

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
APRIL 3, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** John J. Merhottein, President  
John K. Gallagher, Vice President  
Jan Beatty, Commissioner  
DeAnn L. Lawrence, Commissioner  
Luke A. Verdes, Commissioner

**OTHERS PRESENT** Jim Broughal, Township Solicitor (remote)  
Anthony Giovannini, Township Solicitor  
Doug Bruce, Township Manager

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** Solicitor Giovannini announced that on Monday, April 3, 2023, the Board of Commissioners met in executive session at approximately 6:20 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. to discuss litigation issues pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

**OATH OF OFFICE** Ms. Zapata administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Lawrence. The board and staff welcomed Commissioner Lawrence.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

**DAVID WONG  
4108 GINGER LANE** Mr. Wong asked the board if they would contact PennDOT about the trash situation on Route 22 and Interstate 78. He believes it is the cause of the pollution in the township. Mr. Merhottein said Senator Boscola would lend support and asked Mr. Wong to contact her office. Mr. Wong also expressed interested in serving on the Planning Commission. He said he had experience in construction, planning, and zoning that he gained while serving in the military.

**GLEN KREIER  
3942 KENRICK DR.** Mr. Kreier asked about the welcome to the township sign St. Luke's was supposed to put up near the Route 33 exchange. Mr. Merhottein said he didn't know and asked Mr. Kreier to contact Amanda Raudenbush, community development director.

**BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth said two members of the Zoning Hearing Board were no longer serving and asked the board to recognize their 30 plus years of service to the township.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon motion (Verdes-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 regular public meeting as amended. The motion passed 4-0-1. Ms. Lawrence abstained.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023 regular public meeting. The motion passed 4-0-1. Ms. Lawrence abstained.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORDINANCE 03-23**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 252, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC: ARTICLE II, TRAFFIC; AND SECTION 252-15, STOP INTERSECTIONS; OF THE CODE OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE CHANGES TO THE STOP INTERSECTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM**

Mr. Merhottein said this ordinance is for the four-way stop sign at Bethman and Church Roads.

Upon motion (Beatty-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to adopt Ordinance 03-23 amending Chapter 252, Vehicles and Traffic: Article II, Traffic; and Section 252-15, Stop Intersections; of the Code of Codified Ordinances to provide changes to the stop intersections located within the Township of Bethlehem.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION R036-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OFFICER SETH WILLIAMS TO ATTEND MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ENFORCEMENT TRAINING JUNE 5-9, 12-16, AND 26-30, 2023, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. Merhottein said this is a standard training and is a budgeted item.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R036-23 authorizing Officer Seth Williams to attend Motor Carrier Safety Enforcement Training June 5-9, 12-16, and 26-30, 2023, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**RESOLUTION R037-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OFFICER ADAM EBNER TO ATTEND TASER INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING JUNE 1, 2023, IN EMPORIUM, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. Merhottein said this is a standard training and is a budgeted item.

Upon motion (Beatty-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R037-23 authorizing Officer Adam Ebner to attend Taser instructor certification training June 1, 2023, in Emporium, Pennsylvania.

**RESOLUTION R038-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INVESTIGATOR PATRICK BREHM TO ATTEND POLYGRAPH EXAMINER TRAINING MAY 8-AUGUST 4, 2023, IN FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. Merhottein said this is a standard training and is a budgeted item. Mr. Bruce added that this is a continuous and extensive training necessary for a certified polygrapher.

Upon motion (Verdes-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R038-23 authorizing Investigator Patrick Brehm to attend polygraph examiner training May 8-

August 4, 2023, in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

**RESOLUTION R039-23**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR COLD IN-PLACE RECYCLING AND OVERLAY PROJECT**

Mr. Bruce said that at the direction of the Board, the 2023 paving project bid included an alternate bid for two years' worth of paving. That alternate bid came in under estimates and Public Works Director Rich Kanaskie estimates the township can save \$100,000 by doing both projects this year as opposed to split over two years. The total cost is \$842,083.20 which would require using some money from the cash reserves. Mr. Bruce said he and Mr. Kanaskie recommend doing the expanded paving project this year.

Upon motion (Verdes-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R039-23 awarding the contract for cold in-place recycling and overlay project to Recon Construction Service Inc. for \$842,083.20., which includes paving the additional roads.

**MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING AND DESIGNATING COMMUNITY DAYS AS A "PUBLIC CELEBRATION."**

Mr. Bruce said this motion waives the noise ordinance for the fireworks and waives the requirement for the fire company to send certified letters to nearby residents for Community Days. Mr. Merhottein thanked the volunteer fire company.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing and designating Community Days as a "public celebration."

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT FOR THE COMMUNITY DAYS FESTIVAL**

This motion memorializes the board's support of BTVFC receiving a special occasion liquor license for the festival.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion approving the Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company's application to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for a Special Occasion Permit for the Community Days festival.

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS**

- PO 20230800 – JOAO & BRADLEY CONSTRUCTION – PPIS – \$12,126.19**
- PO 20230801 – POWER DMS – BTPD – \$5,982.93**
- PO 20230807 – AXON ENTERPRISES – BTPD – \$11,868.12**
- PO 20230857 – OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH – FINANCE – \$4,187.59**

**PO 20230858 – DALE KOEHLER & SONS FARM – PW – \$9,225.00**  
**PO 20230859 – EASTERN TIME – PPIS – \$23,106.02**  
**PO 20230860 – CERTIFIED LABORATORIES – PW – \$2,320.60**  
**PO 20230861 – MILLER MUNICIPAL SUPPLY – PW – \$2,374.15**  
**PO 20230904 – BETH.TWP. VOLUNTEER FIRE CO – BTVFC –**  
**\$22,000**  
**PO 20230913 – A.D. MOYER BUILDING SUPPLY – PW – \$9,358.00**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice to approve Purchase Orders 20230800, 20230801, 20230807, 20230857, 20230858, 20230859, 20230860, 20230861, 20230904 and 20230913 as presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata  
Recording Secretary