



BETHEL TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY
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Board of Supervisors

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

www.betheltwp.com

The Regular Meeting of the BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the John L. Myers Building, 1092 Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, PA 19060.

BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
January 14, 2025

PRESENT:

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

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

ABSENT:

Michael J. Davey, Esq., Supervisor

OBSERVERS:

Approximately 10 citizens were in attendance.

The Regular January 14, 2025, Board of Supervisors' meeting convened at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Dennie welcomed residents and called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Dennie 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. Chairman Dennie mention that the Township will be streaming this meeting on Youtube.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Supervisors' Meeting held on December 10, 2024.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the December 10, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes for the Reorganization Meeting held on January 6, 2025.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the January 6, 2025, Reorganization meeting minutes.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Township Treasurer, Peter Barsz read the December 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.

Chairman Dennie asked about the interest rates for the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLIGT) account that the Board and Mr. Barsz were discussing earlier in the year. He said it is not needed at this moment, but the Board would like to know beforehand.

Mr. Barsz said he will investigate the interest rate suggestions and will present them to the Board accordingly.

Supervisor Iacono mentions that the Township will need to create an account for the Emergency Management Services (EMS) fund. She also asked if Mr. Barsz was going to put any money into PLIGT or an interest-variant account.

Chairman Dennie asked if they would be putting money in the PLIGT account for the trash services as well.

Township Treasurer, Peter Barsz, said yes, the Township would be looking into putting money into either a PLIGT or an interest-variant account. Mr. Barsz said that money is already put into the PLIGT account for the trash services.

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

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the December 2024 Treasurer's Report and payment of all bills as presented.

FINANCE/AUDIT/TAXES:

Chairman Dennie explained that the Township received an A+ Kroll Bond rating after a thorough analysis of Township operations, finances, and other factors. This affirmed the long-term rating of A+ with a stable outlook on the Sewer Authority and Township Guaranteed Revenue Notes and General Obligation Debt (which totals approximately \$1,150,000.00).

Township Treasure, Peter Barsz, also mentioned the A+ rating the Township had received. He mentioned that if the Township were to borrow any money, they would have a low rate.

Motion to appoint William Addison as Deputy Tax Collector.

Chairman Dennie explained that this motion is intended to ensure the Township has someone in place to handle tax collection if Township Tax Collector Ed Plasha is unable to continue his duties.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of William Addison to Deputy Tax Collector.

Township Tax Collector, Ed Plasha, explained some of the changes that were made to the Tax bill and let the Board know that the updated changes will be printed and sent out to residents.

Tax Collector Report: Chairman Dennie read the December 2024 Tax Collector's Report. A copy of the full Tax Collector's Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Department: Chief McCarthy read the December 2024 Police Report and highlighted recent scams. He advised residents not to share bank information over the phone and recommended making donations through the Red Cross for any cause. A full copy of the Police Report is available for public inspection at the Township building.

Motion to ratify the employment of Darren Smith as a Bethel Township Police Officer at a rate of \$28.00 per hour, subject to a one-year probation period.

Motion: On a motion made by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the ratification of the employment of Darren Smith as a Bethel Township Police Officer at a rate of \$28.00 per hour, subject to a one-year probation period.

Motion to ratify the purchase, setup, and configuration of a new Police Department Windows 2022 server system at a cost not to exceed \$7,295.00.

Vice-Chair DerOhannessian explained that this motion is necessary because the server, which has been in use since 2022, stopped functioning, and a new one had to be purchased to restore the system.

Motion: On a motion made by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Chairman Dennie and carried unanimously, the Board approved to ratify the purchase, setup, and configuration of a new Police Department Windows 2022 server system at a cost not to exceed \$7,295.00.

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

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

Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-06, approving a mutual aid agreement for emergency management coordination.

Supervisor Iacono explained that the Township has a mutual aid agreement for Emergency Management Coordination. This agreement enables the Township to request assistance from neighboring municipalities if needed. If the County is unable to help, the Township can seek support from other municipalities with the same agreement, which will provide assistance for a small hourly fee.

Motion: On an motion made by Supervisor Iacono, seconded by Chairman Dennie and carried unanimously the Board approved to adopt Resolution 2025-06, approving a mutual aid agreement for emergency management coordination.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

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

BOARDS:

Parks and Recreation Board: Supervisor Dennie read the Parks & Recreation Report. A copy of the full Parks & Recreation Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Chairman Dennie announced that the Parks and Recreation Board will meet on January 16th, 2025, for their monthly meeting. He shared the following 2025 event dates:

Easter Egg Hunt: April 5th, 2025, with a rain date of April 12th, 2025

Fireworks: July 3rd, 2025, with a rain date of July 5th, 2025

Corn Boil: August 24th, 2025, with a rain date of August 31st, 2025

Movie Night: September 13th, 2025, with a rain date of September 20th, 2025

Lunch with Santa: December 6th, 2025 (indoors, no rain date needed)

Appointment of new Parks and Recreation Board member, Vincent Parme (Term to expire January 2027).

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of new Parks and Recreation Board member, Vincent Parme (Term to expire January 2027).

Appointment of new Parks and Recreation Board member, Julie Eble (Term to expire January 2027).

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of new Parks and Recreation Board member, Julie Eble (Term to expire January 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 reported the Planning Commission Report. 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. A copy of the full Sewer Authority Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

EDUCATION:

Garnet Valley School District: There was no Garnet Valley School District report submitted.

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:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to enter into an agreement with Millennium Strategies for Flex Grant Consulting Services for the year in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, subject to Solicitor approval.

Supervisor Iacono explained that the Township has been successfully applying for grants for various projects, receiving a significant portion of the funds they've applied for. She, along with Township Engineer Matthew Houtmann, has managed much of the grant application process. The proposed Grant Consulting Services, for which the Township has allocated budget funds, would be a flexible agreement allowing the service to meet with the Board and discuss potential grant opportunities. These opportunities could address a wide range of Township needs, including the Police Department, equipment, parks, fire-related items, and sewer projects. If the Township decides to pursue a grant but lacks the time or resources, they could contract the consulting service to handle the application and grant-writing process.

Chairman Dennie asked about how much effort is required from the Grant Consulting Service.

Supervisor Iacono explained that this service is capable of handling multiple grants simultaneously and offers different plans to municipalities. The Township could opt for a flat rate, but since this is the first year using such a service, they prefer to start with a lower cost, as there are smaller grants the Township can still manage on its own. This service would primarily be used for larger grants that require more time and effort. The Township will receive weekly updates, and once a grant is selected, they can decide whether to handle it internally or utilize the service.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Iacono, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved to enter into an agreement with Millennium Strategies for Flex Grant Consulting Services for the year in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, subject to Solicitor approval.

Motion to approve Sarum Farms II Escrow Release # 4 and reduce the letter of credit by \$49,758.00.

Township Engineer, Matthew Houtmann explained that the Sarum Farm II development has submitted a fourth escrow release request for storm sewer water, driveway removal, and installation of street trees. If the Board approves those escrow release, they will still have \$160,256.00 left in the escrow account.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor D'Agostino, seconded by Chairman Dennie and carried unanimously the Board approved the approve Sarum Farms II Escrow Release # 4 and reduce the letter of credit by \$49,758.00.

Motion to appoint Rebecca Crowley as Bethel Township Secretary & Code Administrator at a salary of \$41,000.00.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of Rebecca Crowley as Bethel Township Secretary & Code Administrator at a salary of \$41,000.00.

Consideration of Bethel Township holiday schedule and PSATS delegate.

Vice-Chair DerOhannessian explained this is for the 2025 holiday schedule will be. There was one correction and that is that Martin Luther King Day is January 20th, 2025.

Supervisor Iacono suggested that when planning the 2025 schedule, the Township should consider aligning with the County's schedule in 2026, due to some holidays observed by the County that the Township does not currently observe.

Chairman Dennie said the two holidays that the Board would consider for 2026 would be Juneteenth and Election Day.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the 2025 holiday schedule.

Vice-Chair DerOhannessian mention there is also a motion to appoint the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) delegate. She asked if the Board would be deciding on this at tonight's meeting or table this.

Chairman Dennie stated that the Board should still discuss this topic at tonight's meeting. He explained that PSATS offers training for administrators, as well as elected and appointed public officials. He mentioned that he, Supervisor Iacono, and Vice-Chair DerOhannessian attended last year, and he would allow another Board member to attend this year if they were interested.

The Board discussed which Supervisor would attend due to scheduling conflicts. They decided to book a room for the event and determine later which Board member will attend.

Motion: On a motion made by Supervisor Iacono and seconded by Chairman Dennie and carried unanimously, the Board approved to table the decision on the PSATS delegate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Dennie announced that Chester Valley Engineers will present an update on the Shaffer Preserve on January 28, 2025, at 6:30 PM. He explained that Chester Valley Engineers were contracted as the design consultants to refine the final design originally planned by Simone Collins. They have focused on reassessing stormwater management and the overall project cost. Chairman Dennie and Supervisor Iacono have been working closely with Chester Valley Engineers to refine the price while

ensuring all requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant consultant and Noth American Land and Trust (NALT) requirements are met. Changes have been made to the pathways to move stormwater further from residents' properties. The Board intends for this meeting to serve as a discussion and an opportunity to address any comments from residents or Board members.

Supervisor D'Agostino asked if the presentation would be posted online so residents could review the plans and prepare any questions or concerns. He suggested that if the presentation isn't ready, the Board could consider postponing it.

Supervisor Iacono said the Board will have to ask Chester Valley Engineers when they meet with them if they have the presentation ready. She believes they should be ready with the presentation.

The Township Manager, Dr. William Addison, said he will ask Chester Valley Engineers to provide a copy of the presentation the Wednesday before the presentation date.

Supervisor Iacono announced the 2025 Recycling Event Dates:

Spring Yard Waste (Curbside): Monday, May 12th, 2025.

Spring Paper Shredding/Drug Takeback (At the Township building): Saturday, May 17th, 2025, from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.

E-Recycling (At the Township building): Saturday, June 14th, 2025, from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.

Fall Paper Shredding/Drug Take Back (At the Township building): Saturday, September 13th, 2025, from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.

Fall Leaf Collection (Curbside): Monday, December 8th, 2025.

Christmas Tree Recycling: Will be determined closer to Christmas.

Supervisor Iacono noted that the times for the Spring and Fall Shredding/Drug Takeback and E-Recycling events have been adjusted this year, as the last hour of the events tends to be slower than the beginning. She also mentioned that a resident requested a second fall leaf collection date, and the Board will discuss this with the highway department.

Chairman Dennie said he interpreted the request as having someone come with a leaf vacuum truck and remove the leaves.

Supervisor Iacono said they will investigate adding another fall leaf pick up event.

Highway Foreman Brett Small explained that the Highway Department has never handled leaf pickup or Christmas tree recycling; these services have always been provided by the Township's trash company.

Vice-Chair DerOhannessian wanted to let the Board and residents know that the Christmas Tree recycling event was a success. They were able to recycle almost two hundred trees and turn them into mulch.

Community Comment:

Tax Collector, Ed Plasha, mentioned that Bethel residents pay a premium to Delaware County Community College (DCCC). He asked if Garnet Valley School District or DCCC could provide information on how Bethel residents attending DCCC can receive the benefits for which they are paying the premium.

Supervisor Iacono said the Township could post on the website how to receive that benefit.

Tina Wallace, 3809-11 Foulk Road, said that both of her children attended DCCC and used the discount program mentioned by Mr. Plasha. She explained that DCCC simply requires proof of paying Bethel taxes to approve the discount.

James McDaniel, 1415 Zebley Road, asked about a burning leaf ban. He believes his neighbors have been burning leaves. He says that other Townships have this ban.

Township Solicitor, Michael Maddren, said two ago Highway Forman, Brett Small was trying to get an ordinance for burning leaves. He is unsure of why it was never made one, but he believes he has a draft of that ordinance.

Chairman Dennie asked if Mr. McDaniels would be requesting a full burn ban or only being allowed to burn on certain days. He also would be interested in initiating a burn ban.

Mr. McDaniels said he would suggest a full burn ban. He says Bethel Township should look at Concords ban and do what they do.

Tina Wallace, of 3809-11 Foulk Road, stated that her home is a duplex and has always been listed as such. She spoke with the zoning officer, Steve Wasylyszyn, who informed her that the property is classified as a single-family home. To have it listed as a duplex, she would need to complete paperwork, pay an \$800.00 fee, and appear before the zoning Board. She questioned why this process was necessary when her home has been listed as a duplex since the 1970s, when the property was purchased. She also noted that the post office, gas company, electric company, and water company all have the property listed as a duplex.

The Township Solicitor, Michael Maddren, said the zoning officer has the power to make determinations on whether something is compliant with the zoning code or not, an appeal could be made by Ms. Wallace regarding that decision. He said his decision may have been decided on the fact that this home never allowed the duplex to be there.

Ms. Wallace explained she understands what Mr. Maddren is saying and said this home was used as non-conforming use for years. She said she showed the zoning officer evidence that this home was always used as a duplex. She explained this home has always been used as a duplex for almost fifty years. Ms. Wallace is willing to have inspections done and she has had them done in the past.

Supervisor Iacono suggested the Township Solicitor, Michel Maddren, review these documents that Ms. Wallace has.

Chairman Dennie asked if this information was already presented to the zoning officer. He asked if Ms. Wallace giving the same information to the Township Solicitor Michael Maddren would help this matter.

Ms. Wallace said yes, she already has provided all the information needed. She understands the Board of Supervisors is different than the Zoning Board, but she wanted to present this to the Board.

Township Solicitor, Michael Maddren, said if Ms. Wallace would provide the information for him, he will review all of it.

James McDaniel added the house Ms. Wallace is speaking of has always been used as a duplex. He mentioned someone else also has a duplex near him and if one person could have one, then Ms. Wallace should be able to as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Supervisor DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

The next Regular Board of Supervisors' meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Falecia Nolan