

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
JUNE 1, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** John J. Merhottein, President  
John K. Gallagher, Vice President  
Matthew C. Deckman, Commissioner  
Michael D. Hudak, Commissioner  
DeAnn L. Lawrence, Commissioner

**OTHERS PRESENT** James L. Broughal, Jr., Township Solicitor  
Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Township Manager  
Samantha Smith, Community Development Director  
Ronald J. Gawlik, Township Engineer

**CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Merhottein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT** Solicitor Broughal announced the Board of Commissioners met on June 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm to approximately 7:00 pm to discuss contract negotiations pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

**PAT GRUBE  
1650 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET** Ms. Grube commented on the deplorable condition of Christian Spring Road. She drove on that road and said it was horrible on her car's suspension. Ms. Grube said the road needs to be repaved and not patched.

**DENNIS BRENNAN  
3834 TRENT COURT** Mr. Brennan congratulated newly appointed Township Manager Ed Hozza. He asked if it was easier to run for office or apply for the position. Mr. Hozza said it was much easier to apply. Mr. Brennan asked for a status of the proposed sewer connection on Steuben Road in Lower Nazareth Township. Mr. Merhottein nothing has been formally submitted. Mr. Brennan believes it is not Bethlehem Township's responsibility and that perhaps it can go on the ballot as a referendum. Mr. Hudak agreed. Mr. Deckman said he liked the idea of putting it on the ballot.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon motion (Hudak-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the May 18, 2026 regular public meeting minutes.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**ORDINANCE 06-26 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 8-97, THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 275 "ZONING", OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM CODE OF ORDINANCE AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE TO ADD NEW USES, RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES AND TEXTUAL CONFLICTS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH**

Solicitor Broughal opened the public hearing. He informed the audience that

if they had anything to add, now was their opportunity. There being no comments, Solicitor Broughal closed the public hearing. Mr. Hudak asked if this amended ordinance would have any impact on plans previously submitted. Solicitor Broughal responded that plans filed before this amendment will be reviewed under the old ordinance.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Ordinance No. 06-26 amending Ordinance No. 8-97, the Bethlehem Township Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 275 "Zoning", of the Township of Bethlehem Code of Ordinance as Amended, by Amending various sections of the ordinance to add new uses, resolve inconsistencies and textual conflicts, and repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith

**SUBDIVISIONS &  
LAND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING IMPROVEMENTS SECURITY RELEASE #2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82,582.50 FOR 1932 FARMERSVILLE ROAD SUBDIVISION**

Mr. Merhottein asked how much money was left after this release. Ms. Smith said the remaining balance was \$579,441.77.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Deckman) the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote approving Improvements Security Release #2 in the amount of \$82,582.50 for 1932 Farmersville Road Subdivision.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING IMPROVEMENTS SECURITY RELEASE #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$525,441.00 FOR CHASE BANK LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Ms. Smith said the remaining security balance was \$116,925.00.

**BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth said the fence on the property needs to be fixed. Ms. Smith said the property owner knows it has to be fixed.

Upon motion (Hudak-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote approving Improvements Security Release #1 in the amount of \$525,441.00 for Chase Bank Land Development Plan.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR 2640 WILLOW PARK ROAD**

Ms. Smith said ownership of the property changed several times, with the current owner's financing company proposing to enter into a settlement agreement in order to reduce fines assessment through the violation process in exchange for correction of zoning violations within a specified time period. She said staff recommend approval.

Upon motion (Hudak-Gallagher) the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote authorizing and approving a settlement agreement for 2640 Willow Park Road.

**RESOLUTIONS OF  
THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION R045-26 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND SUBMITTING TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR ITS APPROVAL A REVISED ACT 537 OFFICIAL SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN DATED JANUARY 2025**

Mr. Merhottein noted that the plan was adopted in 2025.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R045-26 adopting and submitting to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for its approval a revised Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan dated January 2025.

**RESOLUTION R046-26 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE REQUIRED DELEGATES TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R046-26 appointing Felix Martinez, Jr., Director of Finance as primary voting delegate, Dana Khair, Assistant Director of Finance, as first alternate voting delegate, and Edward D. Hozza, Jr. as second alternate voting delegate to the Northampton County Tax Collection Committee.

**RESOLUTION R047-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION WITH BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, THE BOROUGH OF FREEMANSBURG AND 1600 FREEMANSBURG AVENUE, LLC, WITH RESPECT TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NORTHEAST INTERCEPTOR**

Mr. Merhottein said BTMA Agent Steve Hunsberger spoke on this project several months ago. This intergovernmental cooperation agreement is for the North East Interceptor Capital Improvements Project, including interceptor replacement, meter vault improvements, flow allocation provisions, and associated project cost sharing.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R047-26 authorizing an Intergovernmental Cooperation with Bethlehem Township, the City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority, the Borough of Freemansburg and 1600 Freemansburg Avenue, LLC, with respect to a project to provide capital improvements to the Northeast Interceptor.

**RESOLUTION R048-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF OFFICER KENNETH KANE AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE SIZE AND WEIGHT ENFORCEMENT TRAINING, HOSTED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE ON JUNE 15-18, 2026 IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. Merhottein said this was a standard police training and budgeted item.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R048-26 authorizing the attendance of Officer Kenneth Kane at the Pennsylvania State Police Size and Weight Enforcement Training, hosted by the Pennsylvania State Police on June 15-18, 2026 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**RESOLUTION R049-26 A RESOLUTION THE ATTENDANCE OF OFFICER KENNETH KANE AT THE NORTH AMERICAN STANDARD LEVEL 1 INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING, HOSTED BY THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FMCSA) AND THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE ON JULY 13-31, 2026 IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. Merhottein said this was a standard police training and budgeted item.

Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R049-26 authorizing the attendance of Officer Kenneth Kane at the North American Standard Level 1 Inspector Certification Training, hosted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (FMCSA) and the Pennsylvania State Police on July 13-31, 2026 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**RESOLUTION R050-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PUBLIC RECORDS PURSUANT TO THE SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RECORDS ACT**

Mr. Merhottein said this was a standard resolution for the disposal of municipal records. Mr. Hudak requested that someone keep a close eye on it while being destroyed.

Upon motion (Hudak-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R050-26 authorizing the disposition of certain municipal public records pursuant to the schedules and procedures approved by the Local Government Records Committee in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Records Act.

**RESOLUTION R051-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP FOR SEGMENTS OF SIDEWALK TO BE INSTALLED AT THE FREEMANSBURG AVENUE/FARMERSVILLE ROAD INTERSECTION ALIGNMENT (SAFETY) PROJECT**

Mr. Merhottein said this was a standard PennDOT agreement for sidewalk maintenance and that staff recommend approval.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R051-26 authorizing a Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Bethlehem Township for segments of sidewalk to be installed at the Freemansburg Avenue/Farmersville Road intersection alignment (safety) project. The motion carried 4-1. Mr. Hudak opposed.

**RESOLUTION R052-26 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PATROL OFFICER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R052-26 appointing Alexander Mooney, patrol officer, to the Bethlehem Township Police Department.

**RESOLUTION R053-26 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PATROL OFFICER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion (Lawrence-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R053-26 appointing Justin Guidos, patrol officer, to the Bethlehem Township Police Department.

**RESOLUTION R054-26 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PATROL OFFICER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion (Deckman-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R054-26 appointing William Garrity, patrol officer, to the Bethlehem Township Police Department.

**RESOLUTION R055-26 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PATROL OFFICER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion (Lawrence-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R055-26 appointing Jewel Gonzalez, patrol officer, to the Bethlehem Township Police Department.

**RESOLUTION R056-26 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PATROL OFFICER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Upon motion (Hudak-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R056-26 appointing Tristan Karaman, patrol officer, to the Bethlehem Township Police Department.

**MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THAT DAVID OBERLANDER BE GRANTED A LATE RETIREMENT WITH JOINT AND 75% SURVIVOR BENEFIT FROM THE AFSCME DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2026**

Upon motion (Deckman-Gallagher) the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote authorizing that David Oberlander be granted a Late Retirement with Joint and 75% Survivor Benefit from the AFSCME Defined Benefit Pension Plan, effective May 1, 2026.

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

**PO 20261104 – EDWIN ELLIOT & CO. – PPIS – \$16,019.00  
PO 20261105 – WIND GAP ELECTRIC, INC. – PPIS – \$9,576.00  
PO 20261117 – POWER DMS, INC. – PPIS – \$7,661.00  
PO 20261139 – H&K GROUP INC. – PW - \$7,644.96**

Upon motion (Hudak-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve all purchase orders as presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata  
Recording Secretary