

UPPER MOUNT BETHELTOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2020 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020 @ 8:00 PM

PART I

1. Call to Order-Chairman Bermingham Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, and Township Manager Nelson.
4. Approve the Agenda-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to approve the agenda.

PART II (Public Comment)

Ron Angle asked who prepared the 2020 Budget. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated former Manager Rick Fisher and Manager Nelson has been reviewing it and making changes. Supervisor Pinter stated that he worked on the budget with Rick before he left.

PART III (Approve the Budget for 2020)

Manager Nelson discussed the budget that was approved back in December 2019 and the amendments he has made. Manager Nelson was able to make adjustments to some line items and remove some line items. Manager Nelson stated he brought in the depreciation of the vehicles and at some point in the future, bring in the buildings and depreciate them as well. Manager Nelson provided some examples of millage increase and what that meant in the dollar amount. One (1) millage increase would be \$207,692.31, one and a half (1.5) millage increase would be \$301,538.48 and a two (2) millage increase would be \$415,384.62. Manager Nelson stated the overall budget is \$3,748,382.00.

Supervisor Teel stated he met with Lou Pektor and discussed up and coming projects in the Township. Mr. Pektor offered to pay for the Mt. Bethel Fire Company's hoses, if the Township is willing to forgive him/Ashley Development for his indiscretion (funds owed to the Township).

Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated, before we increase taxes, he would like to give Manager Nelson some more time to work on the budget. Manager Nelson stated that the focus has been mainly on Open Space and Preservation, that those decisions have affected the tax base now, because we cannot collect any more income from them.

Supervisor Pinter stated that the road department is the most single expensive portion of the Township. Manager Nelson stated that we need to protect the roads that are in good shape now.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked what big items are on the budget this year. Manager Nelson stated the traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 611/Rt. 512 (\$256,000) and the guiderails (\$100,000).

MOTION by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Pinter, to raise the millage to 1.5. Supervisor Due discussed the possibility of lowering the taxes. Public comment-Ron Angle stated that the Board needs to approve the budget before they can approve a millage change. Supervisor Teel rescinded his motion, Supervisor Pinter rescinded his second. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to approve the budget as presented. Vote: 5-0.

Public Comment-Ron Angle discussed the Township Managers Salary and Benefits and the effects on the budget.

MOTION by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Pinter, to increase the millage 1.5, setting the millage at 8.0. Vote: 3-2. Chairman Bermingham Jr. and Supervisor Due voting no.

PART IV (Public Comment)

Ron Angle commended Supervisor Pinter on his ideas of getting the depreciation in the budget. Ron asked if anyone knew what Lou Pektor's timeframe is. Supervisor DeFranco stated he would like to start cleaning up the property, so residents can visualize what it might look like. Supervisor Teel stated that Lou asked about the possibility of renting out the park for functions, something that would be beneficial for both the Township and his business.

PART V (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary