

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 6, 2024**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT Jan Beatty, Commissioner
Michael D. Hudak, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT James L. Broughal, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Amanda L. Jensen, Community Development Director
Ron Gawlik, Township Engineer

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

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

**GLEN KRIER
3942 KENRICK DR.** Mr. Kenrick asked what was going on at the detention pond near Freemansburg Avenue and Washington Street. Mr. Bruce said they received a complaint about the silt and gravel around it and sent the stormwater engineer to investigate. Mr. Kenrick asked if the Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company could set up a drop box at the municipal building for contributions.

**MR. SUTTON
2133 SAUCON AVE.
LOWER SAUCON
TWP.** Mr. Sutton said that the public comment policy in Lower Saucon Township was revised to allow anyone with a concern or comment to speak. He said a hearing regarding the proposed landfill expansion is scheduled for June 13, 2024, and encouraged local municipalities to join. Mr. Sutton said the Lehigh River is the 5th most polluted river in the United States.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Upon motion (Gallagher-Merhottein) the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote 2-0-1 to approve the April 15, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Lawrence abstained. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 02-24 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 131, FIRE PREVENTION, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM'S CODE OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES, ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to adopt Ordinance 02-24 amending Chapter 131, Fire Prevention, of the Township of Bethlehem's Code of Codified Ordinances, adopting the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code, and repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

**SUBDIVISIONS &
LAND
DEVELOPMENT**

**RESOLUTION R032-24 A RESOLUTION GRANTING CONDITIONAL FINAL PLAN APPROVAL
OF DRIFT COURT BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT**

Ms. Jensen said the plan proposes to reconfigure the lots so that the neighboring property owners can acquire them from Village of Highfield Condominium Association. Mr. Gallagher said he doesn't like the idea of waiving the sidewalk installation requirement and preferred to see the waivers removed from the resolution. Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering, speaking for the property owner, said the land is behind the property and won't be developed. Mr. Merhottein said he appreciates that it won't be developed. Mr. McElroy of 3501 Drift Court said there are no sidewalks in his area and that he has been taking care of the property in the back for 38 years.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners voted 2-1 by voice vote to approve Resolution R032-24 granting conditional final plan approval of Drift Court boundary line adjustment. Mr. Gallagher opposed. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

MOTION

**A MOTION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE A TRAFFIC SIGNAL
EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP AND
JAKE VIDA MANAGEMENT CORP OF PA FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL
AT EASTON AVENUE AND THE GIANT SHOPPING CENTER**

Ms. Jensen said: A developer is proposing an apartment building on Easton Avenue in the City of Bethlehem. The developer is proposing to utilize the traffic signal at the Easton Avenue Giant entrance. The township owns and maintains the signal. The developer will be installing minimal improvements to the signal to support their development. The easement is to allow the township to perform maintenance on the loop system and signage that will exist out of the right-of-way, if necessary.

**PAUL
WEGRZYNOWICZ
4147 WALTER RD**

Mr. Wegrzynowicz asked if the agreement would affect the timing of the lights and/or traffic flow. Mr. Gawlik said that should not be an issue.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the turning radius needed to be so deep. Mr. Gawlik said that was a PennDOT requirement.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote approving and authorizing a traffic signal easement agreement between Bethlehem Township and Jake Vida Management Corp of PA for the traffic signal at Easton Avenue and the Giant shopping center. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

**FARMERSVILLE
ROAD ROADWAY
IMPROVEMENTS
UPDATE**

Ms. Jensen said the board previously discussed potential repairs to a culvert on Farmersville Road and subsequent improvements. At that time the township engineer was charged with creating a preliminary plan and an initial cost estimate for those improvements. This is the presentation of the draft preliminary plan to determine the board's interest in proceeding. The funding for this project will be from the traffic impact fee account.

Mr. Gawlik said the improvements include two culverts, one driveway to the public works building, one existing driveway to the community center, and full pavement

reconstruction. They are looking at pedestrian crossing at Farmersville Road and Walter Road with flashing lights and push button controls. The Active Transportation Plan identified a sidewalk-connectivity shared-use path and a bike boulevard.

Ms. Jensen said staff will be meeting with the Fields of Farmersville developer to discuss the plan.

Mr. Gallagher said if deferrals were granted, now would be a good time to call them in.

Mr. Bruce said that all of the construction is proposed to be paid by the money in the Act 209 traffic impact fund. Mr. Merhottein said the Act 209 money comes from developers and noted that there were not many developments left. Ms. Jensen said this would be a good opportunity to spend this money. Mr. Merhottein said he would like to revisit this topic with a full board.

Mr. Wegrzynowicz asked how long the construction would take. Mr. Gawlik said the schedule has yet to be determined.

**PAUL
WEGRZYNOWICZ
4147 WALTER RD.**

**RESOLUTIONS OF
THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION R031-24 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING TOWNSHIP MANAGER DOUG BRUCE TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, A PUBLIC ENTITY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ALL REQUIRED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) UNDER THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT (PUBLIC LAW 93-288 AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 100-707)

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R031-24 designating township manager Doug Bruce to execute on behalf of Bethlehem Township, a public entity established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288 as amended by Public Law 100-707). Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTION R012-24 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to untable Resolution R012-24. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

Mr. Gallagher nominated Carolyn Harper.

Upon nomination, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution R012-24 appointing Carolyn Harper to the Bethlehem Area Public Library Advisory Board. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTION R013-24 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to untable Resolution R0132-24. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

Ms. Lawrence nominated Peggy Salvatore.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R013-24 appointing Peggy Salvatore to the Bethlehem Area Public Library Advisory Board. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTION R035-24 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Gallagher nominated Alison Diefenderfer.

Upon nomination, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution R035-24 appointing Alison Diefenderfer as alternate member to the Bethlehem Area Public Library Advisory Board. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTION R033-24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF CORPORAL KEVIN LINDSAY AND OFFICER NICK SPINGOLA AT TECHNICAL COLLISION INVESTIGATION TRAINING JUNE 3-7 AND 10-14, 2024, IN WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Upon motion (Lawrence-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R033-24 authorizing the attendance of Corporal Kevin Lindsay and Officer Nick Spingola at technical collision investigation training June 3-7 and 10-14, 2024, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTION R034-24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF OFFICER JACOB FARRELL AT MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION TRAINING JUNE 3-7, 10-14, AND 24-28, 2024, IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R034-24 authorizing the attendance of Officer Jacob Farrell at motor carrier safety enforcement certification training June 3-7, 10-14, and 24-28, 2024, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

MOTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF A GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE EASTON AREA JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY (EAJSA), THE CITY OF EASTON, AND THE NURTURE NATURE CENTER TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN SUPPORT OF A FOG (FATS, OIL, AND

**GREASES) RECEIVING AND COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PROJECT
AT THE EAJSA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Upon motion (Lawrence-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize and approve a letter in support of a grant application submitted by the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority (EAJSA), the City of Easton, and the Nurture Nature Center to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in support of a FOG (fats, oil, and greases) receiving and combined heat and power project at the EAJSA wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

**APPROVAL OF
PURCHASE ORDERS**

PO 20241102 – ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES GROUP – PPIS – \$2,491.27
PO 20241020 – CAMELBACK LODGE – BTCC – \$3,690.00
PO 20241031 – T. SCHIEFER CONTRACTORS – PW – \$255,275.17
PO 20241059 – AMERICAN HIGHWAY PRODUCTS – PPIS – \$6,171.06
PO 20241060 – MONARCH PRECAST CONCRETE – PPIS – \$27,820.00
PO 20241093 – VALLEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS – PPIS – \$5,580.00
PO 20241101 – GREEN POND NURSERY – PW – \$3,526.50

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve all the purchases orders as presented. Ms. Beatty and Mr. Hudak were absent.

**CHARLES JAQUISH
2202 COOK DR.**

Mr. Jaquish said his wife serves on the Recreation Committee and reminded everyone that the new playground at the municipal park is now open. Mr. Merhottein said it looked very nice. Mr. Gallagher said he would like to see something published about it. Mr. Bruce said public works recommended a soft opening. The board thanked Mr. Jaquish's wife and the Recreation Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary