

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT John Merhottein, President
John Gallagher, Vice President
Jan Beatty, Commissioner
Luke Verdes, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT Dale Sourbeck, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT James L. Broughal, Township Solicitor (virtual)
Anthony Giovannini, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager (virtual)
Amanda Raudenbush, Community Development Director
Brad Smith, Assistant Township Engineer

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

ADDITION TO AGENDA Upon motion (Beatty-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to add to the agenda a resolution appointing a member of the recreation commission.

POLICE OATHS Mr. Merhottein administered oaths of office to three recently promoted police supervisors: Captain Shaun Powell, Sergeant Troy Abelovsky, and Corporal Andrew Kanaskie.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

**BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN
TERRACE** Mr. Roth asked when the electronic sign board in front of the municipal building would be put back in use. Mr. Merhottein said the board had decided not to repair the sign board. Mr. Roth said the board should be used for instances such as a recent Zoning Hearing Board meeting for which the wrong start time was publicized. If it's not going to be used, the sign board should be removed, Mr. Roth said.

Mr. Roth said he continued to be concerned that the township was selling vehicles too early and not getting sufficient use out of them. He mentioned the recent decision to auction a 2008 Ford Escape with 60,000 miles. Mr. Roth said the township manager had failed to provide information requested by a commissioner about the cost of refurbishing an older vehicle. Mr. Roth said the manager was disrespectful and should be reprimanded.

**GLENN KRIER
3942 KENRICK DRIVE** Mr. Krier referred to a recent discussion, which involved disputed emails, between two commissioners at a public meeting. Mr. Krier said this discussion was unprofessional, embarrassing, and in poor taste.

**RUSSELL SUTTON
2133 SAUCON
AVENUE, LOWER
SAUCON TOWNSHIP** Mr. Sutton said he was a Lower Saucon Township resident and opposed the proposed landfill expansion in that municipality. He detailed several of his concerns, including increased pollution and environmental damage. He encouraged the board to join the opposition to the landfill expansion.

**GENE BOYER
2332 FARMERSVILLE
ROAD
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Mr. Boyer said he was a former resident of Lower Saucon Township and had lived near the landfill. He said he also opposed the landfill expansion.

Mr. Gallagher said there was an error in the draft minutes – the word “granting” was written as “grating.” Upon motion (Beatty, Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve as amended the minutes of the January 3, 2023) regular public meeting

The minutes of the February 6, 2023, meeting were not ready in time for the meeting and were pulled from the agenda.

**SUBDIVISIONS AND
LAND
DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING IMPROVEMENT SECURITY RELEASE CERTIFICATION #8, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,199,958.27, FOR TRADITIONS OF AMERICA AT GREEN POND.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the motion as presented.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION R021-23 AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PUBLIC RECORDS PURSUANT TO THE SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RECORDS ACT.

Upon motion (Beatty-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the resolution as presented.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION R022-23 APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$300,674 FOR 28 SCOTT X8 PRO SCBAS, 82 CYLINDERS, AND 2 RIT PAK WITH RELATED EQUIPMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CERTAIN MASTER LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

Mr. Merhottein asked if this lease-purchase was funded by grants; Mr. Bruce said no. Mr. Gallagher asked about the terms of the agreement; Mr. Bruce said it was a five-year lease-purchase.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the resolution as presented.

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BID THE 2023 COLD-IN-PLACE ROAD RECYCLING AND OVERLAY PROJECT.

Mr. Merhottein said the 2023 paving schedule included portions of Lafayette Drive, Temple Court, Moravian Court, and Rutgers Drive, with an estimated construction cost of \$450,000.

Mr. Gallagher said the board had discussed during budget hearings bidding out two years' worth of road paving, to determine if significant savings could be achieved by doing it all at one time. He noted the bid included that as an option.

Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Verdes both noted UGI was doing roadwork in the same neighborhood and asked if this work could be coordinated with the township paving project and whether UGI might be able to contribute toward the township's efforts. Mr. Bruce said he would look into that, but noted UGI was outside of township jurisdiction.

Upon motion (Verdes-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the motion as presented.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION R023-23 APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION.

This was the resolution added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Beatty nominated Fred Mann. There were no other nominations. The Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the resolution appointing Fred Mann to the recreation commission.

BILL AGENDA

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the bill agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS

1. PO 20230393 – Stotz & Fatzinger Office Supply – BTCC – \$4,104
2. PO 20230435 – Berkheimer Tax Innovations – Finance – \$41,312.06
3. PO 20230442 – Everbridge – BTPD – \$7,161.08
4. PO 20230455 – Deep Run Aquatic Services – BTCC – \$28,064.00
5. PO 20230493 – Witmer Public Safety Group – Finance – \$13,787.92
6. PO 20230509 – Signal Service – BTPD – \$5,916.25
7. PO 20230511 – Bethlehem Township Athletic Association – Finance – \$40,000.00
8. PO 20230512 – Freemansburg-Bethlehem Township Athletic Association – Finance – \$38,000
9. PO 20230513 – Miracle League of Northampton County – Finance – \$5,000.00
10. PO 20230514 – Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company – Finance – \$376,970.00
11. PO 20230515 – Nancy Run Fire Company – Finance – \$159,800.00
12. PO 20230519 – T&M Associates – PW – \$2,210.00
13. PO 20230520 – Golden Equipment Co. – PW – \$2,292.68
14. PO 20230521 – North East Parts Group – PW – \$2,569.99
15. PO 20230522 – Petro Choice – PW – \$3,655.66

Mr. Gallagher said the second purchase order, paid to Berkheimer Tax Innovations, was for the township's own stormwater fees. He said the township should set an example by reducing the impervious area at its properties. He asked Mr. Bruce to look into the matter and report back on it.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Verdes), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the purchase orders as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion (Beatty-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 by voice vote to approve the treasurer's report, subject to audit.

ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING

Ms. Raudenbush said the February 22 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting had been canceled, as both appellants had withdrawn their appeals.

MONTHLY REPORTS The monthly reports were accepted as presented without comment.

ADJOURNMENT There being no other business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Bruce
Township Manager