

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2025**

- MEMBERS PRESENT** John J. Merhottein, President
John K. Gallagher, Vice President
Michael C. Deckman, Commissioner
DeAnn L. Lawrence, Commissioner
Michael D. Hudak, Commissioner
- OTHERS PRESENT** James L. Broughal, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Samantha Smith, Community Development Director
- CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Merhottein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT** Solicitor Broughal said the Board of Commissioners met tonight in executive session from at 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and contracts pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
- COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**
- BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth said the company North Star Automotive, included on the blanket purchase order list at the board's last meeting, is not in business anymore.
- ROD LAW
4210 ANTHONY LN.** Mr. Law said the right turn lane at the northwest corner of Green Pond Road and Farmersville Road is a mess and asked the board to speak to PennDOT about it.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon motion (Hudak-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the January 6, 2025, regular public meeting minutes as presented.
- PRESENTATION** **STORMWATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN UPDATE – CASEY LALONDE, HRG**
- Casey LaLonde, Senior Municipal Consulting & Managing Strategist, HRG, presented an update on the overall plan and recommended improvements to the culvert that runs under Farmersville Road at the municipal park to mitigate flooding and improve safety. Mr. Merhottein asked where the water will go. Mr. LaLonde said it will go through the farm and into the creek. Mr. Gallagher asked when the work will start now that the MS4 permit is secured. Mr. LaLonde said they are waiting on the DEP for direction.
- Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to add improvements to the culvert at entrance of municipal park on Farmersville Road to the Stormwater Capital Improvements Plan
- RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
- RESOLUTION R015-25 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER OF THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Mr. Merhottein called for nominations. Mr. Gallagher nominated Richard Pelizzoni.

Upon nomination by Mr. Gallagher, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Resolution R015-25 appointing Richard Pelizzoni to the Bethlehem Township Zoning Hearing Board.

**MOTIONS OF THE
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GILMORE & ASSOCIATES INC. FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF THE VINEYARDS OPEN SPACE DOG PARK

Upon motion (Merhottein-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to table this motion.

**BILL AGENDA OF
JANUARY 15, 2025**

Upon motion (Hudak-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the bill agenda of January 15, 2025.

PURCHASE ORDERS

PO 20250026 – BTV FIRE COMPANY – FINANCE – \$410,695.00
PO 20250027 – NANCY RUN FIRE COMPANY – FINANCE – \$198,000.00
PO 20250028 – NAZARETH FORD – PW – \$2,496.19
PO 20250029 – STEPHENSON EQUIPMENT – PW – \$11,038.26
PO 20250030 – VERMONT SYSTEMS – BTCC – \$15,231.39
PO 20250090 – STEPHENSON EQUIPMENT – PW – \$111,372.00
PO 20250091 – TURF EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY – PW – \$159,424.41
PO 20250095 – NAZARETH FORD – PW – \$2,882.97
PO 20250117 – SNAP-ON INDUSTRIAL – PW – \$7,707.40
PO 20250118 – FAYETTE TRAILERS – PW – \$18,147.00
PO 20250125 – HYDRA-NUMATIC SALES – PPIS – \$4,463.84
PO 20250126 – EAST PENN TRUCK EQUIPMENT – PPIS – \$7,575.86
PO 20250145 – KOPIS – FINANCE – \$11,340.00
PO 20250153 – SIGNAL SERVICE – BTPD – \$3,453.00
PO 20250154 – NORTHAMPTON CTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY – BTPD – \$5,600.00
PO 20250175 – NORTH EAST TECHNICAL SALES – PPIS – \$7,460.00
PO 20250176 – C.M. HIGH – PPIS – \$16,871.71
PO 20250179 – DEEP RUN AQUATIC SERVICES – BTCC – \$3,899.00
PO 20250180 – MIRACLE LEAGUE OF NORTHAMPTON CTY – FINANCE – \$5,000.00
PO 20250181 – BTAA– FINANCE – \$52,900.00
PO 20250182 – FBTA – FINANCE – \$53,000.00

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

**TREASURER’S
REPORT OF
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Upon motion (Hudak-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the treasurer’s report of December 31, 2024, subject to audit.

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD MEETING
OF JANUARY 29, 2025**

Ms. Smith said there are three appeals on the agenda. The first is appealing the Zoning Officer’s determination regarding a building permit application to construct a new multi-family dwelling. The second is appealing a “Notice of Violation” issued by the Zoning Officer regarding the operation of a junk yard. The third is appealing a “Zoning Determination” for a proposed use of a “Smoke Shop”. Staff recommends opposing the appeals.

Upon motion (Hudak-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote directing the township solicitor to attend the meeting to oppose all three appeals.

MONTHLY REPORTS All monthly reports were accepted.

COMMENDATION Mr. Hudak thanked the Public Works department for clearing the snow off the roads.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:24p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary