

approved

**LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES – February 16, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER - The February 16, 2026, Regular Monthly meeting of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6984 S. Delaware Drive, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, 18063. The meeting was called to order by C. Cook, Chairman at 7:20 p.m. In attendance were M. DeBerardinis, D. Ascani, R. Siegfried, J. Keifer, Solicitor K. Sebia-Biggs, M. Hart and M. Mastrogiovanni. There were approximately 30 members of the audience present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. C. Cook announced there was an Executive Session held tonight for Personnel & Legal. No action taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2, 2026. Revisions made as follows: Board report J. Keifer - J. Keifer reported the BOS had an informational meeting with the developer regarding the potential Data Center. Under same report take J. Keifer agreed for liability purposes; 2nd page #2. change the motion seconded by C. Cook to appoint J. Keifer as a Board Member.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – None.

SUBDIVISIONS / ZONING – None.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Action on Amendment to Separation Agreement. J. Kiefer suggested not amending the separation agreement, he didn't know about it, that D. Ascani should have disclosed this agreement to the Board. D. Ascani asked J. Keifer if he read the agreement. Public Comment by T. Rehrig – Mr. Rehrig asked why this amendment is proposed 27 years later; he read into the record paragraph 10 of the separation agreement. D. Ascani discussed the Police Department being disbanded and the police pension going back to the state, that the agreement relates only to police employment, not any other employment. T. Rehrig asked why this is being questioned by the BOS and being brought up 27 years later. Public Comment by Howard Klein – Mr. Klein also asked why this is being brought up now. The Township paid him \$28,000 as part of the settlement which is taxpayers money; maybe he should pay that back. There are a lot of unanswered questions that could open up the township to litigation. Solicitor Sebia – Biggs noted it's about interpretation, legal wrote up the amendment. H. Klein noted a motion should have been made by the BOS to authorize legal to write the amendment, people have the right to see it. D. Ascani mentioned the Roadmaster salary is set per year, the BOS voted the Roadmaster is a non-paid position, to give the money back to the township. The elected auditors set the salary for any working supervisor at \$35.00 per hour. Dave explained the Roadmaster position is appointed, the settlement agreement relates to the disbandment of the Police Department. Public Comment by J. Matthews – Supervisor Ascani knew the separation agreement was in place and is an employee when working on the roads. Mr. Matthews suggested the BOS abolish the position or re-vote it.

MOTION by C. Cook, second by M. DeBerardinis to table this topic until the 3/2/26 BOS meeting. The addendum to the agreement will be available at the township office for the public

2. Discussion and consideration of job description for the Roadmaster position. Tabled to allow comparison of the old Roadmaster job description vs the new job description. B. Smith asked about the salary in the 2026 Budget for Director of Public Works, if that's the same as Roadmaster. M. Hart said yes.

3. Discussion and consideration of Accounts Payable Policy. D. Ascani asked if there is a policy in place, it should be all part of the second-class township code. **MOTION** by J. Keifer, second by C. Cook to have legal counsel review the Account Payable Policy and payment timeline. Vote: 5-0.

4. Discussion regarding scheduling a town hall forum. There was discussion on scheduling a town hall forum. There were a lot of comments from the public (names were not given) in opposition to the Data Center. J. Keifer wants to ensure our township residents have a voice and give the developer a chance to answer questions. K. Biggs – Sebia explained the legal process for a zoning change, any proposal would go to the Planning Commission and then the Board of Supervisors. Public Comment by E. Richards – Mr. Richards explained a lot of things needs to be understood in a zoning change and everyone needs to do their due diligence. The public (no names given) asked the BOS how long has the township known about this and how was the township approached. D. Ascani noted an informational meeting was arranged with the BOS and the Township Manager 2 months ago, also there is no NDA to keep things transparent. Public Comment by B. Kiefer – he would like to see transparency with the public and the Developer, this farmland is prime soil. J. Keifer mentioned the town hall forum can't be held at Centerfield not enough parking, lighting or space, maybe held at one of the Bangor Schools. M. DeBerardinis suggested a large venue like Lafayette College. Public Comment by H. Klein – the BOS should consider hiring an Environmental Engineer. D. Ascani suggested prior to the town hall forum, that a general ledge of questions be submitted online to give the public an opportunity to ask questions, so there are no duplications.

5. Discussion regarding attendance of available Supervisor to attend staff level meetings. C. Cook asked that a supervisor be asked to attend any staff level meetings. The Board eliminated the office liaison at the re-organization meeting, but the BOS could consider an office liaison be appointed at the 3/2/26 BOS meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE - All Correspondence is located in the Township office.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – M. Hart clarified the check lost last month for PPL has cleared our account. Megan mentioned the bill for JAC Logistics was to put the plow on the pickup truck. **MOTION** by M. DeBerardinis, second by R. Siegfried to pay the bills in the amount of \$94,568.83. Vote: 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – J. Matthews – Mr. Matthews asked about the status of the payment plan with MC OPCO LLC. M. Hart indicated she is working with Talen and their attorney to come up with a solution and is not sure if there will be reduction or payment over time and if the \$40,000 for the Fire Co. tax portion will be removed. M. DeBerardinis mentioned we lost \$90,000 in revenue as a result of the re-assessment, that could impact the township.

ADJOURNMENT - The Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Township Secretary - Lower Mount Bethel Township