

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
MAY 16, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John J. Merhottein, President  
Malissa K. Davis, Vice President  
Jan Beatty, Commissioner  
John K. Gallagher, Commissioner  
Dale A. Sourbeck, Commissioner (via Zoom)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

James L. Broughal, Township Solicitor  
Doug Bruce, Township Manager  
Amanda Raudenbush, Planning Director  
Ron Gawlik, Township Engineer  
Matthew Giovannini Jr., Court Reporter

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Merhottein called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Solicitor Broughal announced that the Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session on May 16, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and personnel issues pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

**MOTION TO ADD ITEM  
TO THE AGENDA**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE BTMA CFA FLOOD MITIGATION  
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR WALNUT STREET  
PROJECT**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Davis), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to add to the agenda the letter of support for the BTMA CFA Flood Mitigation Program Grant Application for Walnut Street Project.

**COURTESY OF THE  
FLOOR**

**BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth said that the old trolley track, the stretch of land between Ohio Street and Pennsylvania Street which is township property, has had cars and trucks parked on it. He said the heavy vehicles cause ruts which the public works department has to come out and clean up. Mr. Roth asked the board to post "no parking" signs.

**KATE DURSO, ESQUIRE**

Attorney Durso said her client, Allentown SMSA Limited Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless, LP, has an application pending before the Zoning Hearing Board on May 25, 2022 seeking relief concerning the property located at 4114 Birch Drive. She wanted to provide this information to the board and answer any questions that they may have. The board had no questions or concerns.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 regular public meeting. The motion passed 4-0-1. Mr. Merhottein abstained.

**PRESENTATION**

**BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS – PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Michael McGuire, PE, Consultant Project Manager, and Quentin Rissler, PE, of Larson Design Group gave a presentation on the bridge replacement projects in the township. The three bridges identified are SR 2031-01B (Country Club Road) over US 22, SR 2029-0B (Farmersville Road) over US 22 and SR 2027-01B (Hecktown Road) over US 22. Mr. McGuire said the bridges are state-owned and are old and the purpose is to provide regional mobility. The bridges will be constructed separately beginning 2023 with detours and overnight closure of US 22 during construction. Ms. Davis asked how long construction will take. Mr. Rissler said it would be approximately one year per project. Mr. Gallagher said he would like to see the bridge improved with a bike lane. Mr. Merhottein asked if all three bridges could be done at the same time. Mr. McGuire said federal funding is needed for each of the bridges.

**KATHY GLAGOLA  
4020 FARMERSVILLE RD.**

Ms. Glagola asked if they needed to obtain a right-of-way from the residents closest to the bridges. Mr. Rissler said they are only taking a very minimal amount of property.

**JOHN GLAGOLA  
4020 FARMERSVILLE RD.**

Mr. Glagola asked what the cost of the project. Mr. Rissler said it was approximately \$4 million for the bridge on Country Club Road which obtained 100% federal funding. The bridges on Hecktown Road and Farmersville Road will receive 80% federal funding with a 20% match by the state. Mr. Glagola asked if the state was doing anything to prevent cars from going into Green Pond. Mr. McGuire said this would not affect Green Pond.

**BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth suggested that guard rails be installed near Green Pond. He also asked if there were plans to replace the bridge on Bethman Road. Mr. McGuire said he was unaware of any projects for the bridge.

Ms. Raudenbush said she and township staff will be meeting with PennDOT to discuss further.

**PUBLIC HEARNG**

**CONDITIONAL USE  
HEARING**

**J.G. PETRUCCI INC. SEEKING CONDITIONAL USE OF DELIVERY  
VEHICLE PARKING LOT FOR MOWRER ROAD PROPERTY**

Solicitor Broughal said the board will render a decision at the June 6, 2022, Board of Commissioners' regular public meeting. He explained that all questions and concerns are to be addressed at the hearing tonight. A court reporter attended to provide a transcript of the hearing.

**SUBDIVISIONS & LAND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**RESOLUTION R053-22**

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING PRELIMINARY/FINAL PLAN  
APPROVAL FOR 2300 HIGHLAND AVENUE**

Ms. Raudenbush said the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the plan at their April 25, 2022 meeting.

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R053-22 granting preliminary/final plan approval for 2300 Highland Avenue.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING IMPROVEMENT SECURITY RELEASE CERTIFICATION #8, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$121,107.69, FOR RIVER HILL ESTATES**

Ms. Raudenbush said the security is for stormwater improvements. Mr. Merhottein asked how much security remained. Ms. Raudenbush said \$2,385,705.48 is left.

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion approving Improvement Security Release Certification #8, in the amount of \$121,107.69, for River Hill Estates.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION R052-22**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Gallagher said this appointment would fill the seventh and final voting position on the council and three non-voting positions remain. He asked Mr. Bruce to contact the local college and high school of the available positions.

Upon motion (Beatty-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R052-22 appointing Barbara Lazar to the Bethlehem Township Environmental Advisory Council.

**RESOLUTION R054-22**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

Upon motion (Davis-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R053-22 appointing Michael W. LaPorta, Jr. as alternate member to the Bethlehem Township Civil Service Commission.

**MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE TV INC. A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO ERECT, INSTALL, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE CABLE SERVICE IN, UNDER, OVER, ALONG, ACROSS, AND UPON THE STREETS, SIDEWALKS, ALLEYS, BRIDGES, ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM AND SUBSEQUENT ANNEXATIONS THERETO, INCLUDING IN CONNECTION THEREWITH THE RIGHT AND PERMISSION TO ERECT, INSTALL,**

**AND MAINTAIN POLES AND TO INSTALL, ATTACH, AND MAINTAIN WIRES, CABLES, APPLIANCES, AND OTHER FACILITIES TO SUCH POLES AND TO EXISTING UTILITY POLES FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CABLE SERVICE; TO PROVIDE RECEPTION SERVICE FOR THE SAME TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DESIRING SUCH SERVICE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS, SETTING FORTH CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF THE SAID FRANCHISE; PROVIDING FOR TOWNSHIP REGULATION AND USE OF THE SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS**

Solicitor Broughal said both the old version and the revised version were presented to the board to show that the changes are minimal. The fee is 5% for both Service Electric and RCN. Mr. Gallagher asked if it changes the monopoly situation. Solicitor Broughal said this was not a monopoly.

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion authorizing the advertisement of an ordinance granting to Service Electric Cable TV Inc. a non-exclusive franchise to erect, install, maintain, and operate cable service in, under, over, along, across, and upon the streets, sidewalks, alleys, bridges, roads, highways, and other public places in the Township of Bethlehem and subsequent annexations thereto, including in connection therewith the right and permission to erect, install, and maintain poles and to install, attach, and maintain wires, cables, appliances, and other facilities to such poles and to existing utility poles for the purpose of transmission and distribution of cable service; to provide reception service for the same to the members of the public desiring such service in the Township of Bethlehem, and for other purposes for a period of years, setting forth conditions accompanying the grant of the said franchise; providing for township regulation and use of the system, and providing penalties for violations.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPOINTING A CHAIRPERSON OF THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion appointing Brian Hillard chairperson of the Bethlehem Township Environmental Advisory Committee.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Davis), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a letter of support for the BTMA CFA Flood Mitigation program grant application for Walnut Street project

**APPROVAL OF BILL  
AGENDA OF  
MAY 11, 2022**

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the Bill Agenda of May 11, 2022.

**APPROVAL OF  
PURCHASE ORDERS**

**PO 20221097 – SEALMASTER – PW – \$2,115.95  
PO 20221158 – WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GRP – BTPD – \$24,734.25**

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice to approve Purchase Orders 20221097 and 20221158 as presented.

**APPROVAL OF  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
OF APRIL 30, 2022**

Upon motion (Davis-Sourbeck), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the Treasurer's Report of April 30, 2022 as presented, subject to audit.

**ZONING HEARING  
BOARD MEETING OF  
MAY 25, 2022**

Ms. Raudenbush said the applicants on the agenda are Verizon and Posh Properties and TSV/CVN St. Luke's. The township will have legal representation at the hearing.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Mr. Gallagher asked for clarification on the stormwater portion of the finance report. He also commented that news the officers graduating from the police academy is a big deal and should be made public. Mr. Sourbeck said it should go in the newsletter as well. All monthly reports were accepted.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**VOLUNTEER  
RECOGNITION**

Ms. Davis said she would like to recognize the people who have volunteered on the various commissions and committees, perhaps during the Community Days festival. The board agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Mr. Merhottein adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata  
Recording Secretary