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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HELD AT THE MT. BETHEL FIRE HOUSE 2341 N. DELAWARE DR.
MT. BETHEL, PA 18343
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 – 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 Friedman, Supervisor Bermingham (via phone), Supervisor Teel, Supervisor Due, Township Manager Nelson, Township Engineer Coyle, and Township Solicitor Karasek.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Chairman Pinter stated, due to the weather, he would like to amend the agenda, to forego the Reports, which will be available at the Township Building for anyone to review. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to amend the agenda, to remove the reports, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Rudolph, Shady Lane, commented the existing garbage Ordinance and would like to request it to be reviewed, as well as the cost to senior citizens.

Laura Bocko, Lake Minsi Dr., announced Open Space Advisory Board meetings in which everyone is invited to attend. Laura discussed the environmental study that was completed on the preserve.

Richard Clark, Hallett Rd., commented on the size and placement of the garbage toters, having the ability to leave them at the end of their long lane.

Chris Finan, Apache Dr., Chief Mt. Bethel Fire Company, announced the Annual Sportsman Banquet is being held on March 25th, tickets and information is available on their website. Chris stated that the Engine that was ordered will not be in until 2025.

Anthony Kyzer, Lenape Tr., commented on the garbage fee increase and having an option of opting out of the garbage service. Chairman Pinter stated that the Ordinance that has been in place for 30 years would have to be changed in order for the option of opting out. Manager Nelson stated there will be a date scheduled for the collection of old cans.

Fredheim Wade, Hillside Ct., commented the requirements for residents on separating the recyclables, Chairman Pinter stated it is single stream recycling. Fred asked whose responsibility is it if the toters break and can a resident use their own toter if it is the same size.

Ron Carlson, WM representative, stated the Township owns the toters and WM is responsible for replacing/repairing them. Ron discussed the increase in the service. The heaviest impact is recycling, as well as the fuel costs and repairs on trucks. Chairman Pinter asked about the effects on the disposal of trash if the expansion of the landfill does not go through in Pen Argyl. Ron stated it will have a huge impact, the transportation of trash removal will go sky high. Supervisor Teel asked if there was any relief for senior citizens. Ron stated he will discuss with his upper management team but cannot provide any guarantees.

Michael Kulicke, Hemlock Dr., commented on the savings with the automated service. Ron stated that yes and no. Personnel, insurance, fuel, maintenance on trucks, etc, all have an impact on the cost of trash service. Ron commented on the size of the toters, if they have the bar on the front and it accommodates the automated truck, the size should not impact the pickup. Rob Mayoka, WM representative, stated this will be discussed with his team whether a smaller toter can be an option.

Cornelius Spitzer, 113 Crystal Terr., commented on the size of toters, is there a weight limit. Ron stated there is a 250 pound weight limit.

Supervisor Bermingham asked about the size of the toter and can the resident use a smaller toter if the truck accommodates them. Ron stated yes and they are looking into this and will report back on whether the smaller toters will work. Supervisor Bermingham asked about the garbage service fee bill, will it be broken down by monthly, quarterly, or annually. Chairman Pinter stated that Berkheimer will be giving the resident the choice.

Richard Wilford-Hunt, Shady Lane, asked for the yearly breakdown of garbage service fee, since it will increase each year for the next three years. Chairman Pinter stated he

does not have the exact numbers in front of him but they fee increases about \$100,000 a year for the next three years.

Supervisor Bermingham asked in lieu of the one 96 gal toter, can a resident have two 40 gal toters picked up. Ron stated they are looking into this.

Robert Dunning, Lake Minsi Dr., commented transporting toters for those who have long driveways and whose responsibility will it be to repair the toters.

David Clunie, Heiden Rd., commented on the size of the toters.

Marie Barnes, Belvidere Corner Rd., commented on leaving the toters on the side of the road, at the end of her driveway and what about the overflow of garbage, and the is it necessary to have the bulk pickup truck just riding around.

Anthony Kyzer, Lenape Tr., commented on the cost of an additional toter, on top of the annual fee, and the ability to leave the toter at the end of the driveway.

Joe Deluise, Mt. Bethel Hwy, commented on placement of the toters on a busy highway.

Kim Bonopane, N. Delaware Dr., commented on damaged toters and who is responsible for repairing or replacing them.

Supervisor Friedman stated he has a sign-up sheet for those that will need some assistance with their garbage.

Frances Visicaro, N. Delaware Dr., commented on how she will be adjusting to the new toters service.

Diane Demarzo, S. Delaware Dr., asked if there was a public meeting to discuss the new garbage contract.

Dalton Stenlake, Belvidere Corner Rd., commented on having a dumpster at the Township Building for residential garbage drop off.

Sharon Duffield, Potomac St., commented on the amount of surprises that come out at Township meetings. Communication needs to be fixed.

Richard Klinge, Totts Gap Rd., commented on the garbage bid advertisement, other companies were not aware. Richard stated the Board of Supervisors let Manager Nelson do whatever he wants. Chairman Pinter stated that the Manager Nelson was suspended without pay for one week. Supervisor Friedman stated that he spoke with Mascaro and they never saw the bid nor were they informed.

Resident, commented on the Board of Supervisors not doing their jobs.

IV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Bermingham announced he is working with Tara Mezzanotte on having a discussion on the Rt. 611 closure on March 17th at the MB Fire House, at 7pm.

Supervisor Due wanted to thank the NB Fire Department, the MB Fire Department, the Township Road Crew for doing an outstanding job directing traffic that was due to Rt. 80 being closure. Road Crew Chief, Lindsey Manzi, goes above and beyond and deserves the recognition for that.

Recess at 8:21pm for Executive Session to discuss Legal matters.

V.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting reconvened at 8:49 pm.

1. Legal-Solicitor Karasek stated that two (2) legal matters were discussed in Executive Session. One matter deals with the unfair labor charge, which will be heard in April in Harrisburg. And the other matter deals with Hallett paving. Chairman Pinter stated no action will taken at this time.

VI.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sewer and Water Special Meeting-Chairman Pinter stated he would like to hold a Special Meeting for RPL to come in to give a presentation on the sewer and water on their property and discuss the agreement that was sent to Solicitor Karasek and the BOS. Chairman Pinter would like to have it on Thursday, March 2nd at the Fire House at 7pm. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to have a Special Meeting on March 2nd , at the MB Fire House at 7 pm, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Discussion: Supervisor Bermingham stated he is not sure he will be able to make it. Supervisor Friedman stated he feels that all Board members should be present. Vote: 3-2.
2. Parks/Recreation Updated By-Laws-Chairman Pinter discussed the updated by-laws, a refinement on Rec Desk, no major changes. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to accept the Parks/Recreation Updated By-Laws, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Discussion: Supervisors Friedman asked if Solicitor Karasek has reviewed them. Solicitor Karasek stated he has reviewed and only noted the provision in a quorum and voting, a majority of the seven (7) Board members (i.e. four (4) members) shall constitute a quorum. Supervisor Bermingham asked if these by-laws can be amended. Solicitor Karasek stated yes. Vote: 5-0.

VIII.
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary