

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2025

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

MEMBERS ABSENT Michael D. Hudak, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT James L. Broughal, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager

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

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

WAYNE KRESGE
4349 CHETWIN TERR. Mr. Kresge said he filed a complaint a few weeks ago about his neighbor having a pet pig. He said the ordinance does not permit farm animals in the eastern portion of the residential area in the township. He said the zoning officer told him a previous zoning officer granted his neighbor permission to have the pig. Mr. Kresge wants to know why the previous zoning officer permitted this when it was not permitted by ordinance. He said he is unable to enjoy his yard because of the smell of the pig feces. Mr. Merhottein said this was the first time he heard of this and will look into this. Mr. Kresge also commented that it was unfair that he has to pay a stormwater fee for runoff water coming from the bike path and onto his property.

BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR. Mr. Roth said that at the last meeting, a woman approached the board to comment on the Chrin V7 project but was not permitted to speak as the public hearing had been closed. He believes the board should have allowed her to voice her concerns. Mr. Roth asked how many light bars were in the public works garage. Mr. Bruce said there were three. He added that the light bars in the police property room are sold every six months.

TOM KEEFER
3803 CARTER RD. Mr. Keefer said one of the commissioners should not been allowed to vote on the Chrin V7 matter at the last board meeting.

GARY TRIGIANI
4500 BAYARD ST. Mr. Trigiani said he has lived in the township for about 78 years. He is concerned that the Chrin V7 development will negatively impact the traffic on Hope Road and Bayard Street. Mr. Merhottein said that Hope Road is a PennDOT road. Mr. Deckman said PennDOT has done traffic studies – one with the assumption that the development goes in and one with the assumption that it doesn't. He added that the board required certain conditions, including traffic mitigation, of the developer. Mr. Trigiani thanked the board for their efforts.

DAVID BUCHERER
4220 NICHOLAS ST. Mr. Bucherer asked the board with respect to health insurance, the percentage paid by the township and the employee and if a cost analysis was done. Mr. Bruce said he was unsure of the exact number since it changes every year based on contractual obligations but estimated that employees pay about 10 percent and the township pays 90 percent of the total premium which includes medical, dental, vision and prescription.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gallagher noted an error on page two of the minutes.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the July 21, 2025 regular public meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Hudak was absent.

MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM'S CODE OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 240 TAXATION; ARTICLE V EARNED INCOME TAX; SECTION 240-49.1 INCENTIVES FOR TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEERS OF FIRE COMPANIES TO AMEND THE REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROVISIONS TO ITS ORDINANCE AND REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith

Mr. Merhottein said this was discussed at the last meeting and would grant eligible volunteer fire fighters a real property tax credit of 100 percent, up from the current 20 percent. The estimated cost to the township is approximately \$10,000.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote authorizing the township manager to advertise an ordinance amending the Township of Bethlehem's Code of Codified Ordinances, Chapter 240 Taxation; Article V Earned Income Tax; Section 240-49.1 incentives for township volunteers of fire companies to amend the real property tax credit provisions to its ordinance and repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith. Mr. Hudak was absent.

PURCHASE ORDERS

**PO 20251571 – NANCY RUN FIRE CO. –FINANCE – \$66,176.21
PO 20251610 – EAST PENN ROOFING, LLC – PPIS – \$10,995.00
PO 20251609 – VALLEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS – PPIS – \$10,200.00
PO 20251559 – RECON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES – PW – \$318,186.15
PO 20251612 – RECON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES – PW – \$241,258.16
PO 20251616 – PA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION – POLICE – \$3,550.00
PO 20251618 – CRAFTCO INC. – PW - \$3,019.80
PO 20251615 – CITY OF ALLENTOWN – POLICE – \$12,000.00
PO 20251613 – PA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION – POLICE – \$4,968.44
PO 20251614 – SIGNAL SERVICE INC. – POLICE – \$4,642.00**

Mr. Gallagher asked if the roofing material was aluminum or steel. Mr. Bartholomew said steel. Mr. Gallagher asked what the life expectancy of the roof as and if there was a warranty on it.

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

DISCUSSION ITEM

DUI CENTER

Mr. Merhottein said the township gets approximately \$1,500 per month in rent from the county to use the facility at the Coolidge building. He said the police chief doesn't see much of a need to have a DUI center in the township and asked that the space be used for training and storage. Mr. Gallagher asked if it would be difficult to end the lease. Mr. Merhottein said he believes the contract states they need to give 90 days' notice.

Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize the township manager to end the lease with the county and use the facility for police training. Mr. Hudak was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary