

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

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

OTHERS PRESENT James L. Broughal, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Amanda L. Jensen, Community Development Director
Ronald J. Gawlik, Township Engineer
Ted Rewak, Court Reporter

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

**BILL TRIEBEL
1670 LIMBURG RD.** Mr. Triebel said that he and many residents were not informed of the warehouse being proposed on Freemansburg Avenue. He said the Planning Commission approved the plan and he saw construction taking place on site. Mr. Triebel believes that this plan is a bad idea and will bring down residential property value. Ms. Jensen said the Planning Commission heard the plan but did not recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners. She said she will have her department investigate the construction going on.

**DIANE RUDOLPH
1661 DENNIS ST.** Mr. Rudolph believes the proposed warehouse on Freemansburg Avenue will negatively impact the quality of life with the 24/7 operation, light pollution, noise pollution, air pollution, and traffic. She said it is a nightmare in the making.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the September 5, 2023 regular public meeting minutes as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 06-23 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 196, REAL ESTATE; ARTICLE I, REPORT REQUIRED FOR SALE, TRANSFER, AND RENTAL OF PROPERTY; OF THE CODE OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR COMPLIANCE AND ABATEMENT OF VIOLATIONS AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith

Upon motion (Gallagher-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 06-23 amending Chapter 196, Real Estate; Article I, report required for sale, transfer, and rental of property; of the Code of Codified Ordinances to provide additional provisions for compliance and abatement of violations and repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith, as presented.

ORDINANCE 07-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 110, UNIFORM CODES, CONSTRUCTION; SECTION 110-3, AMENDMENTS TO ADOPTED CODES; TO PROVIDE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP'S CODE OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES ADOPTING THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE'S UPDATED ADOPTION OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL CODES, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 07-23 amending Chapter 110, Uniform Codes, Construction; Section 110-3, amendments to adopted codes; to provide for amendments to the township's Code of Codified Ordinances adopting the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code's updated adoption of certain international codes, and repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith, as presented.

CONDITIONAL USE HEARING

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL – ANDERSON CAMPUS SEEKS CONDITIONAL APPROVAL TO RELOCATE A HELIPAD TO A TEMPORARY POSITION AND LATER A FINAL POSITION, PURSUANT TO ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 275-248.C(2)

Solicitor Broughal opened the hearing and said Ted Rewak, Court Reporter, was present to take testimony. After the testimony was taken, Solicitor Broughal closed the hearing. He said the board will make its decision at the October 2, 2023 meeting.

SUBDIVISIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION R062-23

A RESOLUTION GRANTING CONDITIONAL PRELIMINARY/FINAL PLAN APPROVAL OF 1932 FARMERSVILLE ROAD

Ms. Lawrence said she needed more time to review the information and made a motion to table Resolution R062-23.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to table Resolution R058-23 granting conditional preliminary/final plan approval of 1932 Farmersville Road.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION R063-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS TO THE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT (LEHIGH/NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES AND MONROE COUNTY) GRANT PROGRAMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY

Mr. Bruce said the resolution was revised with the addition to designate two people to handle the application process. He said that he and Andy Freda, Finance Director, would like to be designated.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approved Resolution R059-23 authorizing applications to the Local Share Account (Lehigh/Northampton counties and Monroe County) grant programs of the Commonwealth Financing Authority, as amended.

**BILL AGENDA OF
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

Mr. Gallagher noted three checks on the bill agenda were made to the magistrate and asked if the township had any violations. Ms. Jensen said the checks are for her to department in order to pursue those with code violations in court. The money is refunded if the township wins the case.

Upon motion (Verdes-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the bill agenda of September 13, 2023 as presented.

**APPROVAL OF
PURCHASE ORDERS**

- PO 20232275 – ECCO COMMUNICATIONS – FINANCE – \$13,633.95**
- PO 20232276 – H.T. LYONS – PPIS – \$3,213.00**
- PO 20232277 – STOTZ & FATZINGER OFFICE – PPIS – \$2,761.83**
- PO 20232280 – WIND RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL – PPIS – \$4,859.40**
- PO 20232304 – METZ INC. – BTCC – \$2,254.80**
- PO 20232362 – GOLDEN EQUIPMENT CO. – PPIS – \$2,545.82**
- PO 20232383 – REX EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION—PW – \$7,387.67**
- PO 20232384 – ELITE VEHICLE SOLUTIONS – BTPD – \$26,215.95**
- PO 20232389 – HYDRA-NUMATIC SALES – PPIS – \$2,289.50**
- PO 20232396 – BTV FIRE COMPANY – FINANCE – \$107,239.93**
- PO 20232397 – NANCY RUN FIRE COMPANY – FINANCE – \$107,239.92**
- PO 20232412 – GAZETTE PRINTERS – ADMINISTRATION – \$3,371.87**
- PO 20232415 – KOPIS – FINANCE – \$22,790.75**

**NICHOLAS
SANTIAGO
BTVFC TREASURER**

Mr. Gallagher noted that the radios in the purchase orders were different from the ones listed on the grant application. Mr. Santiago said the radios in the grant application are digital-capable and the radios in the purchase order are analog-only and will be used as bridge until the department is fully digital-ready.

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

**TREASURER’S
REPORT OF AUGUST
31, 2023**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the treasurer’s report of August 31, 2023, subject to audit.

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
& OCTOBER 4, 2023**

Ms. Jensen said that due to a backlog, a special zoning hearing board meeting was scheduled.

MONTHLY REPORTS

All monthly reports were accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary