of \$111,452.91 to Arthur Funk and Sons.
- c) HVAC mechanical work is well on its way to completion. APR Supply Company has submitted its pay application for July in the amount \$10,330.92. We have inspected this work, find it to be in order, and recommend payment in this amount.
- d) Construction progress meetings are being held every two weeks. Reports and pictures are available to Supervisors upon request.

10) Act 537 - Sewer Planning

- a) DEP Planning Module to expand the public sewer service area for the Route 645 corridor immediately north of I-68 is nearing completion. Modules 4a has been approved by the Bethel Planning Commission. 4b is still out for approval by Berks County Planning. After receipt of that module, a Resolution of Approval will be presented to Board of Supervisors for approval.

LIBRARY BOARD

Building renovation project -

Motion to approve the payment for the Library Project – Contractor Invoice in the amount of \$111,452.91.

Motion to approve invoice to Arthur Funk and Sons in the amount of \$111,452.91 by Supervisor Bicksler. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Graby and passed unanimously (3-0).

Motion to approve the payment for the Library Project – Contractor Invoice in the amount of \$10,330.92.

Motion to approve invoice to APR in the amount of \$10,330.92 for HVAC system by Vice chair Graby. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0).

RECREATION BOARD

- a) *Airport Road Park* – The pavilion ceiling has been completed. Pickle ball courts are on hold.
- b) *Frystown Park* – Pickle ball courts have been completed. The final pay application from CMS in the amount \$65,840.50 has been received, reviewed and approved and we recommend payment.

Motion to approve invoice to Construction Masters in the amount of \$65,840.50 Pickleball courts by Vice chair Graby. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Bethel Business Park, Lots 4&5 Financial Security Release

As Built drawings received by Steckbeck Engineering. SESI advises the release of Financial Security. Motion to approve the financial security release of \$642,036.00.

Vice Chairman Graby made a motion to approve financial security release in the amount of \$642,036.00. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0).

Union Fire Co. Fireworks Display

Motion to approve fireworks display for Centennial Celebration on September 23, 2023 by Vice Chair Graby. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board was provided the Treasurer's Report for August 10, 2023 and a list of all checks written between meetings also.

Vice Chairman Graby made a motion to approve the payment of the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0).

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Vice Chairman Graby made a motion to approve the payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bicksler and passed unanimously (3-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Supervisor Bicksler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Graby and passed unanimously (3-0).

The next scheduled regular meeting is to be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bobbi Westhafer
Secretary, Bethel Township