

MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017 @ 7:00 P.M.

- 110208
1. CALL TO ORDER– Chairman Bermingham called the meeting to order. Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham were, Supervisor Geake, Supervisor De Franco, Supervisor Due, Supervisor Hallett, Township Manager Rick Fisher & Solicitor Ron Karasek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
 2. APPROVE AGENDA - **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Hallett to amend and approve the agenda adding the Dirt and Gravel Road Project - National Park Drive. Vote: 5-0.
 3. PUBLIC COMMENT - Supervisor Geake congratulated the two new Supervisors that won the election and wished them good luck. Public Comment by Judy Henckel - in the past two Supervisors voted against everything for open space. Judy noted her objection to the ad in the Express Times as to reduction in the Open Space tax. Solicitor Karasek explained he has to explain why are seeking to reduce. Supervisor De Franco said the ad was done correctly and only one person has a problem with it.
 4. Ambulance Service - Chairman Bermingham indicated Wind Gap Ambulance will cut their cost from \$175,000.00 per year to \$160,000.00 per year. Manager Fisher said he budgeted \$158,000.00 plus \$4,000 for diesel fuel. Chairman Bermingham indicated he is going to Portland as see if they will contribute and offer to do their snow plowing, that would free up some of their money for the Ambulance, they are paying \$40,000 - \$44,000 for snow plowing. Supervisor Geake said one has nothing to do with the other. Supervisor De Franco agreed why we should do that. Chairman Bermingham said to free up money for them. Supervisor Hallett suggested agility with Portland. Supervisor Geake said agility is for manpower and truck, they can't offer us that. Portland to account for 15% of the call outs that would be \$24,000.00. Public Comment by Bob Teel - they should contribute the \$24,000.00 towards Ambulance and do their own snowplowing. Suburban is still going to cost \$280,000.00 for ALS 24/7 and \$240,000.00 for BLS. Chairman Bermingham indicated he is going to Portland's meeting on December 4th, he will ask them and report back to the BOS at their meeting on 12/11/17. Public Comment by Chris Finan - suggested going back to Suburban to talk to them, he offered to go with Chairman Bermingham to talk to them.
 5. Open Space Chair. Janet Pearson - Eastern Industries. Janet read a letter which highlighted some concerns they have about illegally using the open space money to pay off the debt. Going forward, anything done on the property open should be legal and transparent. Janet also mentioned the monitoring of the property should be done by a qualified third party, such as one of the conservancies. Supervisor Hallet noted this was all covered at numerous meetings, the Board has been more than transparent, while the OSAB has not been. Janet spoke about protecting the land and having enough water and noted PA American Water Portland Water Authority and East Bangor Water Authority and Nestle and others are presently monitoring wells here. Supervisor Due noted that is an incorrect fact about Nestle, they are coming out of Green Walk. Supervisor Due stated, Nestle has been in there 24 years and will never touch that water. Supervisor Hallett said there should be open communication on both ends. Solicitor Karasek indicated he just sent the BOS the draft Resolution. There was discussion about proposed Deed restrictions on the property. Manager Fisher mentioned the Ziegafuse property, the same standard and ethics should apply for this property. Public Comment by Judy Henckel - the difference is you need a 3rd party to monitor, Ziegafuse is monitored by the Heritage Conservancy. Chairman Bermingham asked that the Eastern Industries Resolution be put on the BOS 12/11/17 agenda. Solicitor Karasek indicated he followed the deed restrictions with the exception of instead of stating county money, it states Open Space Money. Supervisor Due mentioned the trail is going to go through the property and he will be attending the Liberty Water Gap trail meeting. Manager Fisher indicated once he has the deed information from our Engineer, he will provide that to the OSAB.

6. Appoint Community Events Committee member - Tiffany Hayward. **MOTION** by Supervisor De Franco, seconded by Supervisor Due to approve Tiffany Hayward to the Community Events Committee. Vote: 5-0.
7. Security - adjustments / additions a. Township Building - the Board discussed security at the township building. Supervisor De Franco suggested bullet proof glass and a buzzer at the front door. Solicitor Karasek said the other towns he works for you must be buzzed into the building to get in. Manger Fisher also would like to put bowlers as curb stops in the parking lot. b. Community Park security - Manager Fisher said Stavros from the Park Committee looked at the Park to put in security cameras. Supervisor Due mentioned looking into the ring. Public Comment by Laura Bocko - her niece was shot at the park in broad daylight, luckily she ducked and it missed her. She saw the car leave, but couldn't catch them. Had there been cameras they might have caught the person. Chairman Bermingham said he would follow up with the State Police about this shooting. The Board asked Manager Fisher to look into security for the township building and the community park. Manager Fisher spoke about the power going out at the township building for about eight hours. None of the security was working, and anyone could have entered. Manager Fisher said they filmed a commercial at the Park and they are going to donate \$1,500.00 to the Park for allowing us to let them use it.
8. Generator - Township Building. Manager Fisher spoke about the power going out at the township building for about eight hours. None of the security was working, anyone could have entered. Manager Fisher said we need a generator for the township building. **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor De Franco that Manager Fisher move forward with getting prices for a generator for the township building. Public Comment by Bob Teel - you should check with Hoffman, he got a generator and only charged about \$9,000. No further comments. Vote: 5-0.
9. Send letter to Penn DOT regarding sight distance - Rt. 191 at Peacock Nursery. We received a complaint from Marianne who works at Merchant Bank regarding the intersection at Rt. 191 and Fox Gap Road at Peacock Nursery. Supervisor Due said it's terrible there, you can't see and there have been numerous accidents there. Public Comment by Jimmy Potter - they were supposed to put a circle over there by W. Bangor Road to alleviate some of the problem. **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor Due that Manager Fisher send a letter to Penn DOT regarding sight distance that the placement of stop bars need to be adjusted to address the guide rail issues and overgrown brush. Vote: 5-0.
10. Eastern Industries - Illegal hunting. Supervisor Due asked what the status is of the hunters being charged for illegally hunting. Manager Fisher said he's called the State Police twice, and left a message that the township wants to press charges, but has not received any call back. Supervisor Due would also like to know how the officer got his name and cell phone number. Supervisor Geake said they called him too, he doesn't know how they got his number either.
11. Executive Session - Personnel. **MOTION** by Supervisors Geake, seconded by Supervisor De Franco to recess for Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. Reconvened at 8:45 p.m. No action taken. Supervisor Geake said it's only fair that the next Board decide the Manager's salary increase.
12. Adjournment - **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor De Franco to adjourn the Public Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted - Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Recording Secretary
Upper Mount Bethel Township