



# 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.  
Ray Stiles

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## BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS March 10, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at the John Myers Building, 1092 Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, Pennsylvania.

**PRESENT:** Alex Giribaldi, Esq., Vice Chairman  
Michael W. Schneider, P.E., Supervisor  
Giovanna Iacono, P.E., MBA, Supervisor  
Ray Stiles, Supervisor  
William Addison, Township Manager  
Michael Maddren, Esq., Solicitor  
Matthew Houtmann, P.E., Engineer

**APOLOGIES:** Michael J. Davey, Esq., Chairman

**OBSERVERS:** Approximately 13 citizens were in attendance.

### **The Regular, March 10, 2020, Board of Supervisors meeting convened at 7:30 PM.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Alex Giribaldi 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:**

Alex Giribaldi asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting held on February 11, 2020.

**Motion:** On a motion by Michael W. Schneider, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, the February 11, 2020, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

No Presentations were provided.

**REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Peter Barsz read the March 2020 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.

Alex Giribaldi asked for a motion to approve the March 2020 Treasurer's Report and to pay all bills.

**Motion:** On a motion by Giovanna Iacono, seconded by Ray Stiles and carried unanimously, the March 2020 Treasurer's Report and the payment of all bills were approved as presented.

**FINANCE/AUDIT/TAXES:**

Giovanna Iacono read the February 2020 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. Giovanna Iacono then turned the floor over to the Tax Collector, Ed Plasha, who reported that in-person collections started today, and he had 75 participants. The next collections will be held on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM, and Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Police: Alex Giribaldi asked for a motion for the Lease for a new Police Utility Vehicle.

**Motion:** On a motion by Ray Stiles, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, the Lease for the new Police Utility Vehicle, subject to financing in an amount not to exceed \$42,000.00, including the trade-in value of the current Police Utility Vehicle, was approved as presented.

Township Manager, Bill Addison, read the February 2020 Police Report. The report concluded that the Bethel Township Police Department responded to 161 calls for service during the month of February. The Department responded to eight (8) motor vehicle accidents and thirty-eight (38) medical calls. The Department also responded to eighteen (18) alarm calls and three (3) theft calls where property was removed from unlocked vehicles. Lastly, on February 5, 2020, there was a resident robbed at gunpoint. Within six (6) minutes, two suspects were taken into custody. The suspects were charged with the robbery in Bethel Township, as well as another robbery that occurred in Lower Chichester the same day.

Chief Sharp recognized that there were four (4) arrests made in connection to the cars that were broken into on Trotters Lea last month. Chief noted that some of the property was recovered from the thefts, and all the suspects were from Wilmington, DE.

Bethel Hose Co. #1: Michael W. Schneider read the report for the month of February 2020. The Bethel Township Hose Company #1 responded to one (1) building fire, three (3) motor vehicle

accidents, five (5) medical assist calls, ten (10) miscellaneous alarms, and six (6) mutual aid calls during the month of February.

Michael W. Schneider also reported that it's that time of the year to turn our clocks back and check our smoke alarms and CO2 alarm batteries. If you need help changing batteries or need a smoke alarm, please contact the firehouse for assistance. Additionally, when spring cleaning and doing any open burning, please only burn yard waste. No leaves or grass should be burned as they produce a lot of smoke. Also, please make sure the fire is always attended and is not affecting your neighbors. Fire Marshal, Brett Small, added that Bethel Township does not have any cases of Coronavirus at this time, but the County has been preparing for an outbreak.

## **FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:**

Highway: Michael W. Schneider read the February 2020 Highway Report. In February, the Highway Department removed a tree that fell on Goodley Road, cleaned storm drains, repaired the manual pedestrian push button for changing the light at Concord Road and Chichester Avenue, and filled small sinkholes around the storm sewers. Roadmaster Frank Starr added that Higgins also reset the light at Naamans Creek and Foulk Roads, so there should no longer be an issue where the light turns red before the first car can make it through.

Building & Grounds: Michael W. Schneider read the February 2020 Building and Grounds report. The report highlighted burned out lights were replaced in the Police Station Kitchen, the "dusk-to-dawn" switch on the salt shed light was replaced, the flowerbeds around the Township parks and facilities were weeded and mulched, and the bushes around the Township Building were all trimmed.

## **INSPECTIONS:**

Plumbing: Alex Giribaldi read the February 2020 Plumbing Report. The report highlighted that three (3) mechanical permits and four (4) plumbing permits were issued in February. Details are included within the attached report which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection.

Building: Alex Giribaldi read the February 2020 Building Inspector's report. The report highlighted that twenty-eight (28) items were addressed in February, including seven (7) building permits, two (2) electrical permits, twelve (12) occupancy permits, and three (3) zoning permits. Details are included within the attached report which is on record at the Township Building and is available for public inspection.

Zoning: Alex Giribaldi read the February 2020 Zoning Officer report. The report highlighted that thirteen (13) items were addressed in February, including two (2) addition/shed/porch permits, three (3) miscellaneous permits, and four (4) 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: Giovanna Iacono read the Parks and Recreation Board report for February 2020. The Park report stated that five (5) bales of barley straw were placed in the pond to help control algae, the split rail and chain link fences were repaired at Community Park, grass was removed from the ballfields, and low hanging tree branches were trimmed. The

Board is planning their annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Canned goods will be collected for the Bethel Food Bank at this event. Lastly, there is a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Board; all interested parties, should submit a resume and cover letter to the Township Manager.

Zoning Hearing Board: Alex Giribaldi read the Zoning Hearing Board report for the month of February. The Board had one item on the agenda for February 2020: a variance request for a total side yard aggregate of 58 feet in lieu of the required 60 feet, for the extension of an existing garage at 1614 Bethel Road. The request was granted. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 7:00 PM. At this time, the Board will be considering a variance request for application 2020-02, 3139 Laughead Lane. The applicant is seeking relief from Section 601.4 and is requesting to have a miniature horse for emotional support of his daughter. The property is zoned R-1 and a minimum of 10 acres is required for the keeping of livestock.

Planning Commission: Giovanna Iacono read the February 2020 Planning Commission Report. The report highlighted Project PC 2017-2, Self-Storage Facility, at 1561 Conchester Road; the final revised plans were resubmitted to the Township Engineer, and the applicant has been working with him to finalize all new recommendations. The applicant attended the March meeting to update the Board on the completed plan revisions so far and the progress on the remaining items still in review by the Township Engineer. Final plans with all recommendations completed are expected to be presented at the April Planning Commission meeting. The next Planning Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 7:30 PM.

Sewer Authority: Ray Stiles read the March 2020 Sewer Authority report. The report highlighted that the Sewer Authority adopted its budget for 2020, and the sewer fee will increase to \$166.00 per quarter. The next Sewer Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

## **EDUCATION:**

Garnet Valley School District: Junior Supervisor, Ramsey Smith, read the report for Garnet Valley High School. Ramsey Smith reported that Boys Basketball and Wrestling made the State Tournament. The Garnet Valley Bocce Ball Team, comprised of students and their special needs friends, won the Delaware County Championships. The Team would be advancing to the State Tournament in Hershey; however, this event was cancelled due to the recent Coronavirus Outbreak. The High School Speech and Debate Team will be having some students attending State Tournament. GVHS MiniTHON is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>, and it is unsure if this event will be postponed. Lastly, Garnet Valley Schools are all closed on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, due to the Coronavirus.

Ray Stiles then read the report from the Garnet Valley School Board. The report highlighted that the Garnet Valley School Board reviewed policies regarding Foreign Exchange Students, non-school organizations/groups/individuals, tobacco use/delivery systems, and purchases subject to bid/quotation. The Board's next meeting will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

**Motion:** On a motion by Ray Stiles, seconded by Michael W. Schneider and carried unanimously, the annual allocation of two \$500.00 scholarships awarded to Garnet Valley High School students was approved as presented.

Rachel Kohl Library: Ray Stiles read the March 2020 report for the Rachel Kohl Library. On Mondays and Thursdays throughout March, the Library will be hosting Chair Yoga. Registration is required. A movie matinee will be hosted on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM; the Library will be

showing *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. On March 18th, the Afternoon Book Club will be discussing *The Mother-in-Law* by Sally Hepworth, and the Evening Book Club will be reading and discussing *The Shark Club* by Ann Kidd Taylor. Lastly, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, the Friends of the Library will be hosting their biannual BINGO.

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

Bill Addison read the February 2020 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:**

Community Comment: Donna Silvestri, 1163 Naamans Creek Road, asked what the scholarships were for. Alex Giribaldi stated that the Township has awarded these scholarships for the past five years. The High School Guidance Counselors select two students who have exhibited exemplary performance in academics and taken an active role in the community.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Adoption of Ordinance 229, Traffic and Vehicle Code: Alex Giribaldi stated he would need a motion to authorize the advertisement of the new Traffic and Vehicle Code.

**Motion:** On a motion by Giovanna Iacono, seconded by Ray Stiles and carried unanimously, Ordinance 229, Vehicles and Traffic Code, was adopted as presented.

Township Solicitor Mike Maddren added that this ordinance is not introducing any new traffic signals or stop signs; the ordinance is merely codifying the existing traffic infrastructure of the Township.

Authorized Signers Update: Alex Giribaldi recognized that the Board would need to update its Authorized Signers Resolution to include Ray Stiles.

**Motion:** On a motion by Michael W. Schneider, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, the Authorized Signers Resolution with Fulton Bank was updated to include Ray Stiles.

Approval of Resolution 2020-09, SALDO Final Plan Approval for Nolan-Fidale Funeral Home: Shawn Paul, the Design Technician for the project, explained that Nolan-Fidale was looking for a final approval of the plans to put an addition on their existing facility. The addition would include additional office space, a garage, and a small kitchen/locker room for staff.

Township Engineer, Matt Houtmann, added that the addition would minimize the existing impervious coverage and would still be making stormwater management improvements. Additionally, the number of required parking spots is exceeding the requirement.

**Motion:** On a motion by Michael W. Schneider, seconded by Ray Stiles and carried unanimously, Resolution 2020-09 granting final plan approval to the Nolan-Fidale Funeral Home addition was approved as presented.

Authorization to advertise Ordinance 230, Prohibiting the Use of Tobacco in Parks:

**Motion:** On a motion by Giovanna Iacono, seconded by Michael W. Schneider and carried unanimously, the authorization to advertise Ordinance 230 prohibiting the use of tobacco in parks was granted as presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Ray Stiles, seconded by Giovanna Iacono and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Yurkovich