

**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT Michael Hudak, President
Thomas Nolan, Vice-President
Malissa Davis, Commissioner
John Gallagher, Commissioner
John Merhottein, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT James Broughal, Township Solicitor
Melissa Shafer, Township Manager
Brian Dillman, Township Engineer

CALL TO ORDER President Hudak called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR There were no comments or concerns during Courtesy of the Floor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Upon motion (Davis-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2018 biennial reorganization public meeting as amended.

PRESENTATION

BETHLEHEM AREA

PUBLIC LIBRARY Josh Berk, Director, Bethlehem Area Public Library stated that the library has had a relationship with the township for over fifty years. He said nearly 8,000 township residents are active members of the library and believes the usage is not declining. The Bookmobile and Story Time at the community center are a few of the services provided to the residents. Mr. Berk said he continues to look for ways to refine and improve services and commented that perhaps the survey will reveal the residents' position on the library. Mr. Nolan said that 9,110 books were checked out on the Bookmobile and is concerned that the service seems to be diminishing.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION R008-18 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Upon motion (Gallagher-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to untable Resolution R008-18 appointing a member to the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority.

Upon motion (Nolan-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R008-18 appointing Julius Balogh to the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority.

RESOLUTION R013-18 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP VACANCY BOARD

Upon motion (Gallagher-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to untable Resolution R013-18 appointing a member to the Bethlehem Township Vacancy Board.

Upon motion (Davis-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R013-18 appointing Frank Pologruto to the Bethlehem Township Vacancy Board.

RESOLUTION R014-18 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Upon motion (Gallagher-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to untable Resolution R014-18 appointing a member to the Bethlehem Township Civil Service Commission.

Upon motion (Davis-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R014-18 appointing Jack Fliter to the Bethlehem Township Civil Service Commission.

RESOLUTION R022-18 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TOWNSHIP TREASURER

Upon motion (Gallagher-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R022-18 appointing Rosalia Italiano-Cacciabeve to Township Treasurer.

RESOLUTION R023-18 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Upon motion (Merhottein-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R023-18 appointing Malissa Davis as alternate member to the Bethlehem Area Public Library advisory board.

MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MOTION A MOTION APPROVING A CONTRACT BETWEEN BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP AND THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, LOCAL UNION 773, FOR 2018-2020

Upon motion (Merhottein-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve a motion approving a contract between Bethlehem Township and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local Union 773, for 2018-2020. Mr. Hudak opposed

MOTION A MOTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDERS 17-20 FOR BRACY CONSTRUCTION FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT

Upon motion (Davis-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by

voice vote to untable a motion approving Change Orders 17-20 for Bracy Construction for the community center renovation project..

Upon motion (Davis-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve a motion approving Change Orders 17-20 for Bracy Construction for the community center renovation project.

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER 21 FOR BRACY CONSTRUCTION FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT

Upon motion (Davis-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to table a motion approving Change Order 21 for Bracy Construction for the community center renovation project

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING CONTRACT MODIFICATION REQUEST NO. 6 FROM ENTECH ENGINEERING FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT

Upon motion (Gallagher-Davis), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to table a motion approving Contract Modification Request No. 6 from Entech Engineering for the community center renovation project.

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING A GENERAL PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY FOR TOWNSHIP EVENTS AT THE HOUSENICK MANSION

Upon motion (Nolan-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve a motion approving a general public access policy for township events at the Housenick mansion.

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INTERMUNICIPAL SEWER SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, AND PALMER TOWNSHIP FOR CERTAIN LOTS IN THE RAU LANE SUBDIVISION, PALMER TOWNSHIP

Upon motion (Nolan-Davis), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing the township manager to advertise an ordinance authorizing an intermunicipal sewer service agreement between Bethlehem Township, the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority, and Palmer Township for certain lots in the Rau Lane subdivision, Palmer Township.

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION WITH PALMER TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, AND THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, ENTERING AN AMENDMENT TO AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR PARTS OF PHASES I, II, AND III OF OLD ORCHARD STONES CROSSING IN PALMER TOWNSHIP FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF SANITARY SEWAGE

Upon motion (Nolan-Davis), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing the township manager to advertise an ordinance authorizing intergovernmental cooperation with Palmer Township, Northampton County, the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority, and the City of Bethlehem, entering an amendment to an intermunicipal cooperation agreement for parts of Phases I, II, and III of Old Orchard Stones Crossing in Palmer Township for the transportation of sanitary sewage.

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 01-12 BY ADDING CHAPTER 60, TAX COLLECTOR, TO SET THE POWERS AND DUTIES, COMPENSATION, AND BONDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TAX COLLECTOR AND REVISING ANY PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM INCONSISTENT THEREWITH

Upon motion (Merhottein-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing the township manager to advertise an ordinance amending Ordinance 01-12 by adding Chapter 60, Tax Collector, to set the powers and duties, compensation, and bonding requirements for the tax collector and revising any provisions of the Code of the Township of Bethlehem inconsistent therewith.

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GOODTIME AMUSEMENTS LLC FOR SERVICES RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY DAYS EVENT

Upon motion (Davis-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing the township manager to enter into an agreement with Goodtime Amusements LLC for services related to the Community Days event, upon approval of the Township Solicitor.

**APPROVAL OF BILL
AGENDA OF
JANUARY 10, 2018**

Upon motion (Davis-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the Bill Agenda of December 13, 2017.

**APPROVAL OF
PURCHASE ORDERS**

- PO 20180029 – Schuylkill Paving Inc. – PPIS – \$5,125.00
- PO 20180033 – Old Dominion Brush Co. Inc. – Public Works – \$23,321.45
- PO 20180034 – Deere & Co. – Public Works – \$12,576.06
- PO 20180036 – EZ Child ID – Police – \$2,577.00
- PO 20180037 – Riley & Co. Inc. – Finance – \$3,640.00
- PO 20180132 – PA State Assoc. of Twp. Commissioner-Admin – \$3,411.55
- PO 20180133 – ESRI Inc. – PPIS – \$10,000
- PO 20180134 – Schuylkill Paving Inc. – PPIS – \$5,446.20
- PO 20180149 – Vermont Systems Inc. – BTCC – \$7,038.00

Upon motion (Merhottein-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Purchase Orders PO 20180029, PO 20180033, PO 20180034, PO 20180036, PO 20180037, PO 20180132, PO 20180133, PO 20180134, and PO 20180149 as presented.

**APPROVAL OF
BLANKET PURCHASE
ORDER**

Upon motion (Davis-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the blanket purchase order as presented.

**APPROVAL OF
TREASURER'S
REPORT OF
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Upon motion (Nolan-Davis), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2017 as presented subject to audit.

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD MEETING OF
JANUARY 31, 2018**

The Zoning Hearing Board meeting of January 31, 2018 is cancelled.

**ACCEPTANCE OF
MONTHLY REPORTS**

All monthly reports were accepted as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEM

PENNEAST PIPELINE

Mr. Gallagher said he believes the township has not taken a stand regarding the pipeline and believes the township should reach out to the representatives at PennEast and FERC. Mr. Nolan said that the board has reached out but ultimately has no say since FERC is a federal program. Solicitor Broughal said negotiating with FERC is not possible and that the township has little leverage in negotiating with PennEast.

RESIDENT

Resident stated that value of his property is going down because of the location of the proposed pipeline and requested a meeting be scheduled between PennEast and the residents of Hope Ridge.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Merhottein), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to direct the township manager to prepare a resolution and or letter to PennEast Pipeline and FERC regarding the location of the proposed pipeline.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, upon motion (Nolan-Davis), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zapata
Recording Secretary

