

**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 20, 2019**

- MEMBERS PRESENT** Michael Hudak, President
Malissa Davis, Vice President
Kristine Blake, Commissioner
John Gallagher, Commissioner
John Merhottein, Commissioner
- OTHERS PRESENT** James L. Broughal, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Amanda Raudenbush, Planning Director
Ron Gawlik, Township Engineer
- CALL TO ORDER** President Hudak called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** Solicitor Broughal announced that the Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session on May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss litigation matters pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
- COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**
- ROY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth said that the Governor had ordered the flags lowered in honor of a State Trooper that killed and asked why the township did not lower the flag. Mr. Bruce said he will look into it.
- STEVE FODOR
3360 OAKLAND RD.** Mr. Fodor said that a berm was removed by a snow plow causing his yard to flood when it rains. He asked if the township could repair the berm. Mr. Bruce said he will contact Public Works.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon motion (Gallagher-Davis), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 regular public meeting as presented.
- PUBLIC HEARING** **CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION – HAYDEN GATEWAY LLC – MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY – BETHLEHEM VILLAGE SHOPS**
- Stan Margle, Esquire, said his client is unable to testify because they did not provide notice to the adjoining land owners and requested a continuance. The hearing is scheduled for June 17, 2019.
- SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENT**
- SKETCH PLAN** **FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES**
- The plans propose the construction of a four story, 107-room hotel with 118 proposed parking spaces located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Emrick Boulevard and Cook Drive. The application was submitted as a

Preliminary Plan, but due to zoning issues the applicant requested the submission be reviewed as a Sketch Plan. Mark Bahnick, Van Cleef Engineering Associates said the property was close to Madison Farms complex and it was not their intention to be on their property. They will go before the Zoning Hearing Board on May 29, 2019 to request a variance..

**MOTIONS OF THE
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

MOTION

**A MOTION ACCEPTING THE PARKS MASTER PLANNING STUDY
PREPARED BY GILMORE & ASSOCIATES INC.**

Solicitor Broughal recommended that the Board accept and not adopt the study because adopting the study would hold the township financially responsible to complete the projects proposed. Mr. Gallagher said he would hate to see it accepted and then forgotten. Mr. Hudak said if the study is accepted, the can move ahead with the plan in the future as outlined.

**BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth said the Master Parks Plan was as requirement of the Comprehensive Plan.

Upon motion (Davis-Blake), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve a motion accepting the parks master planning study prepared by Gilmore & Associates Inc., with the understanding that this is a blueprint. The motion passed 4 to 1. Mr. Gallagher opposed

MOTION

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICES RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY
DAYS FESTIVAL**

President Hudak said an estimated \$8,000 - \$10,000 is needed to cover the cost of police officers at the festival for four days.

Upon motion (Merhottein-Blake), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing payment of Bethlehem Township Police Department services related to the Community Days festival.

MOTION

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO
ADVERTISE FOR BID THE HIGHLAND AVENUE FULL-DEPTH
RECLAMATION AND OVERLAY PAVING PROJECT**

Upon motion (Davis-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing the Township Manager to advertise for bid the Highland Avenue full-depth reclamation and overlay paving project.

MOTION

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THAT ROBERT KLACIK BE GRANTED A
NORMAL RETIREMENT FROM THE AFSCME PENSION FUND IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$2,456.09 PER MONTH FOR LIFE, EFFECTIVE MAY 1,
2019**

Upon motion (Merhottein-Blake), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing that Robert Klacik be granted a

normal retirement from the AFSCME Pension fund in the amount of \$2,456.09 per month for life, effective May 1, 2019.

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THAT FLOYD SHAFFER BE GRANTED A NORMAL RETIREMENT FROM THE NON-UNIFORMED PENSION FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,217.01 PER MONTH FOR LIFE WITH JOINT AND 100% SURVIVOR PENSION BENEFITS, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2019

Upon motion (Blake-Davis), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing that Floyd Shaffer be granted a normal retirement from the Non-Uniformed pension fund in the amount of \$1,217.01 per month for life with joint and 100% survivor pension benefits, effective June 1, 2019

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR WORK ON TOWNSHIP-OWNED AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA (TREE OF HEAVEN) TREES RELATED TO SPOTTED LANTERNFLY INFESTATION

Upon motion (Gallagher-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing and approving an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for work on township-owned Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven) trees related to spotted lanternfly infestation including those located at Housenick Park.

APPROVAL OF BILL AGENDA OF MAY 15, 2019

Upon motion (Merhottein-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve the Bill Agenda of May 15, 2019.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS

PO 20191129 – TP TRAILERS INC. – PW – \$6,390.00
PO 20191198 – KNK SOFTWARE LP – FINANCE – \$80,000.00
PO 20191201 – MICROAPEX COMPUTER SYSTEM INC. – FINANCE – \$7,850.00
PO 20191087 – JOAO & BRADLEY CONSTRUCTION – PPIS – \$24,039.30
PO 20191089 – COLONIAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. – PPIS – \$18,600.00
PO 20191090 – WIND GAP ELECTRIC INC. – PPIS – \$14,985.00
PO 20191097 – CORE & MAIN – PPIS – \$13,318.16
PO 20191098 – CORE & MAIN – PPIS – \$2,381.98
PO 20190954 – IF IT’S WATER INC. – BTCC – \$8,360.00 (TABLED 5/6/19)

Upon motion (Gallagher-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice to untable Purchase Order 20190954, If It’s Water Inc.

Upon motion (Davis-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Purchase Orders 20191129, PO 20191198, PO 20191201, PO 20191087, PO 20191089, PO 20191090, PO 20191097, PO 20191098 and PO 20190954 as presented.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT OF APRIL 30, 2019

Upon motion (Merhottein-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the Treasurer’s Report of April 30, 2019 as presented subject to audit.

ZONING HEARING

There were no comments or concerns regarding the Zoning Hearing Board meeting

**BOARD MEETING OF
MAY 29, 2019** agenda of May 29, 2019.

**ACCEPTANCE OF
MONTHLY REPORTS** There were no questions or concerns regarding the monthly reports.

DISCUSSION ITEM

**BTCC/MADISON
FARMS TRAIL
CONNECTOR -
STATUS REPORT** Brian Dillman and Ron Gawlik of the Pidcock Company, Dan Mallach of Thomas Comitta Associates and Amanda Raudenbush, Planning Director met with adjoining property owners the evening of April 15, 2019. The plan was presented and discussed, with the property owners asking questions and expressing concerns. At the request of the residents, Township representatives are exploring shifting the trail and buffer trees as far east as possible. An on-site meeting is currently being scheduled to determine the feasibility of shifting the trail and buffer trees east. The on-site meeting will include all who attended the April meeting with the addition of a member of the Bethlehem Township Public Works department.

**WILDLAND
CONSERVANCY
PHASE 1 RIPARIAN
BUFFER AT BTCC –
STATUS REPORT** Public Works had a field meeting with Wildlands last month to mark off the “no mow” area of the lower swale. Wildlands is preparing signs that will be placed around the area to explain to walkers what is happening: the area has not been mowed and will remain that way until August. The first week of August the area will be mowed. The last week of August the area will be treated with an herbicide to kill the grass. The second week of September the area will have a second herbicide treatment. The last week of September the township will rent a “no till drill seeder” and plant the seed mix that is provided by the Wildlands. The upper area of the swale is a separate project and Pidcock is working on the topographic survey now to prepare for the regrading design.

**MICROBREWERIES,
WINERIES,
BREW PUBS, FOOD
TRUCK ZONING
AMENDMENT –
STATUS REPORT** Microbreweries, Wineries, Brewpubs, Food Truck Zoning Amendment are on a hold until the food truck zoning ordinance is completed. The food truck ordinance has been reviewed by the Planning Commission and will be sent to the Board of Commissioners for their initial review in June. As a variety of Township staff is responsible for a variety of roles as outlined in the ordinance, it is being reviewed by those staff to ensure the ordinance is enforceable.

**SAFE
DEAL/EXCHANGE
ZONE AT POLICE
DEPARTMENT –
STATUS REPORT** A proposal was made to dedicate an area of the municipal building parking lot as an exchange location for those citizens buying or selling items through Craigslist. Solicitor Broughal said he is concerned with using the word “safe” because it gives a false sense of security. In the event that something should go wrong, the township would be held liable. President Hudak said he supports the idea but would like the wording to be changed so that it is clear. The sign will be sent to the insurance agent for his review and input.

ADJOURNMENT There being no other business, upon motion (Davis-Blake), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary