



# BETHEL TOWNSHIP

**DELAWARE COUNTY**

**1092 BETHEL ROAD**

**GARNET VALLEY, PA 19060**

## **Board of Supervisors**

Michael J. Davey, Esq., Chairman  
Alex Giribaldi, Esq., Vice Chairman  
Michael W. Schneider, P.E.  
Jean Gallagher Stoyer, Esq.

Phone: (610) 459-1529  
Fax: (610) 459-2921  
[www.twp.bethel.pa.us](http://www.twp.bethel.pa.us)

## **BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS November 12, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at the John Myers Building, 1092 Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, Pennsylvania.

### **PRESENT:**

Michael J. Davey, Esq., Chairman  
Alex Giribaldi, Esq., Vice Chairman  
Michael W. Schneider, P.E., Supervisor  
Jean Gallagher Stoyer, Esq., Supervisor  
William Addison, Township Manager  
Michael Maddren, Solicitor  
Matthew Houtmann, P.E., Engineer  
Peter Barsz, CPA, Treasurer

### **OBSERVERS:**

Approximately 12 citizens were in attendance.

### **The Regular, November 12, 2019, Board of Supervisors meeting convened at 7:30 PM.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Michael J. Davey requested everyone please silence all electronic equipment and announced the presence of a recording device for the purpose of minute taking. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved at the following meeting.

An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Michael J. Davey asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting held on October 22, 2019.

**Motion:** On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the October 22, 2019 meeting minutes were approved, as presented.

Community Comment:

**Joe Thurstlic**, 3716 Knole Lane, referenced Resolution 2019-14 in the minutes, stating that the wording was ambiguous, making it difficult to interpret. Solicitor Mike Maddren explained that the Resolution would be in the minutes book for the record. He further explained that each transfer is a three-step process: first the money is transferred from the surplus account to revenue, then the money is transferred from revenue to the corresponding line item. Treasurer Peter Barsz added that this transfer was to offset the excess expenditures.

In consideration of Mr. Thurstlic's comment,

**Motion:** On a motion by Michael J. Davey, seconded by Alex Giribaldi and carried unanimously, the minutes from October 22<sup>nd</sup> were amended to read, "the transfer of funds from revenues to offset expenses in the corresponding line items," as presented.

**Motion:** On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the amended October 22, 2019, meeting minutes were approved.

Michael J. Davey asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Budget Meeting held on October 22, 2019.

**Motion:** On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer, and carried unanimously, the minutes from the Special Budget Meeting held on October 22, 2019, were approved as presented.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

No Presentations were provided.

**REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Peter Barsz read the October 2019 Treasurer's Report. Details by fund are included within the attached report which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection.

Michael J. Davey asked for a motion to approve the October 2019 Treasurer's Report and to pay all bills.

**Motion:** On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the October 2019 Treasurer's Report and the payment of all bills were approved, as presented.

**FINANCE/AUDIT/TAXES:**

Michael J. Davey read the October 2019 Tax Collector's Report. Details are included within the attached report which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection. Michael J. Davey then turned the floor over to the Tax Collector, Ed Plasha, who had nothing else to report.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Police: Township Manager Bill Addison read the October 2019 Police Report. The report concluded that the Bethel Township Police Department responded to 254 calls for service during the month of October. The Department also issued twenty (20) traffic citations and six (6) warnings. The Department responded to fourteen (14) motor vehicle accidents, twelve (12) domestic disturbances, and three (3) disturbances/fight calls. The Department also opened three (3) fraud investigations, one (1) theft investigation and two (2) assault investigations. Lastly, the Department participated in the Safe Stop Program, Bethel Springs Elementary School's Trunk or Treat, and presented the first graders of Bethel Springs with word detective badges.

Chief Sharp added that some vehicles were recently broken into in the Greenbriar neighborhood. He noted that all the break ins were at night and all the vehicles appeared to be left unlocked. Next, he shared that the Department had participated in the state-wide Safe Stop Program. The Department has been working with the school to identify areas of concern for school bus safety. They have been following buses and monitoring the school zone for traffic violations. Lastly, the Department was invited to Bethel Springs Elementary School to participate in a word detective workshop with the first graders. Following completion of the exercise, the Police Department issued word detective badges to the students.

**Motion:** On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Michael Schneider and carried unanimously, Resolution 2019-16; approving the transfer of funds for the lease of a new Police Utility Vehicle, subject to financing not to exceed \$42,000, including the trade-in of a current Police Utility Vehicle; was approved as presented.

Bethel Hose Co. #1: Michael Schneider read the report for the month of October 2019. The Bethel Township Hose Company #1 responded to two (2) motor vehicle accidents, six (6) medical assist calls, ten (10) miscellaneous alarms, and nine (9) mutual aid calls during the month of October.

This month, the Bethel Township Hose Company reminded all residents to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as they change their clocks. If any residents need assistance in doing this, please contact the Fire Department for assistance. Additionally, with the holiday season now here, there is typically an increase in kitchen fires, please use caution while cooking and be sure to never leave stoves on unattended. Lastly, the members of the Bethel Hose Company would like to wish all residents a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

## **FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:**

Highway: Jean Gallagher Stoyer read the October 2019 Highway Report. In October, the Highway Department set up picnic tables and transported tents, folding tables, and other equipment to the Fire House for the Bethel Township Preservation Society's annual Founder's Day. The Department also serviced all trucks and put salt spreaders, spinners, and plows on the trucks in preparation for winter weather. Lastly, the Department cleared storm drains and picked up a downed speed limit sign on Colonial Drive, which is set for replacement next week.

Jean Gallagher Stoyer then explained that she had two motions for the Highway Department. First, there was a small sink hole reported on Wendy Way recently.

**Motion:** On a motion by Jean Gallagher Stoyer, seconded by Alex Giribaldi and carried unanimously, authorization to contract MOR Construction Services for road repair on Wendy Way in an amount not to exceed \$6,800.00 was approved as presented.

**Motion:** On a motion by Jean Gallagher Stoyer, seconded by Michael Schneider and carried unanimously, the purchase of radios for the Road Crew in an amount not to exceed \$6,300.00 was approved as presented.

Jean Gallagher Stoyer further explained that the radios would be purchased using funds from the annual Liquid Fuels allocation.

Building & Grounds: Jean Gallagher Stoyer read the October 2019 Building and Grounds report. The report highlighted that Climate Control will be starting repair work on the heating duct system in the Police Station on November 6<sup>th</sup> and Dynamic Roofing will begin on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, the Police Station will be running on electric heat until further repairs are made on the geothermal condenser. Jean Gallagher Stoyer then took a moment to wish Bethel Township's Roadmaster, Frank Starr, a Happy Birthday!

### **INSPECTIONS:**

Plumbing: Michael J. Davey read the October 2019 Plumbing Report. The report highlighted that twelve (12) mechanical permits and seven (7) plumbing permits were issued in October. Details are included within the attached report which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection.

Building: Michael J. Davey read the October 2019 Building Inspector's report. The report highlighted that thirty-seven (37) items were addressed in October, including seven (7) building permits, six (6) electrical permits, fourteen (14) occupancy permits, and two (2) zoning permits. Details are included within the attached report which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection.

Zoning: Michael J. Davey read the October 2019 Zoning Officer report. The report highlighted that twelve (12) items were addressed in October, including two (2) deck/patio permits, one (1) addition/shed/porch permit, two (2) new construction applications, two (2) miscellaneous items, and three (3) complaints. Details are included within the attached report which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection.

### **BOARDS:**

Parks & Recreation Board: Jean Gallagher Stoyer read the October 2019 Parks report. The report highlighted that the newly purchased fountain for John Adkinson Park should arrive by the end of November. Additionally, several trees that had fallen into the play area at Jack King Park were cut. Lastly, the six picnic tables approved for purchase at last month's meeting were ordered and will be delivered in the middle of November. The new tables will be stored behind the Township's salt shed.

Jean Gallagher Stoyer then read the October 2019 Parks and Recreation Board report. The Parks and Recreation Board will be hosting its Lunch with Santa and Annual Tree Lighting events on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Lunch with Santa will be held at Bethel Springs Elementary School from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, and the Annual Tree Lighting Event will be held at 5:00 PM at Bethel Community Park. Jean also shared that Boy Scout, Michael Colvito, presented at the

last Parks and Recreation meeting regarding his project on the Little Free Libraries. The Supervisors have since approved that proposal in concept, and the Parks and Recreation Board will continue to work with Michael to implement that project. Jean then turned the floor over to Donna Silvestri, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. Donna shared that the Board recently participated in Trunk or Treat at Bethel Springs. The event was a huge success.

Zoning Hearing Board: Alex Giribaldi read the Zoning Hearing Board report for the month of October. The Board had nothing on the agenda in October, and, at this time, there is nothing on the agenda for November. Alex then opened the floor to the Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board, Garry Lanahan. Garry Lanahan said there was nothing further to report.

Planning Commission: Michael J. Davey read the October 2019 Planning Commission report. Project PC 2015-5, Iacobucci Homes (Garnet Reserve), recently discovered several typographical errors with the metes and bounds information for three lots. The applicant revised the final plans and appeared before the Planning Commission for an amended plan review. The amended plan was also reviewed by the Township Engineer who concurred that the errors were merely typographical. The Planning Commission recommended amended plan approval to the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Lou Torrieri had nothing to add to the report.

Michael J. Davey explained that in September the Planning Commission recommended final plan approval for project PC 2019-01, 2029 Foulk Road, Parking Lot Expansion and Driveway Relocation at the office of Dr. Tim Martin. Tonight, the Supervisors will need to make a motion on this plan. Township Engineer, Matt Houtmann, explained that this plan will include the reconfiguration of an existing parking lot. The driveway will be moved to the far left side to improve the site distance of the driveway and allow for the addition of six (6) more spots.

**Motion:** On a motion by Michael J. Davey, seconded by Michael Schneider and carried unanimously, Resolution 2019-15 granting approval for PC 2019-01 was approved subject to the presented conditions.

Sewer Authority: Alex Giribaldi stated that there was no report for the Sewer Authority this month as they are set to meet on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

## **EDUCATION:**

Garnet Valley School District: Jean Gallagher Stoyer read the October 2019 report. The Garnet Valley High School will be hosting a Canned Food Drive from November 18<sup>th</sup> through November 22<sup>nd</sup>; to donate, contact Garnet Valley High School. Additionally, the Garnet Valley Performing Arts Association will be putting on its rendition of the *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Tickets are available online or at the box office. Jean Gallagher Stoyer also noted that she had the pleasure of interviewing candidates for the Junior Supervisor position. The Board will be appointing a Junior Supervisor during the December meeting.

Rachel Kohl Library: Michael Schneider read the Rachel Kohl Library Report for November 2019. On November 13, at 1:00 PM, the Library will be showing *Yesterday* in a movie matinee for adults. On November 18<sup>th</sup> and November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM, the Library will be hosting Chair Yoga (registration is required). Lastly, on November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM, the afternoon book club will be reading and discussing *Educated* by Tara Westover, and the evening book club will be reading and discussing *Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis.

## **TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Bill Addison read the October 2019 Manager's Report. Details are included within the attached report, which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

SkyShooters Pyrotechnics: Michael J. Davey explained that it is that time of year again to enter into a contract for the Annual Fourth of July fireworks show put on by the Bethel Township Parks and Recreation Board. To lock in the price this year, the Supervisors would need to enter into the contract before December.

**Motion:** On a motion by Michael Schneider, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the agreement with SkyShooters Pyrotechnics LLC for the 2020 fireworks display was approved in an amount not to exceed \$8,100.00, pending Solicitor approval.

Advertisement of Ordinance 229: Michael J. Davey explained that, with several new developments over the past several years, the Township is in need of an updated Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance. This Ordinance will provide updated inventories of the Township's stop signs and traffic signals.

**Motion:** On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Michael Schneider and carried unanimously, the advertisement of Ordinance 229, Vehicle and Traffic Code, was approved as presented.

## **Community Comments:**

**Steve Mancini**, 204 Half Mile Post S, asked if the Board of Supervisors had advertised for new Auditors, as they are required to do so 30 days in advance of the end of their term. Solicitor Michael Maddren stated that he advertised in the *Daily Times* already.

**Joe Thurstlic**, 3716 Knole Lane, commented on the 2020 proposed budget. His first questions related around the Trash Fund. Joe recognized that the Township had accumulated a surplus over the past several years; however, next year the expenditures will exceed revenues. Joe stated that he went over this with the Treasurer. He further stated that the expenditures exceed the revenues again; we will reach the point of not being able to service our invoices.

Michael J. Davey responded that the expenditures have spiraled this year due to factors outside the Board's control. One thing that the Board is likely to do next year is to put out another Request for Proposal to see if we can get better rates. Rates are not anticipated to be better, but it is worth a shot. The issue with the Trash Fund is that there are only two ways that the fund does not become insolvent:

1. Raise revenues by raising the trash fee
2. Decrease expenditures by cutting a service such as recycling

Recycling cost around \$170,000.00 this year, and, unfortunately, the most things people recycle today are not actually recycled, ending up in landfills. China has stopped being a repository of the world's recycling, making it more difficult to recycle. The Township is aware of this trend, and it is something they are actively looking into.

Joe further asserted that this is an issue that needs to be addressed now. Michael J. Davey agreed.

Joe Thurstlic further stated that ten years ago the Township had funds, and it did not take action leading to an unprecedented rate increase in 2011. He asserted that something needs to be done so this does not happen again.

Michael J. Davey further agreed and stated that the Board plans to address this as they do not wish to impose a fee increase.

Joe Thurstlic's next comment was in regards to the General Fund Revenue Account. He reported that he performed an analysis from the public financial records and reviewed them with the Township Treasurer. Joe stated that the adjusted income has flatlined and the expenditures have gone up. Administration has gone up 24% in the past three years. Consequently, the adjusted surplus is going down substantially. Joe maintained that with a 5% to 6% inflation rate, and growth, the surplus would be depleted in five to six years. With the projected growth and the suggested land acquisition, the revenue account would be completely depleted. Joe suggested that the belt be tightened on expenditures and that the Township not move forward with the land acquisition. Joe further explained that with these improvements the Township could implement a 10% real estate tax deduction. He further asserted that there was a 125% tax increase to residents in 2011. The estimation was double what was necessary and created a tremendous surplus.

Michael J. Davey thanked Joe for his thorough analysis. He recognized that these decisions are clearly not easy. The Township has gone a decade without raising taxes and without reducing services. The Township budget for 2020 is very conservative, but there are a lot of unknowns. Mike further stated that there were thirty odd homes being constructed by the end of this year, but, beyond that, the County Reassessment will also have an impact. The Township will continue to look at the budget and look ahead. Michael J. Davey further said that he could not comment on the land acquisition due to a conflict of interest, but he and the Board do greatly appreciate his time and consideration.

Joe Thurstlic asked when the five-year budget project would be available. Amanda Gattuso, a member of the Bethel Township Treasury staff, recognized that this was not a formal report but rather an internal assessment.

Michael J. Davey further stated that, if the Township is to go forward with the acquisition, other revenue options will be explored, such as grants.

**Steve Mancini**, 204 Half Mile Post S, questioned, for a land acquisition the size of Bethel Township, if a bond issue referendum to fund the acquisition would make more sense as opposed to running it out of the operational budget. Solicitor Mike Maddren recognized that through the Delaware Valley Regional Financing Authority it would probably make more sense to do it as a loan because rates are currently so low.

Joe Thurstlic chimed in that the Township would still be paying the loan at an interest rate and would be swapping liquid assets for non-liquid assets.

Michael J. Davey stated that he understood and asked if there were any further public comments or questions.

Michael J. Davey stated that he had one further comment. The Township has two stray dogs that are under the care of the Brandywine Veterinary Hospital, Morty and Petunia. Both dogs are up for adoption and have been in care since August.

Gerri Crawford, Bethel Road, asked what the alternative to adoption would be for the dogs if nobody adopts them.

Michael J. Davey stated that the alternative would be that nobody would be able to adopt them.

Lastly, Michael J. Davey wished all Bethel Township residents a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

The next Bethel Township Board of Supervisors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Yurkovich