

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
JULY 17, 2023**

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

OTHERS PRESENT Jim Broughal, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Amanda Raudenbush, Community Development Director
Ronald J. Gawlik, Township Engineer

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

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to add to the agenda a resolution appointing a member to the Planning Commission.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

**TOM KEEFER
3803 CARTER RD.** Mr. Keefer said the St. Luke’s property located at the corner of Easton Avenue and Farmersville Road has very high weeds making it difficult to make a right turn. Mr. Merhottein asked staff to direct public works to look into it.

**BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth said the recent heavy rain has flooded his yard. He said the water run-off from Chetwin Park brought mulch into his yard. Mr. Merhottein said they are currently working on \$40 million dollars’ worth of stormwater improvement projects. Mr. Roth asked for an extra lip of dirt as a barrier, in the meantime.

**STEVE HUNT
2157 COOK DR.** Mr. Hunt said a light pole has been down in his development for over six months and that PPL informed him that they don’t own it. He wanted to report it on the website but could not locate Madison Farms. Solicitor Broughal said all the light poles belong to PPL. Mr. Hunt said two commissioners came to see the parking situation and thanked them. He also commended the police department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the July 3, 2023 regular public meeting minutes as presented.

SUBDIVISIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION R052-23 **A RESOLUTION GRANTING CONDITIONAL FINAL LAND DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL OF ST. LUKE’S MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING (WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY AND FARMERSVILLE ROAD)**

The Planning Commission recommended granting conditional approval of the Final Land Development Plan at its June 26th meeting.

Upon motion (Beatty-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R052-23 granting conditional final land development approval of St. Luke's medical office building (William Penn Highway and Farmersville Road).

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING A TIME EXTENSION TO DECEMBER 8, 2025, FOR FAIRFIELD MANAGEMENT CORPORATION TO COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS OF RESOLUTION R052-19 FOR HECKTOWN ROAD BUSINESS PARK LOTS 6 AND 7

Mr. Merhottein said the developer has requested a two-year time extension. Mr. Gallagher asked if the board denies the request, would the developer have to start over. Mr. Merhottein said yes.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a time extension to December 8, 2025, for Fairfield Management Corporation to comply with the conditions of Resolution R052-19 for Hecktown Road Business Park Lots 6 and 7.

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING A WAIVER OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM FOR INSTALLATION OF A CONCRETE PAD

Mr. Merhottein said this is for a 10' x 10' concrete pad for a discus and shot-put area on the church property. The church would like this review to be done administratively. A same type of waiver was granted to the Vo-Tech.

**STEVE HUNT
2157 COOK DR.**

Mr. Hunt asked how this would affect stormwater. Ms. Raudenbush said the size of the project is small and would be checked administratively.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize a waiver of the land development process for Calvary Baptist Church of Bethlehem for installation of a concrete pad.

**RESOLUTIONS OF
THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION R053-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OFFICER SETH WILLIAMS AND OFFICER JACOB FARRELL TO ATTEND PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE VEHICLE WEIGHTS & MEASURES TRAINING JULY 31-AUGUST 2, 2023, IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Upon motion (Lawrence-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approved Resolution R053-23 authorizing Officer Seth Williams and Officer Jacob Farrell to attend Pennsylvania State Police Vehicle Weights & Measures training July 31-August 2, 2023, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

RESOLUTION R054-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SERGEANT MARK CONWAY TO ATTEND BASIC CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING AUGUST 7-11, 2023, IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Upon motion (Lawrence-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approved Resolution R054-23 authorizing Sergeant Mark Conway to attend basic crime scene photography training August 7-11, 2023, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

RESOLUTION R055-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Merhottein said this grant application is for an emergency vehicle pre-emption light at Freemansburg Avenue and 9th Street for the Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company. The same type of light is located at the Nancy Run Fire Company and is meant to slow down traffic during emergency calls. Mr. Bruce said they had applied for this grant for this project last year but didn't get it.

Upon motion (Verdes-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R055-23 authorizing an application to the Multimodal Transportation Fund of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

RESOLUTION R056-23 A RESOLUTION AWARDDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ON HECKTOWN ROAD AND OAKLAND ROAD

Mr. Merhottein said the project was rebid and two bids were received. The township received a state grant for \$130,000 for the projects. Mr. Merhottein said the bid from T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. came in \$13,000 less than Baseline Contracting. The bid packet submitted is subject to the Solicitor's review.

Upon motion (Beatty-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approved Resolution R056-23 awarding the contract for the pedestrian crossing improvement projects on Hecktown Road and Oakland Road to T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$271,837.50.

RESOLUTION R057-23 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Gallagher nominated Dave Wong.

By consensus, the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution R057-23 appointing David Wong to the Planning Commission.

BILL AGENDA OF JULY 12, 2023

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the bill agenda of July 12, 2023 as presented.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS

PO 20231762 – JWC ENVIRONMENTAL – PPIS – \$26,998.98
PO 20231801 – KIDS PLAY TENNIS – BTCC – \$3,240.00
PO 20231803 – DUAL TEMP – BTCC – \$10,680.00
PO 20231825 – BOYKOS PETROLEUM – PPIS – \$4,798.34

PO 20231827 – NAZARETH FORD – PW – \$2,582.40
PO 20231828 – U.S. MUNICIPAL SUPPLY – PW – \$2,967.42
PO 20231832 – LOWE AND MOYER GARAGE – PW – \$3,623.60

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

**TREASURER'S
REPORT OF JUNE 30,
2023**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the treasurer's report of June 30, 2023, subject to audit.

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD MEETING OF
JULY 26, 2023**

Ms. Raudenbush said the two hearings on the agenda are continuances.

MONTHLY REPORTS

All monthly reports were accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mr. Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary