

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
JULY 7, 2025**

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, 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

**TOM KEEFER
3803 CARTER RD.** Mr. Keefer said there are 750 gallons of oil behind L&D Automotive which closed and need to be removed.

**DAVE BUCHERER
4220 NICHOLAS ST.** Mr. Bucherer said he was looking through the contracts and said there were conflicts in Article 4, AFSCME, sections six through eight. He said the township guarantees hours not days. It should be rephrased for the convenience of the tax payers.

Mr. Bucherer said that people who come to the microphone to express their concerns should be treated courteously before and after the meeting. They should not be talked down to and disrespected. Mr. Merhottein said the board also deserves respect.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mr. Gallagher noted one minor correction on page 2 of the minutes.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve the June 16, 2025 regular public meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried 4-0-1. Mr. Deckman abstained.

MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MOTION **A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITOR TO APPEAL THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP'S MAY 28, 2025, DECISION IN THE APPLICATION OF STEVEN J. INC., APPEAL # 01-2025**

Mr. Merhottein said they are appealing the Zoning Hearing Board's decision to Northampton County Court.

Upon motion (Hudak-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize the solicitor to appeal the Zoning Hearing Board of Bethlehem Township's May 28, 2025, decision in the Application of Steven J. Inc., appeal # 01-2025.

MOTION

A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITOR TO INTERVENE IN THE ZONING HEARING BOARD APPEAL FILED BY STEVEN J. INC. V. CITY OF BETHLEHEM ZONING HEARING BOARD AT NORTHAMPTON COUNTY DOCKET NO. C-48-CV-2025-05568, WHICH IS AN APPEAL FROM THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP'S MAY 28, 2025, DECISION IN THE APPLICATION OF STEVEN J. INC., APPEAL # 02-2025

Mr. Merhottein said the applicant appealed a zoning Notice of Violation at its May 28, 2025 meeting. The Zoning Hearing Board decided in favor of the township. Solicitor Broughal explained that the applicant filed against the City of Bethlehem in error. He would like to intervene on the township's behalf as the township is not currently a party to the appeal, again in error.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize the solicitor to intervene in the Zoning Hearing Board appeal filed by Steven J. Inc. v. City of Bethlehem Zoning Hearing Board at Northampton County Docket No. C-48-CV-2025-05568, which is an appeal from the Zoning Hearing Board of Bethlehem Township's May 28, 2025, decision in the Application of Steven J. Inc., appeal # 02-2025.

PURCHASE ORDERS

PO 20251344 – PROPOWER MANUFACTURING – PW – \$4,836.00
PO 20251383 – MICHAEL F. RONCA & SONS – PW – \$20,830.40
PO 20251418 – A-1 TRAFFIC CONTROL – PW – \$37,501.00
PO 20251419 – TRIUS – PW – \$22,116.00
PO 20251420 – SIGNAL SERVICE – BTPD – \$5,092.00

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m. The board met in executive sessions afterwards.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary