



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

www.umbt.org

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

I.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were Chairman Pinter, Supervisor Due, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Bermingham, Township Manager Nelson, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle. Supervisor Teel was present via phone.

Public Comments:

Chief Finan stated the Fire Company will begin having fund raisers.

Richard Wilford-Hunt stated that on April 17th, starting at 9 am, will be his son's 19th Earth Day Clean-up and is hoping that the road crew will pick up what garbage they collect.

Charlie Cole commented on the Board of Supervisors' personal comments vs their Supervisor position.

Ron Angle commented on an article that was published in the Express Times on the Act 537 plan that was submitted and asked who prepared it.

II.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Bermingham thanked everyone who expressed their condolences on the passing of his father, John Bermingham Sr. on Friday, March 19th.

Supervisor Due announced that PennDOT is considering a study (5 changes) at the dangerous intersection of Rt. 191-Lake Minsi Dr.-W. Bangor Rd.

III.

TABLED ITEMS

1. Open Position-Chairman Pinter stated that one letter of interest was received for the Alternate Building Codes Officer position. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to appoint Barry Isett and Associates as the Alternate Building Codes Officer, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
2. Independent Traffic Study-Manager Nelson briefly discussed the two proposals we received, Benchmark and Keystone. Supervisor Bermingham raised a question about a conflict of interest. Chairman Pinter asked Solicitor Karasek to draft a conflict-of-interest statement. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to table to April 12th, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.

Public Comments:

Mark Mezgar commented on what the basis of the selection is.

Richard Wilford-Hunt commented on making sense of the traffic study.

Dave Friedman commented on his RTK that he submitted for the traffic study.

Charlie Cole commented on the traffic study and PennDOT.

IV.

REPORTS

1. Scott Policelli gave a summary of his monthly report. Scott reported inspections made, permits issued, and responding to a complaint on Million Dollar Highway.
2. Tina Serfass gave a summary of her monthly report. Tina reported the zoning and building applications reviewed and permits issued.
3. Diann Eden gave a summary of her monthly report. Diann reported that she continues working on Freedom Systems, reports she prepared, meeting with the Auditor, performed her monthly accounts payable entries, and there are currently 75 players signed up for softball.
4. Manager Nelson gave a summary of his monthly report, Manager Nelson reported on the snow and labor/material costs, attendance on conference calls and webinars, contract negotiations, attended the ribbon cutting at Mt. Bethel Plaza and various administrative matters. Manger Nelson stated that "Deer Everywhere" signs will be placed at locations entering the Township and that road signs that are missing will be replaced.
5. Engineer Coyle gave a summary of his monthly report, which included the 2021 Roadway Program, bridge projects, responses to comments from DEP concerning the Draft Act 537 Plan update, and the review of several grading plans. Public Comment: Ron Angle stated that the one lane bridge on Million Dollar Highway is the last remaining one in the Township and he hopes that it is left alone.

6. Solicitor Karasek gave a summary of his monthly report, which included meetings attended, land development/zoning/land use matters, outstanding litigation, and miscellaneous matters.
7. Supervisor Teel stated there is nothing to report on Planning Commission.
8. Secretary Cindy Beck reported she has been working with Engineer Coyle on getting the bid packages out, office activity has picked up with the submission of zoning/building applications, began working on the Spring Newsletter, working with Stavros on the CodeRed emergency notification system, and the preparing the monthly agenda and minutes.
9. Supervisor's Reports:
 - a. Supervisor Birmingham reported he attended the ribbon cutting at Mt. Bethel Plaza, that he is working with the school on an anti-bully seminar, the Girl Scout Cookie drive at the Fire House was a big success, wellness opportunities available, the Industrial Park Committee, and his bi-weekly interviews with Dr. Raso on the COVID-19 updates. Supervisor Birmingham thanked Lee McDonald for his time video recording these interviews.
 - b. Supervisor DeFranco reported he attended the ribbon cutting at the Mt. Bethel Plaza, the EDC meeting is this week and Scott Cole, Chairman of the EDC, will provide an update in his report.
 - c. Supervisor Due stated that Manager Nelson gave a summary of the Road Crew report and stated they are doing a great job.
 - d. Supervisor Teel, RPL liaison, stated he continues communication with RPL.
 - e. Chairman Pinter stated that Diann provided a report on Freedom Systems and he will be moving forward with his Budget Committee.
10. Janet Pearson reported the Open Space Advisory Board met for the election of officers for 2021, the Heritage Conservancy contract has been signed, and that she attended a meeting with Manager Nelson and Engineer Coyle to discuss a master plan for the Preserve of Upper Mount Bethel Township.
11. Stavros Barbounis reported his monthly IT/Telecom activity, which included the continued server/network upgrades, website updates, deployment of CodeRed, and IT support as needed.
12. Stavros Barbounis provided an overview of the Parks & Recreation Boards to the BOS. Stavros stated that as Chairman of the Park/Rec Board, he is working on getting an understanding of the committees and their duties and provided their 2021 goals and objectives.
13. Scott Cole gave a summary of the EDC's 2021 goal planning. Scott reported the development and implementation strategies for making the EDC more visible, reaching out to local business owners, and establishing branding for UMBT. Scott reported that Air Liquide is hiring and to look on Facebook and the website for more details.

V.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Deer Crossing/Road Signs-Discussed previously in Manager Nelson's monthly report.
2. Act 537-Engineer Coyle stated that communication will be maintained.
3. Firearms Ordinance-Solicitor Karasek stated a draft of the Ordinance was provided to the BOS to review. The Board stated there is a need for revisions. Solicitor Karasek stated they need to let him know what revisions they are requesting. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to table to the April 26th Work Session meeting, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.
4. Neighborhood Improvement District (NID Act)-Manager Nelson read a summary of the proposed plan for the RP-NID and would like this to be tabled. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to table to the April 12th meeting, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.

VI.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Township Policy-Manager Nelson stated this will be by Resolution not policy and is working with Solicitor Karasek to finalize. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to table to the April 12th meeting, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

VII.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Duffield read the meeting minutes from December to clear up the confusion of the Traffic Study that was misunderstood by some residents.

Dave Friedman commented on his not understanding of the NID process.

Supervisor Teel left the meeting at 9:35 pm.

VIII.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Recess to Executive Session at 9:43 pm to discuss legal matters. The meeting reconvened at 9:55 pm.

1. Legal-Chairman Pinter stated that legal matters regarding VIP were discussed and that no action will be taken at this time.
2. Personnel-No discussion

IX.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor DeFranco to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary