



## *Upper Mount Bethel Township*

*387 Ye Olde Highway*

*P.O. Box 520*

*Mount Bethel, PA 18343-5220*

*Phone: (570) 897-6127 Fax: (570) 897-0108*

### UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

\*This meeting was live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page.

#### 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 were Chairman Bermingham Jr., Supervisor Due, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor Pinter, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Manager Nelson.
4. Approve the Agenda-**MOTION** by Supervisor Due to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

#### PART II (Public Comment)

Francis Visicaro read a Facebook post that she wanted the Board to hear.

Cori Eckman commented on the appointment of members to the EDC and the Planning Commission and keeping the zoning laws as is.

#### PART III (Announcements)

Bus Cameras-Chairman Bermingham Jr. announced the generous donation of \$40,000 by the Post Foundation for the bus cameras. Chairman Bermingham Jr. will be presenting the check to the school at noon on Friday. Charles Cole thanked Chairman Bermingham Jr. for all he has done to make this happen.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. announced, the UMBT and Portland clean-up day that took place last Saturday was a great success.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. announced the Halloween Parade is scheduled at the Community Park on Saturday, October 31, 1-3 pm. There will be a contest for the best decorated car.

#### PART IV (Presentation)

Tara Mezzanotte gave a presentation on the proposed Rock Wall project on I-80 and why she got involved. Tara discussed how UMBT can help, and that is by adopting a Resolution supporting the NJDOT Fix the S-Curve Problem or any future project in the

S-Curve. Tara stated the coalition's mission are three tasks, Stop the Wall, fix the S-Curve and Preserve the Gap. Wayne Smith commended Tara and agrees with what she is doing. William Zalewski commented on the Township fixing our own roads first and also commended Tara on doing what she is doing. Cher Mount, member of the PAG, representing UMBT, announced that she is happy to be representing UMBT and has set up an email for any resident that may have questions and/or concerns, to contact her.

#### PART V (Action Agenda-matters to be voted on)

1. Fix the S-Curve Resolution-Chairman Bermingham Jr. read the Resolution. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter supporting Fix the S-Curve Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
2. Fire Study-Manager Nelson would like the Boards approval to initiate the Fire Study. Chief Finan asked if they do initiate it, his recommendation is to start from the beginning. Manager Nelson stated once he contacts DCED, he will know more. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to have Manager Nelson revisit the Fire Study, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

#### PART VI (Old Business)

1. Firearms Ordinance-Solicitor Karasek stated that he forwarded various Townships Ordinances to review. Solicitor Karasek stated that a Firearms Ordinance only regulates where and when Firearms can be used, it does not regulate possession, ownership, or transfers. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to table, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated this will be on the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
2. I-80 Rockwall Mitigation PAG (Public Advisory Group)-Chairman Bermingham Jr. thanked Cher Mount for representing Upper Mount Bethel Township.
3. Chris Finan-Update on Ladder Truck-Chief Finan wanted clarification of getting records regarding fire tax. Solicitor Karasek stated a Resolution was passed stating that anyone requesting records, needs to complete a Right-to-Know. Chief Finan stated that he went to look at a 2007 125 ft. ladder truck and that it has corrosion due to a chemical fire it was used at. Chief Finan does not recommend this truck.
4. Annual Tax Change-Solicitor Karasek discussed the various taxes, no change at this time.

#### PART VII (New Business)

1. Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program-Solicitor Karasek stated that if this something the Township would like to consider, a rate would have to be established and a program would have to be developed.
2. Fire Relief Tax-No discussion at this time.

#### PART VIII (Public Comment)

Bill Zalewski thanked the Township for all the help they have provided for his mother on Slateford Rd.

Ron Angle stated he received a copy of the complaint filed by citizens of Upper Mount

Bethel Township against the Board of Supervisors and heard comments that it is more of a Nuisance Suit. Ron asked whether Chairman Bermingham Jr. should be a part of the strategy since he voted against the Text Amendment. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that is a legal question.

PART IX (Executive Session)-Recess at 8:18 pm to Executive Session to discuss the VIP Zoning Hearing Board appeal, Text Amendment Lawsuit and Personnel Matters. The Meeting reconvened at 8:46 pm.

1. Legal-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that legal matters regarding VIP Zoning Hearing Board appeal and Text Amendment were discussed. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to reject VIP offer and for Solicitor Karasek to continue with the Text Amendment Lawsuit, seconded by Supervisor Pinter. Vote: 5-0.
2. Personnel-Solicitor Karasek stated that Manager benefits were discussed and at this time, no action will be taken.  
Public Comment-Ron Angle asked if the Text Amendment lawsuit will be covered by insurance. Solicitor Karasek stated that is something that has to be looked into.

PART X (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary