



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM

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

I.

Chairman Pinter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Virtually present were Chairman Pinter, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Due, Supervisor Bermingham, Township Manager Nelson, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Cole commented on the Independent Traffic Study and hopes that the study involves PennDOTs' transportation impact study and also look for assistance from LTAP. Charles commented on the Act 537 and would like to see the denial letter from DEP available on the Township website for the residents to view.

Richard Wilford-Hunt read his public comment, which will become part of the official record. Richard commented on the NID, Act 537 and RPL. Richard stated there are better ways to benefit the Township, not just development. Chairman Pinter responded to Richard's comment, expressing his concerns for misinformation that is being distributed. Chairman Pinter is requesting that anyone who may have questions regarding the NID or any other concerns, to please contact Manager Nelson. Supervisor Bermingham stated that the residents would like to understand the NID and maybe the Board should consider having a town hall meeting to answer some questions the residents have. Chairman Pinter stated that once the lawsuit is over and we have more information to provide to the residents, a town hall meeting will be considered.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Pinter announced that we will begin holding in person meetings in the garage at the Township Building starting March 22nd. The meetings will continue to be live streamed through the Township Facebook page.

Chairman Pinter congratulated the Bangor Boys and Girls basketball teams for making it into the District Championships.

Manager Nelson announced that a local business currently has a retail job opening and if anyone is interested in hearing more details, to please contact him.

Chairman Bermingham announced he met with Mohinder, of M & M Vineyards, who stated they received a \$15,000 SARE Grant to eliminate the Spotted Lanternfly that is destroying vineyards all over the Northeast. The project is called Prevention of Spotted Lanternfly Infestation. The total cost of the project is \$35,000. Supervisor Bermingham is working with Mohinder in obtaining the additional \$20,000 for the project. Also, the Bangor Area Girl Scouts will be having a drive thru cookie sale at the Mt. Bethel Fire House on Saturday, March 13th, Sunday, March 14th, Saturday, March 20th and Sunday, March 21st, from 10am-6pm. Also, Supervisor Bermingham would like the Board to consider putting up deer signs on Allegheny Rd. Chairman Pinter asked for this to be put on the agenda for March 22nd for discussion.

Supervisor Due commented on the hazardous intersection of Rt. 191, W. Bangor Rd. and Lake Minsi Dr.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the February 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds and Exonerations
4. Animal Control Officer Contract
5. Budget Committee
6. Authorization to Advertise for Bids

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

IV. FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manager Nelson read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to pay the bills in the amount of \$211,772.76, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.

V.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Open Positions-Secretary Cindy Beck stated a letter of interest was received from Barry Isett and Associates as the Alternate BCO. Manager Nelson stated the open positions for a Zoning Official and Alternate Solicitor will be advertised in the local newspaper as well as on the PSATS website. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to table the Alternate BCO position to the March 22nd meeting to vote on it, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.
2. Independent Traffic Study-Manager Nelson stated two proposals have been received, Keystone and Benchmark. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to table to the March 22nd meeting, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.
3. Social Media/Privacy Policy-Manager Nelson stated more information needs to be gathered. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to table to the April 12th meeting, seconded by Chairman Pinter. Vote: 5-0.

VI.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Act 537 Plan-Engineer Coyle gave an update and wanted to provide clarification on the Act 537 Plan. A little history on the Act 537, started working on it in 2018-2019, public comments were addressed in mid-2019, draft was completed by the end of 2019 and submitted to DEP February 2020 (right before the pandemic hit). In December of 2020, we received comments back from DEP. Engineer Coyle stated this plan was submitted as a "Draft". Engineer Coyle stated most of the comments from DEP were centered around the lack of adjourning municipalities participation. There were multiple coordination meetings held with Portland through the Act 537 process. There were no formal agreements with the two major outside municipalities because negotiations were ongoing. Other alternatives (drip irrigation) were looked at. Engineer Coyle stated that changes will have to be made to the Act 537 to address the proposed sewer for RPL. At this time, the Act 537 is in a holding pattern, meetings with adjourning municipalities, DEP, and RPL will need to be coordinated. Engineer Coyle stated that Carroll Engineering will be responding to each of the comments from the DEP denial letter and will then be available on the Township's website. This will be on the March 22nd agenda for an update.

VII.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Cole commented that the RPL site needs to be included in the updated Act 537 Plan and is concerned it will not be completed in 5-10 days.

Mark Mezger asked, "given the magnitude of the sewer requirements for RPL plan, are the options in alternatives put forth in the Act 537 plan still viable"? Engineer Coyle

responded that a preliminary layout (drip irrigation system) was put together as to what they thought could accommodate the development in the I-2 Zone.

**VIII.
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 – UMBT BOS Meeting Mar 8 2021

Once again the BOS are NOT telling us the whole story – just like the Text Amendment, just like the ACT 537 Sewer and Water Plan. The proposed Neighborhood Improvement District or NID is simply a back door way to get sewer and water infrastructure up Rt. 611 and thus pave the way for more development along this corridor and beyond. Tobyhanna Township in Monroe County did just this with their use of a Neighborhood Improvement District for the Kalahari Water Park.

The Neighborhood Improvement District Act (PA ACT 130), mandates an “authority” to be set up to manage the district. In our case it seems that authority will only have to include River Point Logistics and the BOS. And according to the ACT, this “authority” also has the power to expand the service area AFTER the initial district (the industrial park) is set up. This extended service area could well include the purported areas of concern (AOC’s) in the townships public water and sewer plan. If so, the BOS and River Point Logistics are now obligating the added property owners to pay the “special assessment fee” or tax to help pay for that public water and sewer. This tax will not come close to paying for such infrastructure costs so how will the township pay for it? Seems to me the BOS will have to borrow money and hence obligate ALL of the residents of UMBT to pay off this debt for years to come?

Just like the Text Amendment, just like the Act 537 Plan, there is more than meets the eye with a Neighborhood Improvement District and their effects on the future of UMBT.

There are better ways to benefit the entire township and not just the developer. We can grow tax revenue and still protect the rural character of our township. We want to promote agri-tourism like Hard Ball Cider and M&M Winery NOT truck stops and fast food restaurants. We need to take the time to do it right and NOT become the next Tatamy or Macungie. Thank you.

Richard Wilford-Hunt
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Mt. Bethel, PA