



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 – 7 PM

*This meeting was held Virtually and live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page.

PART I

1. Call to Order-Chairman Pinter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call-Virtually present were Chairman Pinter, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor Due, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Bermingham, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle. Manager Nelson was absent.
4. Approve the Agenda-**MOTION** by Supervisor Due to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

PART II (Public Comment)

Richard Wilford-Hunt read his public comment on his disappointment on the Townships' process of advertising for open positions. This public comment will become part of the official record.

PART III (Announcements)

PART IV (Approve the Minutes)

1. Meeting Minutes-December 14, 2020-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to approve the December 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.
2. Special Budget Meeting Minutes-December 21, 2020-**MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to approve the December 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.
3. Final 2021 Budget Adoption Meeting Minutes-December 30, 2020-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to approve the Final 2021 Budget Adoption Meeting Minutes, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

4. End of 2020 Year Meeting Minutes-December 30, 2020-**MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to approve the End of 2020 Year Meeting Minutes, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

PART V (Reports)

1. Financial-Bill List-Chairman Pinter read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to pay the bills in the amount of \$52,161.79, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
2. Manager's Report-Due to Manager Nelson not being present, Chairman Pinter asked for this to be on the January 25th meeting.
3. Engineer's Report-Engineer Coyle read his monthly report, which included finalizing plans for River Road FEMA repair, 611/512 traffic signal project, and there was no report on Planning Commission.
4. Solicitor's Report-Solicitor Karasek apologized that he did not submit his report in time for them to review.
5. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Teel reported that he spoke with RPL regarding getting 2-3 estimates from independent Engineering Companies to do a traffic report and to review the current traffic study, which will be paid by RPL. Supervisor Bermingham stated we should make sure there is not conflict of interest with the selected company. Solicitor Karasek stated an affidavit could be signed by the company indicating there is no conflict of interest. Engineer Coyle stated the average cost for a traffic study is roughly \$5k - \$10k, depending on the perplexity of the plan.

Supervisor Bermingham reported he has been speaking with some residents on the Ad Hoc committee for the Industrial Park. Supervisor Bermingham stated the reason to form the Ad Hoc committee is to support the development on River Rd and ensure the infrastructure is sustainable and the success of the Industrial Park is in harmony with the residents. Chairman Pinter would like the committee to set 3 goals and have a mission statement. Supervisor Bermingham stated he will be holding a presentation via ZOOM, on how local governments work and will also be having office hours.

Supervisor DeFranco stated that the EDC did not meet last month.

Supervisor Due stated he has nothing to report.

Chairman Pinter stated he will be meeting with each Supervisor independently to discuss their goals for the year, how the format of the agenda will change, as well as the way they will be receiving supporting documents for each meeting. Chairman Pinter will also be meeting with each committee chairperson, to discuss their goals and the reporting of their minutes.

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

1. Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds, and Exonerations-**MOTION** by Supervisor Due to approve the Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds, and Exonerations, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.
2. Resolution #2021-02 School Choice Week-Chairman Pinter gave a summary of the proclamation officially recognizing January 24-30, 2021 as School Choice Week. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to adopt Resolution #2021-02, School Choice Week, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.

PART VII (Old Business)

1. Heritage Conservancy-Solicitor Karasek discussed his review of the Agreement with Heritage Conservancy and stated he has a few concerns, the scope of work, fees, and extra services. Chairman Pinter would like the Agreement returned back to the Heritage Conservancy to get their feedback on Solicitor Karasek's concerns. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to table to the January 25th meeting, seconded by Supervisor Due. Supervisor Due stated that for as long as the OSAB has used them, they have never had an issue. Vote: 5-0.

PART VIII (New Business)-None

PART IX (Public Comment)

Sharon Duffield commented on the traffic impact study, activity that is occurring on the RPL property, concerns of wells and the need for well testing.

Charles Cole commented on the traffic impact study being part of the zoning and text amendments and would like to add PennDOT transportation impact study, part of the highway occupancy permit process.

David Friedman commended on setting goals, zoning and well ordinances need to be investigated.

Judy Henckel stated the Heritage Conservancy will do a great job for the OSAB.

PART X (Executive Session)-None

PART XI (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary

Public Comment – UMBT BOS Mtg. Jan 11 2021

Submitted by: Richard Wilford-Hunt 2012 Shady Lane Mt. Bethel PA 18343

Is this how local government works??

The re-org meeting last week was a sham, a disgrace and an insult to the residents of UMBT. Shame on us for not knowing what positions would be filled. But shame on you all for not being more open and doing more than submitting a small print ad in the local paper (30 day minimum required under law). These open positions should have been posted on the UMBT website in clear view for all residents to see and should have been announced at BOS meetings way prior to the elections to allow qualified residents to apply. It is clear again why the lack of transparency to the residents; afraid to call attention to your way of governing “its my way or hit the highway”! The most visible example yet being the removal of Mr. Bermingham as chairman of the board. Of all of you, John is the only one who has repeatedly reached out to the community through office hours and community events to ask questions and seek feedback on what the majority of residents want for the future of UMBT. Your show of appreciation? Removing him from the chairmanship position because he made you all look foolish in front of hundreds of residents with his concerns for our quality of life and his “no” vote on the developers Text Amendment at the Sept 9th public hearing. Because he and our township engineer were the only ones to raise the red flag about this proposed industrial park. I am surprised you did not sack him also.