



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

*This meeting was held virtually and 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 7:05 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call-Virtually present were Chairman Bermingham Jr., Supervisor Pinter, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor DeFranco, Township Manager Nelson and Township Solicitor Karasek. Supervisor Due was present via phone.
4. Approve the Agenda-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.

PART II (Public Comment-emails received prior to meeting)

Secretary Cindy Beck read the submitted public comments, which will become part of the official record.

1. Charles Cole commented on the River Pointe Logistics Project and how the BOS should dig deeper into "Whole Cost Accounting".
2. David Friedman commented on Mr. Pektor's comments about the RPL development.
3. Judy Henckel commented on the selection of a Community Planner, with a goal of community engagement for plans and purpose that all can embrace.

PART III (Announcements) Chairman Bermingham Jr. announced that on December 19th, we will be having Christmas at the Park, from 3-5 pm. Chairman Bermingham Jr. thanked Beck's Tree Farm for the donation of the tree and All Aspects Restored and Recycled for delivering the tree to the Park.

PART IV (Subdivisions)

1. Tishuk to McCabe et al.- Lot Line Adjustment-Solicitor Karasek stated that this plan was to expire on 11/30/20, but stated a time extension request was received. The time to take action now expires on 1/31/2021. No further action is needed.

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

1. Cartwright Cobra-Manager Nelson stated he has been in contact with Mr. Cartwright and stated a payment of \$400.00 was received. Manager Nelson stated he will stay in contact with Mr. Cartwright and hopes to get this paid in full.
2. EDC Members-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter to table to the December 14th meeting, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
3. Resolution 2020-17-Terry and Donna Lockwitch-Chairman Bermingham Jr. read Resolution 2020-17, recognizing Terry and Donna Lockwitch for their service and contributions to UMBT. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to adopt Resolution 2020-17, seconded by Supervisor Pinter. Vote: 5-0.
4. Resolution 2020-18-Stavros Barbounis-Chairman Bermingham Jr. read Resolution 2020-18, recognizing Stavros Barbounis for his service and contributions to UMBT. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to adopt Resolution 2020-18, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
5. Advertise for Township Positions (Re-Org Meeting)-Manager Nelson discussed advertising for annual positions and committee open seats. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter to approve the Advertising for Township positions, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

PART VI (Old Business)

1. EDC Monthly Update-Tabled to December 14th meeting.
2. Community Planner/RFP/Alternate Engineer-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he would like for each Supervisor to send him what they would like to see in a Community Planner. Once that information is gathered, further discussion will take place. Manager Nelson stated that we should consider an Alternate Engineer for assistance, separate from the Community Planner.
3. Firearms Ordinance-Solicitor Karasek stated that there is no update at this time. Supervisor Pinter stated the he will review and discuss with Solicitor Karasek. Solicitor Karasek stated he will wait for direction from the Board on how to proceed.

PART VII (New Business)

1. Heritage Conservancy-Manager Nelson stated he attended the Open Space Advisory Board meeting and they stated they would like to continue with the Heritage Conservancy. Manager Nelson asked them to provide a formal letter stating why they would like to continue using them. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked for this to be on the December 14th meeting.

PART VIII (Public Comment)

Richard Wilford-Hunt commented on a presentation that Lou Pektor gave on the River Pointe Logistics Park at a recent Northampton County Economic Development Committee meeting. Richard stated the presentation consisted of the ratio of manufacturing and warehouses, companies being considered, designing of a sewage treatment plant, and the concerned citizen group lawsuit.

Cori Eckman commented on having the residents and concerned citizens be part of the process, deciding on what is best for the future of our community.

Robert Lubold asked what the Firearms Ordinance is. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated it is still being discussed and at this time, there is no Firearms Ordinance to present.

PART IX (Executive Session)-None

PART X (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary

Public Comment for BOS Meeting 11/23/20

C. Cole, 6 Riverton Rd, Mt. Bethel, PA 18343

Let me begin with wishing the UMBT BOS, Administration, and other Employees a happy and safe Thanksgiving season. But that wish should be extended to all residents of the Township, and not for just the Thanksgiving but long term.

-River Point Logistics Project-

Lou Pektor and River Point Logistics discounts the wishes of most of the people of Township by saying it is just a vocal couple hundred who oppose this great "Industrial project." What he touts, is jobs and economic benefits to the Township, but fails to look at the great negative costs. These are the typical ways that developers attempt to brush aside the impact of whole project. When there are meetings where a couple hundred residents show up, it is the tip of iceberg in terms of reading how many people really are against such a project. The Concerned Citizens represent a wealth of professional experience in public policy, engineering, economics, business, and environmental issues. The BOS needs to dig deeper into "Whole Cost Accounting" – it takes the many costs associated with those few jobs and tax dollars and matches them against the quick look superficial gains. These are now just starting to be admitted by Pektor and BOS.

Let me list just a few of these major costs: fire safety, highway infrastructure, truck traffic, air pollution, water supply, wastewater disposal. When these millions of dollars are matched against the developer emphasized benefits, projects are often not profitable! Just like now RPL and BOS are looking for state and federal grants to make the largest industrial park on the east coast happen. But it happens with the same negative impacts/costs to residents!

If the BOS really wants to work for the residents, they will rescind the Tet Amendment, have a planner look at the whole costs to residents of this project, and then do an honest survey of all residents!

Cynthia Beck

From: D Friedman <dfcats7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Cynthia Beck
Subject: comments for Board of Supervisors' meeting tonight

Board of Supervisors,

In Mr. Pektor's comments about development in the area he has consistently stated that he would prefer manufacturing over warehouse facilities.

He has also stated that 300,000 square foot warehouses are no longer viable in today's business environment. It is ironic that his first venture in development in the area is a 150,000 square foot warehouse on Demi Road. The size and nature of this building is in direct contrast of anything he has constantly proposed. If he continues erecting these types of buildings we will have our 22 warehouses on the River Pointe Logistics property in no time! I hope that this is not a prelude of things to come.

Also, if your meetings are going to be virtual, information concerning them should be posted on your website indicating this so people do not travel to the municipal building and find it empty. Although information may be posted on Facebook, this is not the official website of the township.

David Friedman

Comment to Supervisor November 23, 2020 meeting
Judy Henckel

I understand Richard Wilford-Hunt has submitted an email regarding a presentation given to the Northampton County Economic Development Committee earlier this month. He exceeds your limit for comment, so I would like to give some of my time or words for the full content of his comment to be heard.

I also listened to the presentation and agree with his comments but am also disturbed that only the view from the park ballfield is of concern. More important is the view from the federal designated Scenic River, twice designated River on the Year, 2002 and 2020, and of national and international significance with an intrinsic value that will last through time.

I understand a developer is a salesman, but we need to analyze how his words reflect the desire of officials for a secure tax base. If they are not on the same page, how are residents assured of a well-planned endeavor that will change our township and surrounding neighbors for decades and longer. What's the cost and who pays the price for all the infrastructure needed? When asked, the developer's answer was grants.

I would also like to request that more time and research is done when selecting a Community Planner, with a goal of community engagement for plans and purpose that all can embrace.