

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
MARCH 6, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John J. Merhottein, President  
John K. Gallagher, Vice President  
Jan Beatty, Commissioner  
Luke A. Verdes, Commissioner

**OTHERS PRESENT**

James Broughal, Township Solicitor  
Doug Bruce, Township Manager  
Amanda L. Raudenbush, Planning Director AICP  
Ron Gawlik, Township Engineer

**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 Broughal announced that on Monday, March 6, 2023, the Board of Commissioners met in executive session at approximately 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

**COMMISSIONER  
SOURBECK**

Mr. Merhottein announced with a heavy heart the passing of Commissioner Sourbeck on February 26. He said he admired his interpersonal skills and conversations and will miss him. Mr. Merhottein said Commissioner Sourbeck cared deeply for the township. Mr. Gallagher said: "I admired and envied Dale's people skills. He could strike up a conversation with anyone, at any time, on any topic at the drop of a hat. We will miss his friendliness." Mr. Verdes said Commissioner Sourbeck leaves a legacy of community service and engagement. Ms. Beatty agreed.

**COURTESY OF THE  
FLOOR**

**VICTORIA CORDARO  
1682 WOODFIELD DR.  
CITY OF BETHLEHEM**

Ms. Cordaro offered condolences on the passing of Commissioner Sourbeck. She gave a brief update on the Lower Saucon Township landfill matter and thanked the board for seeking and attaining party status in the matter..

**PAUL WEISS  
3649 CHIPMAN RD.**

Mr. Weiss thank the board for their efforts in obtaining a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Bethman and Church Roads and making it safer for the neighborhood.

**PRESENTATION**

**ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
UPDATE**

Natasha Manbeck, McMahon Associates, introduced herself as the lead consultant of the project. She said she is working with Amanda Raudenbush, community development director, to provide updates, feedback, and input from the community. This is a required part of the grant-supported project. Another requirement is an open house for the public to visit and comment. The open house took place in the municipal building lobby at 6:00 p.m. before tonight's board meeting and is scheduled to end at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Verdes thanked them for their hard work.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2023

regular public meeting.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **ORDINANCE 01-23**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 252, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC; ARTICLE IV, GENERAL PARKING; SECTION 252-24, PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES, AND SECTION 252-26, SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKING ZONES ESTABLISHED, PARKING OTHERWISE PROHIBITED; OF THE CODE OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE CHANGES TO PARKING PROHIBITIONS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKING ZONES FOR PUBLIC STREETS LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM**

Mr. Merhottein said this parking ordinances is related to street dedication in Madison Farms.

Upon motion (Beatty-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to adopt Ordinance 01-23 amending Chapter 252, Vehicles and Traffic; Article IV, General Parking; Section 252-24, parking prohibited at all times, and Section 252-26, special purpose parking zones established, parking otherwise prohibited; of the Code of Codified Ordinances to provide changes to parking prohibitions and special purpose parking zones for public streets located within the Township of Bethlehem.

### **ORDINANCE 02-23**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 252, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC; ARTICLE II, TRAFFIC; SECTION 252-10, SPEED LIMITS; SECTION 252-15, STOP INTERSECTIONS; AND SECTION 252-16, YIELD INTERSECTIONS; OF THE CODE OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE CHANGES TO SPEED LIMITS, STOP INTERSECTIONS, AND YIELD INTERSECTIONS FOR PUBLIC STREETS LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM**

Mr. Merhottein said this ordinance relates to speed limits at Madison Farms.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to adopt Ordinance 02-23 amending Chapter 252, Vehicles and Traffic; Article II, Traffic; Section 252-10, speed limits; Section 252-15, stop intersections; and Section 252-16, yield intersections; of the Code of Codified Ordinances to provide changes to speed limits, stop intersections, and yield intersections for public streets located within the Township of Bethlehem.

## **SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENT**

### **RESOLUTION R025-23**

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING CONDITIONAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL OF REVISED FINAL PLANS FOR BETHLEHEM AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR A WALK-IN REFRIGERATOR-FREEZER**

Ms. Raudenbush said he board voted to waive the requirement for the plan to go through full review at their December 5, 2022, public meeting. The applicant proposes to construct a concrete pad for a walk-in refrigerator/freezer.

03-06-2023

Upon motion (Beatty-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R025-23 granting conditional site plan approval of revised final plans for Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School for a walk-in refrigerator-freezer.

**RESOLUTION R026-23**

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING CONDITIONAL PRELIMINARY/FINAL LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL OF REVISED PLANS FOR LEHIGH VALLEY TRADE CENTER III**

Ms. Raudenbush said the revisions involve slight changes to grading on site which requires board approval per the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO).

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R026-23 granting conditional preliminary/final land development plan approval of revised plans for Lehigh Valley Trade Center III.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION R024-23**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF THE BETHLEHEM LANDFILL**

Mr. Verdes thanked Mr. Bruce and Solicitor Broughal for going out on such short notice to seek party status in the Lower Saucon Township hearing on this matter. He said the expansion of the Bethlehem Landfill negatively impacts the township residents and businesses

Upon motion (Verdes-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R024-23 opposing the expansion of the Bethlehem Landfill.

**MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 252, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC; ARTICLE II, TRAFFIC; 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 this ordinance is for the placement of stop signs at Bethman and Church Roads.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing the township manager to advertise an ordinance amending Chapter 252, Vehicles and Traffic; Article II, Traffic; Section 252-15, Stop Intersections; of the Code of Codified Ordinances to provide changes to the stop intersections located

within the Township of Bethlehem.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION RATIFYING THE ACTION OF THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR IN OBTAINING PARTY STATUS FOR BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP IN THE LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP CONDITIONAL USE HEARING REGARDING AN EXPANSION OF THE BETHLEHEM LANDFILL**

Solicitor Broughal said the board needed to vote to authorize the township solicitor to take legal action to oppose the landfill expansion. Mr. Merhottein thanked Solicitor Broughal for getting this accomplished.

Upon motion (Verdes-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion ratifying the action of the township solicitor in obtaining party status for Bethlehem Township in the Lower Saucon Township conditional use hearing regarding an expansion of the Bethlehem Landfill.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING A BICYCLE REPAIR STATION BE BUILT ON THE DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR TRAIL AS PART OF AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

Mr. Merhottein said a Boy Scout proposes to build a bike repair station on the D&L trail as part of an Eagle Scout project. Mr. Gallagher said it would be a great asset to the trail. Solicitor Broughal recommended an access and hold harmless agreement be required, signed by at least one of the parents and formal approval from the board was needed to move forward with the project.

**BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth asked where on the trail the station was being built. The station will be located on Wilson Avenue and Farmersville Road.

Upon motion (Verdes-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing a bicycle repair station be built on the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor trail as part of an Eagle Scout project.

**APPROVAL OF  
PURCHASE ORDERS**

**PO 20230557 – PRESSURE BROTHERS – PPIS – \$2,275.00  
PO 20230620 – STOKES ELECTRICAL SUPPLY – PPIS – \$7,390.00  
PO 20230623 – WHITEHALL TURF EQUIPMENT – PW – \$11,239.00  
PO 20230624 – WHITEHALL TURF EQUIPMENT – PW – \$11,239.00  
PO 20230625 – SIGNAL SERVICE – BTPD – \$13,806.96  
PO 20230627 – MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS – BTPD – \$35,315.00  
PO 20230626 – INDUSTRIAL COMM. – BTPD – \$3,240.00  
PO 20230628 – STOTZ & FATZ OFFICE SUPPLY – BTCC – \$3,638.74  
PO 20230630 – PA STATE ASSOC. OF TWP COMMISSIONERS –  
ADMIN – \$4,187.66**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice to approve Purchase Orders 20230557, 20230620, 20230623, 20230624, 20230625, 20230627, 20230626, 20230628 and 20230630 as presented.

**COMMISSIONER  
APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Merhottein said the deadline for applications for the Commissioner First Ward is Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. He asked the board if they were interested in conducting public interviews. Mr. Gallagher said he preferred phone interviews. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Verdes agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata  
Recording Secretary