

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018**

**SUPERVISORS PRESENT:**

Kathleen Hunsicker, Chair  
Dr. J. Richard Booth, Vice-Chair  
Edward J. Brandt  
Mark Grey

**CONFERENCED IN:**

Stephen Paccione  
Craig T. McAnally, Township Manager

**STAFF:**

Carole Culbreth, Assistant Secretary  
James J. Garrity, Esq., Solicitor  
Paul Kenny, Police Chief  
Mike DeStefano, Public Works Director  
Sandi Feight Hicks, Park & Recreation Director

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Lower Gwynedd Township Municipal Building.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Musical Performance During Pike Fest and Extended Hours of Bethlehem Pike Closure**

Ms. Hunsicker stated a Lower Gwynedd resident has extended an offer to underwrite a concert for Lower Gwynedd Township during Pike Fest 2018. The underwriter has contacted a promoter (Scott Mirkin, ESM Productions) who has produced the "Made in America" concerts as well as many other throughout the United States. He has the resources and know how to take advantage of those attending the Pike Fest. Ms. Hunsicker stated the timing and talent is to be determined. The underwriter will pay up to \$100,000 for the talent, production costs and stage setup and disassemble which will supplement Township personnel. She stated it is a wonderful opportunity for the Township. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion to have a musical concert added to the Pike Fest festivities on September 15 and underwritten by the donor.

Mr. Grey made an objection. Ms. Hunsicker is asking for a second to her motion. Mr. Grey asked if he was denied discussion. Mr. Garrity stated the Board must make a motion and second and then deliberate. Dr. Booth seconded the motion.

Mr. Brandt stated for the record that the Board needs the cost of overtime for the Police and Public Works Departments. Chief Kenny stated cost for the Police Department at the Pike Fest increased last year because of the 5K Run. He suggested this year with extended hours the Township should consider Flagger Force because it will cost less than police overtime. Ms. Hunsicker stated this cost will be included as part of the donor's underwriting.

Dr. Booth stated he is concerned that the residents and businesses on the Pike should be aware that a concert at Pike Fest will be extended into the evening. Ms. Hunsicker stated Pike Fest has dealt with this issue before and they allow residents and customers to come in and out. She stated those are logistics and it could be an added benefit to the businesses.

Chief Kenny asked Ms. Hunsicker to get in touch with Mr. Comly and check if 10 feet on the side of the road is enough for emergency vehicles to get around. Ms. Hunsicker said it is nothing different than the Pike Fest. She stated let's make the concert a success; Ambler and Whitpain do it and it is no burden to taxpayers. Mr. Paccione stated Bethlehem Pike was reopened at 6:00 during the last Pike Fest. He asked when Bethlehem Pike would reopen after the concert and about the noise levels of the concert. Ms. Hunsicker stated it is dependent on the talent which narrows as time passes. She stated once the stage is up we can utilize the stage by putting the DJ and local talent there. Mr. Paccione stated the Pike won't be opened until 6 or 7 p.m. Ms. Hunsicker stated it is a possibility. Mr. Grey questioned if the Pike will be closed Friday night until Sunday. Chief Kenny said he was not sure. Mr. Grey said no one has any idea how long the road will be closed. Ms. Feight stated Bethlehem Pike is closed from 7 am until 5 pm during Pike Fest. Chief Kenny stated this is the second year the Township has held Pike Fest and doesn't think extending into the evening will be an issue. Mr. Paccione stated there are a lot of assumptions and how can we vote without answers. He stated the donor is very generous, and asked if there is an alternative to Pike Fest during Friday night into Sunday morning. Ms. Hunsicker stated the point is to discover these unknowns. Mr. Paccione stated he would like to know before I vote. Ms. Hunsicker stated the motion is *are you okay with having a Musical Performance during Pike Fest and Extended Hours of Bethlehem Pike Closure and moving forward*. She stated we have to look into the talent because we have already lost three talents. Mr. Paccione stated how can I vote without the facts. Ms. Hunsicker again asked for a motion *to add a Musical Performance during Pike Fest with EMS Production and Extended Hours of Bethlehem Pike Closure*. Mr. Paccione stated there are too many contingencies. Dr. Booth stated we cannot go forward if Police and Public Works Departments are not on Board. He stated permits from the State must be obtained and we cannot move along if these issues are not handled.

Mr. Grey stated the donor said the Township has three years and he will underwrite the concert. He said we do not have to start this year. Ms. Hunsicker stated we are not going to book talent without everything in place. She stated EMS Productions has an available talent list and they are getting picked off; and if we cannot get the road closed we can't go forward. Mr. Grey asked why not start next year. He stated Mr. Brandt recommended the Kiwanis Fireworks as a venue which would not have so many issues. Ms. Hunsicker stated nothing ventured nothing gained.

Mr. Brandt stated this is something the donor wants to do and it will bring money back into the community. He stated the donor believes if people are already present at Pike Fest then that's where to

have it. Mr. Grey asked when Bethlehem Pike businesses will be back in business. Ms. Freight stated last year restaurants opened for dinner service. Mr. Grey said restaurants are going to have problems. Ms. Hunsicker asked for a positive outlook. She stated the restaurants will be feeding the people attending Pike Fest, the band's crew, and the VIP area.

Jay Gelman said you will have a captive audience. He noted at Ambler's Music Fest restaurants were booming. Mr. Grey said Lower Gwynedd Township is different. Mr. Grey stated non-residents were banned from speaking at Board meetings. Ms. Hunsicker stated Mr. Gelman is a Lower Gwynedd Business Association member. Mr. Gray wanted to know what the rule for those who can speak at Board meetings. Mr. Altman said let's take advantage of the open street and grab the 5,000 attendees who will go to dinner, shop and listen to music. He said it is a great opportunity. Mr. Grey said we haven't even talked about the noise. Mr. Altman stated it was a concern but it can be mitigated. Dr. Booth stated the Ambler Rotary will serve beer and half of their proceeds will go to the Township. Mr. Paccione said he lobbied for the Ambler Rotary last year. He asked if the Pike Fest will turn into a Music Fest with it's own identity. Mr. Altman stated it is only one band. Mr. Paccione stated the start time is still under discussion; he can't make decisions on unknowns. Mr. Brandt stated the music will be from 5 - 8 pm nothing longer. Mr. Paccione said it was 4 - 6:15 pm last week. Ms. Hunsicker said it depends on talent but it will be a great community event. She said the details will be ironed out. Ms. Rhodes asked how the closure of Bethlehem Pike is different from last year. Ms. Hunsicker said it could be extended. Ms. Rhodes said till 8:00 pm. Mr. Paccione said that did not include breaking down the Pike and opening backup.

Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Booth to approve a Musical Performance During Pike Fest and Extended Hours of Bethlehem Pike Closure. The motion carried 3 ayes (Hunsicker, Brandt and Booth) 1 nay Mr. Grey and an abstention because of lack of information (Paccione).

Mr. Brandt said can you get back to us on the bands the donor would underwrite. Ms. Hunsicker stated the donor gets to make the decision on the music.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth  
Assistant Secretary