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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022 – 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.

In attendance were Chairman Pinter, Supervisor Due, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Bermingham, Supervisor Teel, and Township Manager Nelson. Solicitor Karasek and Engineer Coyle were absent.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to approve agenda, seconded by Supervisor Friedman.
Vote: 5-0.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Mezger-Scenic Ct, commented on the new garbage contract and expressed concerns about the elderly managing financially. There was a discussion on the bidding process. Fran Visicaro commented on the increased amount and asked if there is a way to pay monthly and online.

Cory Nansteel, River Rd., stated he is here to discuss and possibly educate the residents on the maintenance of the toters. Cory stated he works for Palmer Township, and they have a whole process of the maintenance/repairs on the toters. The Township should be prepared that there are more costs involved in having toters.

Judy Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on contaminated recycle and expressed her concerns on the large toters, getting them to where they must be placed.

IV.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Trash Fee Billing-Manager Nelson discussed the garbage "fee", which does not have to be collected by the tax collector. Manager Nelson reached out to Berkheimer to see if they would be interested in billing and collecting the garbage fee. Residents would have the option paying monthly or annually. The fee would be an additional \$1.50 for them to process the bill. Residents would receive a coupon book. If you were to pay monthly, the fee would \$42.79 for the first year. If you pay it all at once it would be \$486.50. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to move forward with Berkheimer handling the billing and collection of the garbage fee, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Supervisor Bermingham stated we should keep looking at options. Manager Nelson stated the contract is done December 31st, we cannot wait. Vote: 4-1.

V.

2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Supervisor Friedman asked about a several hundred thousand dollar paving bill, where is it reflected in the budget. Manager Nelson stated the funds will be coming out of the liquid fuels, which is to be used for road repairs. The Township receives the liquid fuels stipend in the beginning of March and ranges in the amount of \$300,000 to \$500,000. There was a discussion on whether this project should of went out for bid. Manager Nelson stated it was a service. The bottom of Quiet Valley Rd and Shady Lane was washed out and was completely reconstructed, this put the road crew behind. Manager Nelson, along with Supervisor Due and Supervisor Pinter, decided to move forward with the objective to finish the road, since we already had purchased the material. Chairman Pinter the road crew is understaffed. Supervisor Bermingham asked who was the company that did the paving. Manager Nelson stated Hallett Paving. Supervisor Bermingham asked to have a copy of the bill. Manager Nelson stated the budget is short about \$800,000. Supervisor Bermingham spoke of the Fire Companies giving back the ARPA monies. Chief Finan stated that both NB and MB have agreed to give back the funds to help out the Township. Supervisor Teel discussed an offer from RPL. RPL has \$600,000 that will come due to the Township. Lisa Pektor stated she is not aware of any offer but did discuss the NID. If not for the lawsuit and delays, there would be three buildings up that would be paying into the NID. Hopefully by 2024, once the buildings are up, they can stop any additional tax increases. Supervisor Teel discussed the conversation he had with Lou Pektor. RPL would prepay for two buildings ahead of time, in the amount of \$600,000, therefore, the Township would not have a shortfall in our taxes and not raise our taxes. Supervisor Teel stated he does not want to use the ARPA monies that the fire companies would be giving back. Supervisor Teel stated he is very concerned about the senior citizens and will not raise taxes on them. Supervisor Bermingham stated he liked the thought of the Fire Companies giving back the ARPA funds and suggested raising the millage 1.5 and have it go to emergency services. Chairman Pinter requests a 2 mil increase this year and a 2 mil increase next year. Steve Ott asked if there was a way to raise 1 mil a year, instead of going drastic. There was a discussion on changing the OSAB (currently at .125% of the EIT) and giving

more to the Fire Companies. This would be by referendum in the primary in May. Fran Visicaro asked what the amount is per \$1,000 a millage equals. Manager Nelson stated 6.5 % per thousand. There was a discussion on the Police Pension Fund. Todd Pinto asked about the ARPA funds and whether they are keeping the funds or giving it back because they have a payment coming due in 6 months. Ron Angle expressed his concerns with Stagflation. Manager Nelson stated that if the Board agrees to a 2 mil increase, he can make the adjustments. The 2023 Budget is to be adopted on December 30, 2022, at 5:00pm. Supervisor Bermingham stated he will be having office hours and to check his facebook page for the day and time.

**VI.
ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary