

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MARCH 2, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT John J. Merhottein, President
John K. Gallagher, Vice President
Matthew C. Deckman, Commissioner
Michael D. Hudak, Commissioner
DeAnn L. Lawrence, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT Anthony Giovannini, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Samantha Smith, Community Development Director
Ron 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 (Hudak-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to change agenda item 8K from a motion to a resolution.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Solicitor Giovannini said the Board of Commissioners met tonight in executive session from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

**DAVE BUCHERER
4220 NICHOLAS ST.** Mr. Bucherer said he is seeing a lot more tractor trailers on Church Road and will be problematic if it continues. He also complained about the loud music in his neighborhood.

**STEVE SHINE
3770 TIMOTHY CT.** Mr. Shine said his street was repaved last year but there was a water main break this past winter and a portion of the road was patched. He said it was a poor job and would like to see it fixed. Mr. Bruce said he will look into it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to table the February 16, 2026 regular public meeting minutes.

SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENT

MOTION **A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 8-97, THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE; CHAPTER 275, ZONING; OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF ARTICLE II, TERMINOLOGY; ARTICLE VIII, NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT; ARTICLE XXVI, NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT; AND ARTICLE XX, ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC**

**USES; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT
HEREWITH**

Upon motion (Hudak-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote authorizing the township manager to advertise an ordinance amending Ordinance 8-97, the Bethlehem Township Zoning Ordinance; Chapter 275, Zoning; of the Township of Bethlehem Code of Ordinances, as amended, by amending various sections of Article II, Terminology; Article VIII, Neighborhood Commercial District; Article XXVI, Neighborhood Enhancement Overlay District; and Article XX, Additional requirements for specific uses; and repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith.

MOTION

A MOTION EXTENDING THE DEVELOPER’S OBLIGATION TO COMPLETE IMPROVEMENTS, PURSUANT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, TO DECEMBER 31, 2026, FOR 1932 FARMERSVILLE ROAD SUBDIVISION PLAN

Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote extending the developer’s obligation to complete improvements, pursuant to the land development agreement, to December 31, 2026, for 1932 Farmersville Road Subdivision Plan.

MOTION

A MOTION EXTENDING THE DEVELOPER’S OBLIGATION TO COMPLETE IMPROVEMENTS, PURSUANT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, FOR RIVER HILL ESTATES SUBDIVISION PLAN

Mr. Gallagher recommended amending the extension to June 30, 2026. Upon motion (Deckman-Gallagher) the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to amend the motion accordingly.

Upon motion (Deckman-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote extending the developer’s obligation to complete improvements, pursuant to the land development agreement, to June 30, 2026, as amended, for River Hill Estates Subdivision Plan.

**RESOLUTIONS OF
THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION R027-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO UTILIZE MUNICIBID ON-LINE GOVERNMENT AUCTION SERVICE FOR THE SALE OF TOWNSHIP-OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY

Mr. Merhottein said the county expressed interest in the portable bathroom trailer and asked it be removed from the list.

Upon motion (Merhottein-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to remove the portable restroom trailer from the municibid list and amend Resolution R027-26.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R027-26 authorizing the township manager to utilize Municibid on-line government auction service for

the sale of township-owned personal property, as amended.

RESOLUTION R028-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF PALMER WITH RESPECT TO FIRE INVESTIGATOR SERVICES

Upon motion (Lawrence-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R028-26 authorizing the entering into of a memorandum of understanding with the Township of Palmer with respect to fire investigator services.

MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MOTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LAUDONE & ASSOCIATES, INC., TO PERFORM APPRAISAL SERVICES

Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote authorizing the township manager to enter into an agreement with Laudone & Associates, Inc., to perform appraisal services.

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING A SCREENING CAPABILITIES PROPOSAL FROM INTERCOUNTY SOLUTIONS, INC. TO CONDUCT A BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION ON A CANDIDATE FOR TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote approving a screening capabilities proposal from Intercounty Solutions, Inc. to conduct a background investigation on a candidate for township manager.

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING AN ACCESS AND HOLD HARMLESS INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTACHING AN AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER CAMERA TO A TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE

Mr. Gallagher said he had questions on how the data will be collected and the purpose of it. He recommended the board table this agreement.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to table an access and hold harmless indemnification agreement between Bethlehem Township and Northampton County for the purpose of attaching an Automated License Plate Reader Camera to a traffic signal pole.

MOTION

A MOTION TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL ADDENDUM FROM WHITESTONE ASSOCIATES, INC., CONFIRMING BUDGET REVISIONS TO THE PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT FOR THE ARCHIBALD JOHNSTON MANSION SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Upon motion (Lawrence-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to accept a proposal addendum from Whitestone

Associates, Inc., confirming budget revisions to the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the Archibald Johnston Mansion Site Improvements.

MOTION

A MOTION TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL FROM WHITESTONE ASSOCIATES, INC. TO CONDUCT A HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS SURVEY FOR THE ARCHIBALD JOHNSTON MANSION SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Gallagher said the proposal included some work that had already been done and believes the proposal should be renegotiated to reflect that. He recommended the board table the proposal.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to table the proposal from Whitestone Associates, Inc. to conduct a hazardous building materials survey for the Archibald Johnston Mansion Site Improvements.

RESOLUTION

A MOTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PALMER TOWNSHIP AND BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP REGARDING FIRE INVESTIGATION SERVICES AND ATTACHED TO RESOLUTION R028-26.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote authorizing and approving a memorandum of understanding between Palmer Township and Bethlehem Township regarding fire investigation services and attach to Resolution R028-26.

PURCHASE ORDERS

**PO 20260420 – PALMERI TRANSPORTATION, INC. – BTCC – \$2,321.42
PO 20260443 – HAB-MISC – FINANCE – \$41,394.88
PO 20260444 – NEARMAP US, INC. – PPIS –\$9,326.04
PO 20260445 – MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC. – FINANCE – \$132,598.99
PO 20260446 – MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC. – FINANCE – \$123,117.96
PO 20260465 – COMPUTING TECHNOLOGIES, LLC – PPIS – \$13,365.11
PO 20260466 – KOCH 33 FORD – PPIS – \$46,427.00
PO 20260467 – MILLER MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, LLC – PW – \$19,887.98
PO 20260468 – GROFF TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT – PW – \$14,423.82
PO 20260471 – NAZARETH FORD – BTPD – \$3,800.72**

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

DISCUSSION ITEM

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL EARTH DAY COSTS

Mr. Merhottein said the Environmental Advisory Council is requesting reimbursement for up to \$500.00 in costs of Earth Day printing and displays.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to reimburse the Environmental Advisory Council up to \$500.00 for the costs related to Earth Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary

