

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT John K. Gallagher, Vice President
Matthew C. Deckman, Commissioner
DeAnn L. Lawrence, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT John J. Merhottein, President
Michael D. Hudak, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT Anthony Giovannini, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Samantha Smith, Community Development Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

**STEVE KRENTLER
1315 FARMERSVILLE
ROAD** Mr. Krentler said the concrete wall by his house has been hit three times in the past year in snowy conditions, including once this past weekend. One of the vehicles was a township fire truck. In the 26 years he spent at this house, the concrete wall has been hit eight times. Mr. Krentler spoke with Public Works Director Rich Kanaskie about treating the road before the snow. Mr. Krentler said he would like to work with Commissioner Deckman to find a solution.

**BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth shared the same concern as Mr. Krentler. He said that part of Farmersville Road is a snow emergency route. Mr. Roth asked why simple dump truck repairs are not done in-house as the township has two mechanics. He said it is costly to send them out to dealerships. Mr. Gallagher asked Mr. Bruce to look into it.

**ROY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth asked why a police officer is present at the board meetings. He believes the officer should be out on patrol. Mr. Bruce said a police officer is present for safety reasons.

Mr. Roth said he would like to see containers placed within the township for appliances and large furniture instead of having those items dumped. Lastly, Mr. Roth said there is a “free right turn” at the industrial park and vehicles don’t stop before proceeding. He said if the police don’t want to cite them, they should give them a warning. Mr. Gallagher said he will speak to the chief about his concern.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the January 20, 2025 regular public meeting minutes. Mr. Merhottein and Mr. Hudak were absent.

**SUBDIVISIONS &
LAND
DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING IMPROVEMENTS SECURITY RELEASE CERTIFICATION NO. 2, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 40,777.00, FOR THE 2685 OPUS WAY PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Smith Standard security release for the developer who has completed infrastructure improvements. There is maintenance period as no improvements were required.

Upon motion (Lawrence-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Improvements Security Release Certification No. 2, in the amount of \$ 40,777.00, for the 2685 Opus Way parking improvements. Mr. Merhottein and Mr. Hudak were absent.

MOTION

A MOTION TO EXTEND THE DEVELOPER'S OBLIGATION TO COMPLETE IMPROVEMENTS, PURSUANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, FOR THE 4550 FALMER DRIVE APARTMENTS TO JUNE 1, 2025

Mr. Gallagher said this is standard time extension to complete infrastructure improvements by a developer. Ms. Smith added that they are just about finished with the project. The weather has delayed the plantings.

Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to extend the developer's obligation to complete improvements, pursuant to the development agreement, for the 4550 Falmer Drive apartments to June 1, 2025. Mr. Merhottein and Mr. Hudak were absent.

MOTION

A MOTION APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP AND FREEMANSBURG BOROUGH, AND FREEMANSBURG INDUSTRIAL LLC REGARDING ALLOCATION OF TAXES AT THE FREEMANSBURG INDUSTRIAL LLC PROPERTY AT 1600 FREEMANSBURG AVENUE

Mr. Gallagher said this agreement is between the township, Freemansburg, and the developer of the Freemansburg Industrial warehouse to split real estate taxes between the two municipalities. Ms. Smith added that emergency services will be shared.

Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve an intermunicipal agreement between Bethlehem Township and Freemansburg Borough, and Freemansburg Industrial LLC regarding allocation of taxes at the Freemansburg Industrial LLC property at 1600 Freemansburg Avenue. Mr. Merhottein and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION R016-25

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND SUBMITTING TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR ITS APPROVAL A REVISED ACT 537 OFFICIAL SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN DATED JANUARY 2025

Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R016-25 adopting and submitting to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for its

approval a revised Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan dated January 2025. Mr. Merhottein and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTION R017-25 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF SAMANTHA SMITH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, AT THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE MARCH 28-31, 2025, IN DENVER, COLORADO

Upon motion (Lawrence-Deckman), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R017-25 authorizing the attendance of Samantha Smith, Community Development Director, at the American Planning Association national conference March 28-31, 2025, in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Merhottein and Mr. Hudak were absent.

RESOLUTION R018-25 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO UTILIZE MUNICIBID ON-LINE GOVERNMENT AUCTION SERVICE FOR THE SALE OF TOWNSHIP-OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY

Mr. Gallagher said the township is prepared to auction off some surplus property, including three vehicles:

- N/A Rels Manufacturing Brake Lathe Inoperable N/
- N/A Coats RC-15A Tire Changer Fair N/
- N/A Accu-Turn Wheel Balancer Fair N/A
- 1994 Kodiak Tag-Trailer Unknown Mileage 1VG1K624RM164620
- 2001 GMC Sierra 1500 109,835 1GTEC14VX1Z30314
- 2003 S & L Tag-Trailer Unknown Mileage 1S9E061613148902
- 2003 GMC Sierra 3500 115,464 1GDJK34123E22866
- 2008 GMC Sierra 3500 83,777 1GDJK33688F217428
- 2008 Leer 6.5' Truck Cap Fair N/A

**GLENN KRIER
3942 KENRICK DR.**

Mr. Krier asked if Municibid gets paid. Mr. Bruce said they get a percentage but was unsure how much. Mr. Kreier asked Mr. Bruce to find out the exact percentage.

**BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth believes all vehicles and township owned property should go to auction once a year. Mr. Bruce asked why. Mr. Roth said the recycling center has too many items stored there and is starting to look like a junk yard.

Upon motion (Deckman-Lawrence), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R018-25 authorizing the township manager to utilize Municibid on-line government auction service for the sale of township-owned personal property. Mr. Merhottein and Mr. Hudak were absent.

PURCHASE ORDERS

PO 20250247 – CHAPMAN AUTO GROUP – PW – \$76,415.00
PO 20250249 – HYDRA-NUMATIC SALES – PPIS – \$2,327.58
PO 20250264 – WIND GAP ELECTRIC – PPIS – \$5,243.82
PO 20250271 – M&J OUTDOOR SERVICE – PW – \$10,492.00
PO 20250272 – MILLER MUNICIPAL SUPPLY – PW – \$13,739.15
PO 20250273 – TRIUS – PW – \$85,737.00
PO 20250279 – METZ INC. – BTCC – \$7,516.00
PO 20250295 – H. T. LYONS – PPIS – \$20,946.35
PO 20250296 – EAST COAST FLOORS – PPIS – \$2,220.16
PO 20250297 – AMCHAR WHOLESALE – BTPD – \$2,660.00

PO 20250298 – AXON ENTERPRISES – BTPD -- \$39,412.06
PO 20250299 – INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATIONS – BTPD – \$39,269.00

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary