



BETHEL TOWNSHIP

DELAWARE COUNTY

1092 BETHEL ROAD

GARNET VALLEY, PA 19060

Board of Supervisors

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

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BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS December 10, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS was held on Tuesday, December 10, 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
Giovanna Iacono, P.E., MBA, Supervisor
William Addison, Township Manager
Michael Maddren, Esq., Solicitor
Matthew Houtmann, P.E., Engineer

OBSERVERS:

Approximately 33 citizens were in attendance.

The Regular, December 10, 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.

Michael J. Davey welcomed Giovanna Iacono as the newest Bethel Township Supervisor. He explained that Giovanna was appointed in the Special Reorganization Meeting held on November 21, 2019.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Michael J. Davey asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting held on November 12, 2019.

Motion: On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the November 12, 2019, meeting minutes were approved, as presented.

Michael J. Davey then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Reorganization Meeting held on November 21, 2019.

Motion: On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the minutes from the Special Reorganization Meeting held on November 21, 2019, were approved, as presented.

PRESENTATIONS:

No Presentations were provided.

SWEARINGS IN:

With the arrival of the Honorable Judge Wendy B. Roberts, the swearing in of a new Junior Supervisor and two Bethel Township Police Officers were moved ahead in the agenda.

Michael J. Davey recognized that there were three individuals to be sworn in tonight. First, the Board of Supervisors would be swearing in Ramsey Smith as the new Junior Supervisor for the 2019-2020 term.

Judge Wendy B. Roberts then swore in Ramsey Smith as the new Junior Supervisor.

Next, Michael J. Davey recognized that he would need a motion to approve the hire of Michael Oulouhojian and Edward Brooks.

Motion: On a motion by Giovanna Iacono, seconded by Alex Giribaldi and carried unanimously, Michael Oulouhojian and Edward Brooks were hired at a rate of \$18.38 per hour, as presented.

Judge Wendy B. Roberts then swore in Michael Oulouhojian and Edward Brooks as the newest members of the Bethel Township Police Force.

PRESENTATIONS:

No Presentations were provided.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Peter Barsz read the November 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 November 2019 Treasurer's Report and to pay all bills.

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

FINANCE/AUDIT/TAXES:

Michael J. Davey explained that the Township had presented and advertised the 2020 Preliminary Budget in the September 10, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting. Tonight, the Board would be voting to accept the 2020 Budget.

Community Comment:

Elizabeth Rakus, 2067 Foulk Road, asked why the Township Manager is getting almost a 10% wage increase, as where most people typically only get 2 or 3%. She also noted that the Chief of Police was only getting a \$1,000 increase in his yearly salary.

Michael J. Davey explained that the Board of Supervisors aims to keep salaries competitive with the marketplace. The Township Manager's salary was much lower than that of similar surrounding townships. The decision was in part to remain competitive with the marketplace but also to reward the efforts of the Township Manager.

Michael J. Davey further explained that the Chief of Police is a part-time position and it was provided a 2% cost of living increase, as were the salaries of all other township employee salaries and wages.

With no further comments, Michael J. Davey asked for a motion to accept the 2020 Budget.

Motion: On a motion by Michael Schneider, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the 2020 Budget was approved, as presented.

Michael J. Davey recognized that with the adoption of the 2020 Budget, the 2020 tax rate would also need to be set.

Motion: On a motion by Michael J. Davey, seconded by Michael Schneider and carried unanimously, Resolution 2019-17, setting the 2020 tax rate at 1.865 mills, was approved, as presented.

Michael J. Davey read the November 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 reported that most of the collection activity is currently for school taxes. Michael J. Davey thanked Ed Plasha for all his hard work and outreach this year.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police: Township Manager Bill Addison read the November 2019 Police Report. The report concluded that the Bethel Township Police Department responded to 232 calls for service during the month of November. The Department responded to twenty-one (21) motor vehicle accidents, twenty-four (24) medical emergency calls, fourteen (14) domestic disturbances, and one (1) burglary. The Department also issued twenty (20) traffic citations. The Department also made one (1) arrest for assault, and prepared and completed two (2) arrest warrants and three (3) search warrants. Lastly, the Township had three (3) thefts from vehicles, all of which were left unlocked.

Chief Sharp reminded residents to keep their vehicles locked as the surrounding townships have been heavily hit with theft.

Community Comment:

Steve Mancini, 204 Half Mile Post S, inquired about a Ring video that had been posted on Facebook by the Bethel Township Police Department of a man breaking into a vehicle.

Chief Sharp recognized that the video was from one of the three referenced thefts. He further asserted that the residents of Greenbriar were notified with flyers in their mailboxes regarding the thefts. Chief Sharp added that there has been an Amazon Rebate Scam going around. Luckily, the resident that reported the scam did not lose anything, but all residents should be aware.

Bethel Hose Co. #1: Michael Schneider read the report for the month of November 2019. The Bethel Township Hose Company #1 responded to one (1) building fire, five (5) motor vehicle accidents, eight (8) medical assist calls, eleven (11) miscellaneous alarms, and nine (9) mutual aid calls during the month of November.

This month, the Bethel Township Hose Company reminded all residents to make sure heaters and fireplaces are working properly. When disposing ashes from your fireplace, make sure you do so properly. Lastly, make sure live Christmas trees are watered and lights are not left on too long. The members would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Michael Schneider concluded the report by thanking the Fire Department for all their help at Lunch with Santa and the Annual Tree Lighting, held this past Saturday.

Fire Marshal Brett Small reminded residents to be safe driving in the impending snow.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

Highway: Jean Gallagher Stoyer read the November 2019 Highway Report. In November, the Highway Department replaced a leaking oil tank in Truck 3, removed rust spots from Truck 6, applied undercoating to the trucks to cut down on corrosion, inspected salt spreaders and plows, and had a seat bracket replaced following a recall from Ford Motor Company for the 2019 F350 pickup truck. The Department also repaired lights at Goodley and Bethel Roads and Greystone Drive and Bethel Road. Lastly, new portable radios have arrived and are actively in service.

Building & Grounds: Jean Gallagher Stoyer read the November 2019 Building and Grounds report. The report highlighted many maintenance items for the Police Station, including the installation of a new roof, removal of old insulation and re-insulation of duct work, replacement of damaged ceiling tiles, and replacement of lights that had burned out. Lastly, the geothermal heater started leaking, and a new heater is set to arrive on December 17, 2019. Jean Gallagher Stoyer concluded her reports by thanking Frank Starr and the rest of the Highway Department for all their help with set up and tear down at Lunch with Santa and the Annual Tree Lighting.

INSPECTIONS:

Plumbing: Michael J. Davey read the November 2019 Plumbing Report. The report highlighted that twelve (12) mechanical permits and four (4) plumbing permits were issued in November. 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 November 2019 Building Inspector's report. The report highlighted that fifty-three (53) items were addressed in November, including nine (9) building permits, ten (10) electrical permits, eleven (11) occupancy permits, and six (6) 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 November 2019 Zoning Officer report. The report highlighted that eighteen (18) items were addressed in November, including two (2) deck/patio permits, one (1) addition/shed/porch permit, seven (7) new construction applications, three (3) miscellaneous permits, 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: Alex Giribaldi thanked the Parks and Recreation Board, Fire Company, Police Department, and the Garnet Valley Interact Club for all their help in making Lunch with Santa and the Annual Tree Lighting a huge success. Alex Giribaldi then turned the floor over to Donna Silvestri, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Donna Silvestri thanked the Board of Supervisors for their continued support of the Parks and Recreation Board. Donna added that the books collected from Lunch with Santa went to Delaware County Children and Youth Services and canned goods collected went to the Bethel Food Bank.

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

Planning Commission: Giovanna Iacono read the November 2019 Planning Commission Report. The report highlighted a new application from Nolan-Fidale Funeral Home for a building addition at their 5980 Chichester Avenue property. Additionally, the January Planning Commission meeting will be held on January 8, 2019, as the first Wednesday of the month falls on New Year's Day. Giovanna opened the floor to Chairman of the Planning Commission, Lou Torrieri. Lou thanked Giovanna for her years of service on the Planning Commission and wished her the best as the newest Bethel Township Supervisor.

Michael J. Davey added that the Planning Commission now has a vacancy, due to Giovanna Iacono joining the Board of Supervisors. For anyone who would like to apply, please submit your resume and cover letter to the Township office.

Sewer Authority: Michael Schneider read the November 2019 Sewer Authority report. The report highlighted that the Sewer Authority Board met on November 14 and December 5, 2019. The Board is expecting to take dedication for Belmont phases I and II next month. The Board also applied for an H2O Grant to help offset the costs of their Pyle Road pump improvements.

EDUCATION:

Garnet Valley School District: Jean Gallagher Stoyer thanked to Board of Supervisors for their continued support of the Junior Supervisor Program over the past four years. Then handed the floor over to Ramsey Smith, Bethel Township's new Junior Supervisor. Ramsey Smith read the Garnet Valley School District Report. The report highlighted that students of all grade levels will be participating in Band and Choral Concerts this month. Finally, Garnet Valley Schools will be closed from December 23, 2019 through January 1, 2020 for winter break. Lastly, the Garnet Valley Cheerleading Team recently won a District Title and the Garnet Valley girls' and boys' basketball teams will be having their home openers tonight.

Rachel Kohl Library: Jean Gallagher Stoyer read the Rachel Kohl Library Report for December 2019. On December 15, the library will be hosting a Winter Family Fun Day from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. On December 17, at 6:00 PM, composer and pianist Jennifer Campbell will be hosting a presentation on famous Christmas carols and their origins. Lastly, on December 18 at 10:30 AM, the library will be hosting a program titled *Dance Me a Story*. Registration is required for each of these programs.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

Bill Addison read the November 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.

Michael J. Davey also announced that Bethel Township's stray dog, Morty, is finally being adopted out tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorization to Advertise for Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting: Michael J. Davey stated he would need a motion to advertise for the Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting to be held on January 6, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

Motion: On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, authorization to advertise was approved, as presented.

Authorization to Advertise for Annual Board of Auditors Meeting: Michael J. Davey stated that he would need a motion to advertise for the Annual Board of Auditors Meeting to be held on January 7, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Motion: On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, authorization to advertise was approved, as presented.

One-Year Service Agreement with Advanced Electrical Services Group, Inc.: Michael J. Davey explained that the Township enters into a one-year service agreement each year for routine generator maintenance. He would need a motion to enter into a one-year service agreement with Advanced Electrical Services Group, Inc.

Motion: On a motion by Jean Gallagher Stoyer, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, the one-year service agreement with Advanced Electrical Services Group, Inc. in the annual amount of \$595.00 was approved, as presented.

One-Year Contract with Brandywine Veterinary Hospital: Michael J. Davey stated that Bethel Township enters a contract the Brandywine Veterinary Hospital each year to provide care for stray dogs found in the Township. Michael J. Davey expressed that he would need a motion to enter the one-year contract.

Motion: On a motion by Alex Giribaldi, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, the one-year contract with Brandywine Veterinary Hospital was approved, as presented.

Codification of Ordinances 225 through 228: Michael J. Davey stated that he would need a motion to codify Ordinances 225 through 228 with the General Code, in an amount not to exceed \$2,675.00.

Motion: On a motion by Michael Schneider, seconded by Jean Gallagher Stoyer and carried unanimously, the codification of Ordinances 225 through 228 for an amount not to exceed \$2,675.00 was approved, as presented.

Community Comments:

Geri Crawford, 1030 Bethel Road, thanked the Board of Supervisors for their hard work and service in 2019.

Joe Thurstlic, 3716 Knole Lane, recognized that the Rachel Kohl Library has discontinued its subscription to the *Delaware County Daily Times*.

Township Solicitor Michael Maddren noted that the *Daily Times* is available for free through an e-subscription with the County Library System if you have a library card.

Following the community comments, Michael J. Davey recognized Jean Gallagher Stoyer for her six years of service as a Bethel Township Supervisor. Jean Gallagher Stoyer's term is expiring, so the December 2019 meeting serves as her last meeting as a Supervisor.

Jean Gallagher Stoyer thanked the Board of Supervisors, the Township staff, and the community for supporting her during her time as a Supervisor.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Jean Gallagher Stoyer, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The Board of Supervisors wished all Bethel residents Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

The next Bethel Township Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 7:30 PM, and the next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Yurkovich