

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

PART I

1. Call to Order-Chairman Bermingham Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call-Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham Jr. were Supervisor Due, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Pinter, Manager Nelson, and Township Solicitor Karasek.
4. Approve the Agenda-Chairman Bermingham Jr. amended the Agenda, adding PART III #1A-Jewel Property, Supervisor DeFranco amended Agenda PART III #7-Security Fabs, #8-Comments at a Local Restaurant, #9-Text Message and PART V Executive Session-Personnel. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to approve the Amended Agenda. Vote: 5-0.

PART II (Public Comment-3 minutes)

Richard Wilford-Hunt commented on what is the Township's urgency to get the Act 537 Plan to DEP, without having more information and public input. Richard stated, in regards to the Budget, the Township should tighten their belt. Richard presented a short video he recently took while traveling west on Rt. 78 and felt it was important for the Board to see what is happening in Lehigh Valley in terms of traffic congestion.

Chris Finan of the Mount Bethel FC commented on the need to replace fire hoses. Chief Finan will get 3 quotes and present them to the Board.

Charlie Cole asked what the status of the Draft Act 537 Plan is. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated Engineer Coyle is awaiting comments from the Board and those comments will be part of the Plan to be submitted to DEP.

Loren Rabbat asked if the copy of the Draft Act 537 Plan that is available for the public to view, here in the Township Building, is the same copy that is being sent to DEP. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated yes.

Ron Angle commented on other options other than Portland for the Act 537 Plan.

Charlie Cole commented that, in regards to the Act 537 Plan, the Municipality is supposed to send in what they believe they would like to see what happens.

Judith Henckel commented on the Budget Meeting she attended and the need to compromise and live within our means. Judith commented on how high end developments/businesses (Saddle

Creek, Crystal Terrace, Lamtec, and others) were thought to resolve our tax problems. Judith stated good planning is the key.

Ron Angle stated the LVPC has always recommended Upper Mount Bethel Township for Open Space.

Chris Finan asked if the Township has made any money on Open Space. The answer is no.

PART III (Official Action-matters to be voted on)

- 1a. Jewel Property-Solicitor Karasek discussed the Agreement that he prepared for the purchase of the property. Supervisor Teel stated he would like to have a stronger recommendation from Engineer Coyle, for the construction of the road, before moving forward. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, for Solicitor Karasek to send a letter to the Jewels stating that for unforeseen circumstances, the transaction for the purchase of the property has to be put on hold. Vote: 5-0.
1. Potomac Street Traffic-Manager Nelson discussed the possibility of putting in three (3) speed humps on Potomac Street to help with the speeding traffic. Manager Nelson stated that Engineer Coyle provided him with a cost of \$1,500.00 - \$3,000.00 per hump. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., seconded by Supervisor Teel, to bid out for three (3) speed humps. Vote: 5-0.
2. Volunteer Fireman Incentive Act-Manager Nelson discussed the PA Act 512, which allows a municipality to offer to volunteer firemen a \$600 a year incentive on a reduction of their property tax. This is to help stimulate volunteers. There are requirements. Solicitor Karasek stated that Smithfield Township recently passed, he believes, a similar Act. Solicitor Karasek will send their Ordinance to Manager Nelson. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked for this to be on the February 24, 2020 meeting.
3. North Bangor Turnout Gear- Manager Nelson stated that they were to get three (3) bids. The vendor that they have used in the past was only \$13 more than the lowest bid. Manager Nelson will discuss with North Bangor FC.
4. Establish Board of Appeals-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that since Upper Mount Bethel Township is longer with the COG, who previously handled the Appeals, UMBT will need to establish a Board of Appeals to handle UCC violations. Solicitor Karasek stated an Ordinance will need to be adopted. Manager Nelson will reach out to other municipalities to see what they do and if possible, use other municipalities' ordinances as a guide.
5. 1995 33K GVW from Ross Twp. - Manager Nelson discussed the purchase of the truck to hold the brine machine permanently and could also be used in the summertime to haul water. Manager Nelson stated the truck is in good shape and would like to offer \$3,000 for it. Manager Nelson stated he would like to sell the two door pick-up. There was a discussion on selling the two door pick-up first. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to sell the two door pick-up. Vote: 5-0.
6. Hire Part-Time Laborer-Manager Nelson stated he would like to hire two (2) part-time laborers, Brendan McDonald and Rick Kuiper, up to 25 hours a week, when needed, non

CDL at \$16.00 an hour. There was a discussion on their positions, snow plowing/grass cutting and if this is in the budget. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, to hire two (2) part-time laborers at \$16.00 an hour year round. There was no second, motion dies. Manager Nelson will provide some numbers to the Board.

7. Fabs-Supervisor DeFranco asked for an explanation as to why he does not have access to all parts of the Township Building. Manager Nelson explained his objective was for security and not to purposely lock anyone out. Supervisor Teel stated that all Supervisors should have access to all parts of the Township Building. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, seconded by Supervisor Teel, for all Supervisors to have access to all parts of the Township Building. Supervisor Due made a **MOTION** to amend the previous motion, for anyone who enters the garage, that safety glasses be worn, seconded by Chairman Bermingham Jr. Vote: 5-0.
8. Conversation at Local Restaurant-Supervisor DeFranco was informed by two different people that Mr. Teel has been making comments that the three (Supervisor Teel, Supervisor Due and Chairman Bermingham Jr.) of you are going to straighten the Township out. Supervisor Teel expressed his anger and asked for this to stop.
9. Text Message-Supervisor DeFranco stated he received a text message from a concerned citizen, in response to a text message sent to someone from Chairman Bermingham Jr. Chairman Bermingham Jr. wanted to be assured it was his phone number. Supervisor DeFranco read part of the message that stated Supervisor Pinter and Supervisor DeFranco were in cahoots together. Solicitor Karasek stated that comments regarding other Supervisors should be ignored.

PART IV (Public Comment-3 minutes)

Ron Angle stated the in regards to PART III #5, the purchase of a 1995 Truck, in order to sell the two door pick-up truck, the agenda should have been amended.

Supervisor Due rescinded his motion to sell the two (2) door pick-up truck, Supervisor Teel rescinded his second. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated this will be on the February 10, 2020 meeting agenda.

Jimmy Potter stated he missed the Budget Meeting and asked if there was a tax increase this year. Manager Nelson stated that the budget was re-opened and established it will now include depreciation values for equipment, to make the budget truer. Once that occurs, an increase, if needed, will be considered.

Richard Wilford-Hunt asked about the Fire Tax and if those monies accumulate each year. Manager Nelson stated the Fire Tax is 1 mil and yes, it accumulates each year. Manager Nelson stated he is looking into how to invest those funds.

PART V (Executive Session)-Recess to Executive Session at 8:45 pm for personnel matters. The meeting reconvened at 9:05 pm.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that employee payments were discussed. There was a discussion on Manager Nelson's pay and benefits. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to keep Manager Nelson's salary at \$85,000 and pay him his benefits of \$1,480.95 a month (for health benefits) and \$598.00 a month (for pension) in a check. Vote: 3-2. Supervisor DeFranco and Supervisor Pinter voting no.

PART VI (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary