



BETHEL TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY
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Board of Supervisors

Giovanna Iacono, P.E., MBA, Chairwoman
Michael J. Davey, Esq., Vice-Chairman
Michael D'Agostino, Esq.
Stephanie DerOhannessian, MB
Chuck Dennie, P.E.

The Regular Meeting of the BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the John L. Myers Building, 1092 Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, PA 19060.

BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 9, 2024

PRESENT: Giovanna Iacono, P.E., MBA, Chairwoman
 Michael D'Agostino, Esq., Supervisor
 Stephanie DerOhannessian, MB, Supervisor
 Chuck Dennie, P.E., Supervisor

William Addison, Township Manager
Matthew Houtmann, P.E., Engineer
Michael Maddren, Esq., Solicitor
Peter Barsz, Treasurer

ABSENT: Michael J. Davey, Esq., Vice-Chairman

OBSERVERS: Approximately 26 citizens were in attendance.

The Regular April 9, 2024, Board of Supervisors' meeting convened at 6:32 PM.

Chairwoman Iacono welcomed residents and called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairwoman Iacono requested everyone to 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 took place immediately prior to the meeting to discuss personnel, legal, and real estate matters. She notified the audience that Vice-Chair Davey was not present for the April meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Supervisors' Meeting held on March 12, 2024.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor D'Agostino and carried unanimously, the Board approved the March 12, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

PRESENTATIONS:

President of Bird Town, PA, Heidi Shiver, gave a presentation to the Board about what it means to be a Bird Town. Bird Town, PA aims to partner with local municipalities to create a more sustainable environment for wildlife and people. To view the full presentation or for more information, please visit the Township website. Ms. Shiver presented Bethel Township with a certificate and two street signs for becoming the 49th Bird Town in Pennsylvania.

In the hopes to make Bethel Township Police Department more efficient, Supervisor D'Agostino introduced the next presentation.

Bob Curry from Platelogiq gave a presentation to the Board on license plate readers (LPR). This technology would be strictly for law enforcement to assist in apprehending criminals. The cameras will be placed at intersections within the Township and powered by the traffic lights. The system records date, time, vehicle make, model, & color, license plate and an image of the vehicle. If a vehicle has been involved in an incident the police will be alerted in real time. Numerous surrounding municipalities have the same technology and information is shared amongst them to assist in investigations. They are not red-light cameras and there is no automatic issue of citations. No personally identifiable information is collected, and data is never sold to private companies.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked if Bethel Police would have access to all cameras using Platelogiq technology even in other municipalities.

Mr. Curry explained that law enforcement has access to all cameras.

Chairwoman Iacono asked if Delaware, which borders Bethel, has this technology. She asked if Bethel Police will have access to those cameras as well.

Mr. Curry said Delaware has access to the technology through other companies, but Platelogiq does not work in Delaware as of now.

Supervisor Dennie added Bethel Police could share information with Delaware if necessary.

Chairwoman Iacono asked for clarification on vendors sharing information on the same platform. She asked if information can be shared through different product systems or only those using Platelogiq technology.

Mr. Curry said Platelogiq has the capability to receive information from other LPR vendors, but currently none in Delaware. The industry is continuously growing.

Supervisor D'Agostino stated that even partial information can be useful with the help of the LPR system.

Mr. Curry added that the FBI puts out a national list every day of information (i.e.: stolen vehicles, Amber Alert, Silver Alert). If one of those vehicles crosses into Bethel Township, the Bethel Police will be notified.

Supervisor Dennie asked what information is detected on the cameras.

Mr. Curry said the plate number, state, make, model, and color of the vehicle. Police would be notified within seconds if a specific vehicle is reported going through one of the intersections equipped with the LPR system.

Chairwoman Iacono asked about data storage and officer training. She also asked about the camera's lifespan.

Mr. Curry responded that Platelogiq uses Amazon web services. All storage is covered by Platelogiq. Platelogiq also provides training to the officers. The system is built to be intuitive for the officers. There is an annual cost per intersection, everything else is covered by Platelogiq. Bethel Township will not have to cover any maintenance or replacement of the camera system.

Supervisor Dennie asked if the cameras were omnidirectional.

Mr. Curry said they are single directional cameras and installed at the back of the traffic lights looking at the exit lane. The system is extremely accurate. PennDOT allows Platelogiq to use their equipment which gives the best possible view for the camera system. Omnidirectional cameras tend to lack the same clarity and quality.

Supervisor Dennie clarified entry and exit with multiple cameras at each intersection. He asked about the cost breakdown.

Mr. Curry explained Platelogiq charges per intersection, per year. There is a full-time support team.

Supervisor Dennie asked if the system could be used for citations in the future. Mr. Curry explained that it could be used for citations. It has the capability, but this system will not be used for that purpose. That is at the discretion of the Township.

Supervisor D'Agostino believes the cameras will function as a deterrent.

Supervisor Dennie asked if down the road the Township decided to go with another company will Platelogiq come in and take the equipment back.

Mr. Curry explained Platelogiq uses industry standard cameras. It would not make sense financially to take the equipment back. The Township would want to upgrade at that point anyway.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked Mr. Curry to explain the cost in detail.

Mr. Curry responded it is a cost per intersection, per year. There is no upfront cost, training cost, or installation cost. A 4-way intersection is about \$7,300.00 per year and a 3-way intersection will be about \$6,200.00 per year.

Community Comment

Garry Lanahan, 1334 Zebley Road, asked if other municipalities need permission to access the cameras and data.

Mr. Curry explained the data is accessible to any Police Department in the system, but they are not looking at the cameras. They will see the leads coming through the interface and won't require permission to see that.

Lou Torrieri, 1066 Green Glen Drive, asked if the cameras run continuously or take a photo as the vehicles go by.

Mr. Curry said the cameras are always running. As a vehicle goes through the intersection the system detects the license plate and takes a still shot. The image is then sent to a cloud-based storage system.

Mr. Torrieri asked if the cameras would record if an accident occurred at the intersection.

Mr. Curry said it would not.

George Lincoln, 1418 Deer Meadow Lane, asked about the audit service.

Mr. Curry explained everything done within the system is audited. The audit service ensures the integrity of the system.

Ed Plasha, 1019 Belmont Lane, asked if the system can be modified once it is placed.

Mr. Curry replied no but that locations can always be added.

Chairwoman Iacono asked if this would affect the Township insurance.

Supervisor D'Agostino said it may help with insurance prices.

Scott Hordis, 3823 Foulk Road, asked if any statistics were available from municipalities currently using Platelogiq.

Township Solicitor, Mike Maddren, said Aston Township has a presentation on their website with statistics since adding Platelogiq technology.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Peter Barsz read the March 2024 Treasurer's Report. Details by fund are included within the report, which is on record at the Township building and is available for public inspection.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, pay bills and release all relevant escrows.

Motion: On a motion by Chairwoman Iacono, seconded by Supervisor Dennie and carried unanimously, the Board approved the March 2024 Treasurer's Report and payment of all bills as presented.

FINANCE/AUDIT/TAXES:

Tax Collector Report: Chairwoman Iacono read the March 2024 Tax Collector's Report. A copy of the full Tax Collector's Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Supervisor Dennie asked if residents can pay township tax and school tax at the same time during the in-person collection hours.

Tax Collector, Ed Plasha, explained in person tax collection takes place in March for township tax and August for school tax.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Department: Chief McCarthy read the March 2024 Police Report. A copy of the full Police Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Chief McCarthy gave his opinion on the Platelogiq technology. He believes this would be a great addition to the Township. A recent burglary could have been solved within a couple minutes using this system.

Joe Conner, 3317 Foulk Road, asked if two intersections would be sufficient.

Chief McCarthy responded that two is a starting point to see how it works for the Township. Technology is not cheap. There is always the possibility of future expansion.

Supervisor Dennie asked if it was in the current 2024 budget.

Supervisor D'Agostino replied no, it is not in the 2024 budget.

Bethel Hose Co. #1: Supervisor Dennie read the March 2024 Fire Report. A copy of the full Fire Department Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor D'Agostino and carried unanimously, the Board approved the release of \$11,583.00 from the Fire Tax Fund for the vehicle loan payment for 2024 covering the PEMA loan payment for Truck 66.

Fire Marshal, Brett Small, commended the Fire Department on a job well done at a recent mutual aid call.

Emergency Management Coordinator: Chairwoman Iacono read the March 2024 Emergency Management Report. A copy of the full Emergency Management Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

Highway Department: Chairwoman Iacono read the March 2024 Highway Report. A copy of the full Highway Department Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Chairwoman Iacono explained the motion to purchase the Bomford Turbo Offset 220 Mower for the highway department. This item was on the March agenda and was tabled so the Board could get more information.

Supervisor D'Agostino questioned why this piece of equipment was necessary.

Highway Foreman, Brett Small, informed that it will mostly be used for road maintenance. It is a much more efficient piece of equipment than what is being traded in. Mr. Small added that he spoke with several surrounding municipalities about the possibility of sharing the mower, but no one was interested in that idea.

Motion: On a motion by Chairwoman Iacono, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the release of ARPA funds for the purchase of Bomford Turbo Offset 220 Mower for the Highway Department pursuant to the COSTARS cooperative purchasing program in an amount not to exceed \$15,849.92.

Motion: On a motion by Chairwoman Iacono, seconded by Supervisor D'Agostino and carried unanimously, the Board appointed Kyle Borden to the Bethel Township Highway Department at a rate of \$22.00 per hour.

Building & Grounds: Chairwoman Iacono read the March 2024 Building & Grounds Report. A copy of the full Building & Grounds Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

BOARDS:

Parks and Recreation Board: Supervisor Dennie read the Parks & Recreation Report. He acknowledged Scott Hordis as the new Chairman and Brittany Bailey as the Secretary of the Parks & Recreation Board. The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. A copy of the full Parks & Recreation Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Supervisor Dennie explained to the audience that the fence was on the previous month's agenda and was tabled. The Board wanted to see all three quotes for the fence. Ergeon was selected as the cheapest option for a vinyl type fence. Supervisor Dennie made a motion, and it was seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked where the funds were coming from.

Supervisor Dennie said the money would come out of the Parks & Recreation maintenance fund and has been budgeted for.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the contract with Ergeon for the replacement of the fence at Bethel Community Park in an amount not to exceed \$8,670.00.

Supervisor Dennie made a motion to authorize payment to Aerial Signs in an amount not to exceed \$4,300.00 to replace the sign at Bethel Community Park, subject to the Solicitor's review. He explained the Parks & Recreation Board came up with two designs. They selected a similar design to the existing signs. Discussion was had prior to a formal vote.

Chairwoman Iacono questioned if there was any thought to changing the design of the signs all together.

Parks and Recreation Chairman, Scott Hordis, said the signs will be blue instead of the current green color. Aerial was the only company that kept the same price from 2021. The average lifespan of these signs is 10-12 years. The materials hold up well.

Supervisor Dennie asked if the Parks & Recreation Board looked at different signs and designs.

Mr. Hordis explained as a Board, they did look at other signs but never put anything into writing with vendors.

Supervisor D'Agostino agreed the signs need refreshing but feels like the money could be spent in a better place, like the LPR system.

Mr. Hordis said it would only be one sign this year. Bethel Community was chosen because it is the most visible sign, and the fence is also being replaced. Aerial agreed to honor the same price over the next couple of years.

Supervisor Dennie added it would be coming out of the Parks & Recreation maintenance fund. It was budgeted for back in 2021 and the money was never spent.

Supervisor D'Agostino feels the Township should wait to purchase the signs all at once for a more cohesive look. He wanted the public to have some input in the design of the signs.

Community Comment

George Lincoln, 1418 Deer Meadow Lane, asked why Bethel Community Park would be the first replaced if Jack King Park's sign is the oldest and in the worst condition. He would like to see each park's establishment date on the new signs.

Scott Hordis responded that the same information on the existing signs would also be on the new ones.

Supervisor Dennie added that this was discussed during the public Parks & Recreation meetings.

Brett Small stated that Jack King Park's sign is in most need of replacement.

The Board agreed the sign at Jack King Park should be the first sign to be replaced.

Motion: On a motion by Chairwoman Iacono, seconded by Supervisor Dennie and carried unanimously, the Board withdrew the motion to authorize payment to Aerial Signs for the replacement of the sign at Bethel Community Park in an amount not to exceed \$4,300.00.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board authorized payment to Aerial Signs in an amount not to exceed \$4,300.00 to replace the sign at Jack King Park, subject to the Solicitor's review.

The Board thanked Mr. Lincoln for his input and the information provided.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor D'Agostino and carried unanimously, the Board approved the release of funds for Movie Night in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Chairwoman Iacono asked if the Township received a refund for the 2023 Movie Night that was cancelled.

Scott Hordis responded that they were working on it.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board appointed Fely MacMain to the Parks & Recreation Board to fill the unexpired term of Kristina Lamia, term to expire 2027.

Zoning Hearing Board: Supervisor DerOhannessian read the Zoning Hearing Board Report. A copy of the full Zoning Hearing Board Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Planning Commission: Chairwoman Iacono informed that the Planning Commission did not meet in March. There were no active subdivisions or plans to discuss. A copy of the full Planning Commission Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Sewer Authority: Supervisor D'Agostino read the Sewer Authority Report. The Sewer Authority is currently working on finalizing online bill payments. A copy of the full Sewer Authority Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

EDUCATION:

Garnet Valley School District: Supervisor DerOhannessian read the Garnet Valley School Board Report. A copy of the full Garnet Valley School Board Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Junior Supervisor FardSanei gave a report on the events happening within the school district.

George Lincoln, 1418 Deer Meadow Lane, wanted to know more about the Pennington project and the GV Global project. He was concerned about the effect these projects would have on taxpayers and the current student to faculty ratio.

Rachel Kohl Library: Supervisor DerOhannessian read the Rachel Kohl Library Report. For more information, please visit Kohllibrary.org. A copy of the full Rachel Kohl Library Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

Township Manager, William Addison, gave his report to the Board. He mentioned upcoming recycling events in the Township. Monday, May 13th will be the Spring Yard Waste Clean-Up and Saturday, May 25th will be the Paper Shredding and Drug Takeback event. Mr. Addison also mentioned the upcoming primary election taking place on Tuesday, April 23rd. A copy of the full Manager's Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorization to advertise to bid for Trash and Recycling.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor D'Agostino, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the advertisement to bid for Trash and Recycling.

Authorization to advertise to bid for Office Technology.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the advertisement to bid for Office Technology.

Motion to purchase tree seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$160.00 to be given away at the E-Recycle event on June 8, 2024.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor DerOhannessian, seconded by Chairwoman Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the purchase of tree seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$160.00 to be given away at the E-Recycle event on June 8, 2024.

Authorization to purchase trash and recycle cans for Shaffer Preserve in an amount not to exceed \$1,600.00.

Motion: On a motion by Chairwoman Iacono, seconded by Supervisor Dennie and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the purchase of trash and recycling cans for Shaffer Preserve in an amount not to exceed \$1,600.00.

Community Comment

John Nevy, 3213 Sarum Farm Lane, asked where the trashcan would be placed on the Shaffer property and what the maintenance schedule would be.

Chairwoman Iacono responded that the trashcan would be placed by the entrance of the preserve.

Highway Foreman, Brett Small, added that the cans would be emptied Monday morning along with all the other parks in the Township. They would then be maintained as needed throughout the week.

Mr. Nevy asked the Township to be cognizant of the neighbors and keep the trash from blowing onto their yards.

Authorization to advertise for Board of Supervisor's Work Sessions on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Chairwoman Iacono made a motion which was seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian to authorize the advertisement of the Work Sessions. Discussion was had prior to the formal vote.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked Chairwoman Iacono to explain why the work sessions were necessary as it is new for Bethel Township.

Chairwoman Iacono explained that work sessions are meetings meant to discuss and set the agenda items for the regular monthly Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Township Solicitor, Mike Maddren, explained that the work sessions are advertised so time sensitive issues could legally be voted on, but that is not the intent of the work session.

Supervisor Dennie added that it must be public for the Board to discuss issues.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked for the Board to use the work session for discussions only and not for action to be taken.

Supervisor Dennie asked about emergency situations.

Chairwoman Iacono added that an agenda is required for work sessions.

Mr. Maddren said Sunshine Act still applies to work sessions.

Supervisor D'Agostino was concerned that the work sessions would be used to slip action items through without the public knowing.

Chairwoman Iacono explained the intent is to set the agenda and discuss items prior to the Board of Supervisor's regular monthly meeting.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked again for the Board to agree not to act at the work sessions.

Chairwoman Iacono did not want to do that in case an emergency required action to be taken.

Supervisor D'Agostino believed the vote taken at the March meeting on Shaffer Preserve was pushed through without enough notice and discussion. He said the March executive session was cancelled because there was nothing to discuss. Supervisor D'Agostino said he had received the Shaffer cost information ten minutes prior to the March Meeting. He said that was not enough time to make an informed decision on that amount of money.

Chairwoman Iacono disagreed that anything was pushed through. She said she did not have the Shaffer cost information at the time of the executive session. Chairwoman Iacono sent the information when she received it. She added that Supervisor D'Agostino could have called her with any questions or concerns.

Supervisor DerOhannessian said she received the Shaffer cost information at the same time as everyone else.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked how anyone could make an informed decision with such little time to review.

Supervisor Dennie said discussion was held during the March meeting after Supervisor D'Agostino and Vice-Chair Davey left early. There was also a time restraint for the grant submission.

Chairwoman Iacono asked the Solicitor his opinion on the possibility of an emergency requiring action to be taken at the work session.

Mr. Maddren gave a compromising position. If action were necessary due to an emergency, then an advertised, special meeting could be arranged immediately prior to the scheduled work session.

Supervisor D'Agostino was concerned the term emergency would be exploited.

The Board agreed to schedule a separate meeting for emergency situations. They agreed to have the monthly work sessions as informational only with no action to be taken.

Motion: On a motion by Chairwoman Iacono, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the advertisement for Board of Supervisor's Work Sessions on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Motion to renew the Cyber Risk Insurance Policy through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., subject to the Solicitor's review.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor D'Agostino, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the renewal of the Cyber Risk Insurance Policy through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., subject to the Solicitor's review.

Authorization to advertise an Ordinance amending Chapter 303 of the Code of Bethel Township- Peddling and Soliciting.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor D'Agostino and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the advertisement of an Ordinance amending Chapter 303 of the Code of Bethel Township- Peddling and Soliciting.

Community Comment

George Lincoln, 1418 Deer Meadow Lane, asked someone to clarify.

Mr. Maddren explained that the Township has had a claim asserted that the current Ordinance is unconstitutional. He believes there may be some merit to that claim and may need to revise it.

Authorization to advertise an Ordinance regulating the residential use of dumpsters and storage pods.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor DerOhannessian, seconded by Chairwoman Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the advertisement of an Ordinance regulating the residential use of dumpsters and storage pods.

Mr. Maddren clarified that the Township currently does not have an Ordinance regulating the use of pods and dumpsters. The idea is to permit them on a temporary basis, so they do not become permanent structures.

Community Comment

Garry Lanahan Zebley Road, asked if public comment would be allowed at the work sessions.

Mr. Maddren clarified that public comment is allowed, subject to the Sunshine Act.

Supervisor D'Agostino encouraged everyone to attend the work sessions.

Jim McDaniels, 1415 Zebley Road, asked if anything was happening with the FCNA report.

Chairwoman Iacono said that is an item of discussion for the work session.

Mr. McDaniels asked about the fence at Community Park. He thinks parking curbs should be installed before the fence. The current fence looks like it has been backed into multiple times by vehicles.

Supervisor Dennie argued that the current condition of the fence is a safety hazard. He said the parking curbs will be discussed at the next Parks & Recreation meeting.

Mr. McDaniels asked what activities would be allowed in Shaffer Preserve.

Supervisor Dennie said walking, hiking, playing with your children, and there will be picnic pavilions.

Mr. McDaniels asked if dogs would be allowed in the preserve. He was concerned about pit bulls and pet owners taking their dogs off leash.

Chairwoman Iacono said leashed dogs are allowed in all the Township parks.

Dianne Smith, 1602 Wendy Way, asked about the Goodley Road Culvert. She is concerned about the flooding on Goodley Road. She wants to know if the Township will be trying for more grants. She believes the culvert should be fixed prior to the building of the boardwalk on the Shaffer Preserve.

Chairwoman Iacono added that a flood mitigation grant would likely be on the next month's agenda for the Goodley Road Culvert. It has been placed on the county's list of repair needs.

Mrs. Smith asked about an update on the Shaffer Preserve project. She asked if the Shaffer committee was still working on the project.

Chairwoman Iacono said there would be a presentation at the May meeting by Simone Collins. The grant was just applied for, and an advertisement has been placed for a consultant to do the permitting. It is still early in the process. The committees have

provided their services, and it is now in the hands of the Board of Supervisors to finalize the plans with Simone Collins.

Mr. McDaniels wants a presentation on the price breakdown of the Shaffer Preserve project.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Supervisor Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

The next Regular Board of Supervisors' meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Borcky