



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 MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021 – 7:00 PM

*This meeting was held in-person 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.

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

Public Comments

Chief Chris Finan stated that the Mt. Bethel Fire Company is applying for a grant to have the Fire House equipped as an emergency shelter for the Upper Mount Bethel Township community and is hoping to get all the Supervisors to sign a letter of support on this project. Dale Handelong stated that along with a grant writer and Supervisor Bermingham, they are hoping to secure the \$450k grant to build a 2500 sq ft addition with showers and handicap bathrooms. There is no cost to the Township and will help the community. There was a discussion amongst the Board on how this was handled with the lack of communication. Chairman Pinter read an email that he received from Representative Emrick.

Charles Cole commented on the Traffic Impact Study that was completed by McMahon. Charles provided a copy to each Board member to review as he pointed out certain excerpts from the study.

Richard Wilford-Hunt read his public comment. Richard commented on the changes that are going to impact the community, the need for a community planner and an up to date Comprehensive Plan that respects our rural identity, open space and woodlands.

Ron Angle commented that he did not receive any feedback of his question regarding the Draft Act 537 Plan cost and who prepared the study. Manager Nelson stated he will reach out to Mr. Angle first thing in the morning.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Cindy Beck announced that we will be changing our Emergency Notification System from Nixle to CodeRed. More information will follow on the Township Website and Facebook within the next week or two.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the March 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the March 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds and Exonerations
4. Blue Mountain Antique Gas & Steam Engine-Fee Waived
5. Inter-Municipal Agreement-Softball

Supervisor Birmingham stated he would like to Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021, reflect his request to Manager Nelson for the original email on the NID.

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

IV. ACTION AGENDA

1. Bid Awards-Engineer Coyle discussed the bids received for the 2021 Roadway Projects. One bid was received for the Seal Coat project, Asphalt Maintenance Solutions (AMS) for \$438,254.80. Three (3) bids were received for the Roadway Line Painting project, Midlantic Marking Inc. for \$97,595.52, DeAngelo Contracting Services LLC for \$103,012.80 and Alpha Space Control for \$105,240.96. Two (2) bids were received for the Roadway Guiderail Replacement, Wm. Orr & Sons Inc. for \$57,870.00 and Chemung Supply for \$75,000.00. Engineer Coyle recommends AMS for the Seal Coat, Midlantic Marking for the Line Painting, and Wm Orr & Sons for the Guiderail. There was a discussion on paving this year, scratch paving vs. paving. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to award the Seal Coat project to AMS for \$438,254.80, the Line Painting project to Midlantic Marking for \$97,595.52 and the Guiderail project to Wm. Orr & Sons for \$57,870.00, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0. Manager Nelson discussed the Material Bids received. Two (2) bids were received for Superpave 9.5, Superpave 19.0, #2B Stone, #2A Stone and Antiskid Type AS3, Hanson Aggregates and Eureka Stone. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to approve the bid proposals from Hanson Aggregates, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to approve the bid proposals from Eureka Stone, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0. Manager Nelson stated one (1) bid proposal was received for Diesel Fuel/Heating Fuel Oil/Unleaded Gasoline. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to approve the bid proposal from Reimer Bros, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.
2. Open Position (Alternate Solicitor)-Manager Nelson stated a letter of interest was received from Chad DeFelice, Esq. for the Alternate Solicitor position. Attorney DeFelice did not include a schedule of his rates. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to table, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.
3. Part-Time Non-CDL Position and Intern-Manager Nelson stated he would like to hire three (3) part-time non-CDL. Manager Nelson stated he was contacted by the school to see if we would be interested in having an intern. Manager Nelson stated he would be

working alongside Tom Pysher. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to hire three (3) part-time non-CDL and an intern, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

V.

TABLED ITEMS

1. Independent Traffic Study-Manager Nelson discussed the two proposals that were received, Benchmark and Keystone. Manager Nelson stated his recommendation would be Benchmark. Supervisor Bermingham asked why we wouldn't do our own Traffic Impact Study, so there are no ties to River Pointe. There was a discussion on the audit of the study that was done by McMahon. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to hire Benchmark to do the audit of the study done by McMahon and if that is not satisfactory, have a full Impact Study done, seconded by Supervisor Due. Supervisor Bermingham has concerns about a conflict of interest between Benchmark and River Pointe. Supervisor Bermingham stated we have to stop having shields up between certain Supervisors. Chairman Pinter stated he will sit down with Manager Nelson to correct the issue with certain information not being distributed to all the Board members. Richard Wilford-Hunt commented that at the last meeting, the Board asked Solicitor Karasek to look into whether there are any conflict of interests with the two companies and River Pointe. Chairman Pinter responded that a letter was drafted. Solicitor Karasek stated he relied on Manager Nelson's direction and it did not go out. Supervisor Teel rescinded his motion, Supervisor Due rescinded his second. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to table to the April 26, 2021, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0. Solicitor Karasek will draft a letter indicating there is no conflict of interest between Benchmark and River Pointe.
2. Neighborhood Improvement District (NID Act) Attorney-Manager Nelson discussed the request to search for an Attorney that has experience with the NID. Manager Nelson stated he spoke with Attorney Rocco Cozza. Solicitor Karasek stated the Firm is a four (4) member Firm and the reviews that he was able to secure seem to be very good. They appear to work out to the Pittsburgh area, which they would have the city knowledge of the NID. Supervisor Bermingham suggested inviting the Firm to attend a meeting to discuss the NID with the Supervisors and Residents and maybe answer some questions that residents may have. Chairman Pinter stated that we should interview and hire them first. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to invite the Firm to a township meeting, where the residents can submit their questions to be answered, before a vote to hire the Firm, no second, motion fails. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter for Manager Nelson to set up a ZOOM interview with the Law Firm for the Board to ask questions, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0-1. Supervisor Bermingham voting no.

VI.

FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manager Nelson read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to pay the bills in the amount of \$225,723.48, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
2. First Quarter County & Creditech Update-Chairman Pinter gave a brief update of the Quarterly County and Creditech taxes collected.

VII.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Social Media/Privacy Policy-Manager Nelson asked for this to be on the May 24th Work Session meeting.

2. Township Resolution-Manager Nelson stated that he has been working with Solicitor Karasek on this Resolution. Solicitor Karasek stated he was asked to draft a Township Resolution regarding Township Committee Members/Volunteers that are not current with their Township obligations, including Township property taxes and garbage bills. Solicitor Karasek read the Resolution. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to move forward with the Township Resolution, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.

VIII.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Truck 27-Manager Nelson stated he would like to sell Truck 27 for it does not serve our purpose. Manager Nelson stated he has a buyer that is willing to pay what we paid for it, \$140,000. Solicitor Karasek read the Second-Class Township Code on bidding. The sale of Township property to another Township is exempt from bidding. Chairman Pinter would like to put it out for bid. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to put Truck 27 out for bid, with a reserve of \$140,000, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

IX.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Wilford-Hunt commented that it is of the best interest of the Supervisors of the Township to investigate whether RPL has any connection with Attorney Cozza, the NID attorney.

Mark Mezger commented on his email that was sent to each Board member on his review and analysis of RPL NID Proposal.

Cori Eckman commented on the Traffic Impact Study, what will we be looking for in the audit and will we be looking to PennDOT and LTAP for advice.

Frances Visicaro commented on the truck traffic on Rt. 611 and the garbage that has ended up on her property.

X.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary

Public Comment – UMBT BOS Meeting April 12 2021

You all have seen the movie with Mark Wahlburg and George Clooney about the fishing trawler caught in the Atlantic hurricane. That movie was called the “Perfect Storm” and that is what we are in now - a perfect storm. We are the fishing trawler and the crew on the boat (our identity as a rural quiet township), and I say we because we in this together. The hurricane is the developer and their proposals for drastic changes which will not only effect the I-2 and I-3 zones BUT the entire township and the entire region. There will be many many unintended consequences - huge numbers of trucks a day, fast food restaurants and truck stops along Rt. 611 and demand for more services should these changes be pushed through without thorough understanding and planning.

1. we need to get ahead of this and NOT be lead by the developer like was done with the Text Amendment. And now is being done with the plan for a Neighborhood Improvement District and a joint venture between Bangor Area IDA and RPL for the I-3 Zone.

2. we need to get a community planner on board (not just one we pick out of a hat but one who is truly experienced in dealing with massive development in a rural community) In Tatamy, the design solution by an engineering firm was based on facilitating truck movement and had nothing to do with community planning.

3. we need a Master Plan – an up too date Comprehensive Plan that respects our rural identity, open space and woodlands. This plan should reflect at least a 10-20 year horizon.

It is time to step back and really look at what is about to happen to UMBT and the entire region.

Thank you.

Richard Wilford-Hunt
2012 Shady Lane
Mt. Bethel, PA