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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 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 Due, Supervisor Bermingham, Supervisor Teel, Township Engineer Coyle, and Township Solicitor Karasek. Supervisor Friedman and Manager Nelson are attending the PSATS Conference.

**II.**

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Chairman Pinter has asked that the Well Ordinance Committee provide a monthly report and have it part of the agenda each month under Reports.

**MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Teel.  
Vote: 4-0.

**III.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andy Mahan, Kovar Lane, commented on the lack of communication/cooperation from Engineer Coyle and Manager Nelson on his current legal issue. Supervisor Due will be meeting with him on Wednesday at 10am.

Chris Finan, Apache Drive, gave an update on some upcoming events that the Fire House will be having. July 8<sup>th</sup>, Crawfish/Shrimp boil, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, car show, and May 20<sup>th</sup>, murder mystery dinner.

Mark Mezger, Scenic Ct., commented on the proposed wastewater treatment plant, regulations, location of the plant, and the type of businesses that will be going in.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., started out with giving an update the well committee meeting. They met with GEO Services, a well driller and they are currently halfway through the current ordinance. Chairman Pinter asked if they have minutes. Charles stated the Jeff Manzi has a stenographer attend each meeting but is not willing to share the transcripts. Charles commented on the sewer and water agreement, has the Planning Commission or the Engineer reviewed and commented on it. Chairman Pinter stated that before any agreement is signed, the Engineer, Solicitor, and the Planning Commission will go through it.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on the EIT, working together as a community, and the tax increase. Chairman Pinter stated regarding Judy's comment regarding the tax increase, the building permits for Demi Road could have been issued if not for the appeal made to the DEP, the Township would have had roughly \$750,000.

David Philips, Crystal Terrace, commented on periodic well water testing. Chairman Pinter stated that his thoughts are that if we approve the Authority, they can take on the testing and control it. David discussed his RTK requests and the responses he received, in regards to the Waste Management bid advertisement. Chairman Pinter asked Mr. Philips what he is trying to get out of this. Mr. Philips responded that his concern is that we are potentially not following code.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., commented on baseline testing, this needs to be done now.

Frances Visicaro, N. Delaware Dr., commented on bulk item pickup, and does a call need to be made to schedule.

Supervisor Teel wanted to clarify his comment made at the County meeting regarding ambulance service. Supervisor Teel stated that he did not say it was going to be free. Supervisor Teel reached out to Suburban and the cost for BLS (Basic Life Support) would be \$337,000.00. If every resident in the township was a subscriber, it would be roughly \$200,000. Supervisor Teel spoke with RPL and they agreed to pay \$200,000 and the balance could be worked into the budget. Chief Chris Finan stated that the Fire Company can do everything BLS, but cannot transport.

David Clunie, Heiden Rd., commented on Act 537 Plan, and should that be in place before the Authority is established. Engineer Coyle stated that the Plan has been put on hold due to the lack of communication/coordination with Portland Borough.

Sharon Duffield, Potomac St., commented on balance in the Township, the Township knowing who they are doing business with, to use caution, and the concerns the residents have.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Pinter announced he is setting up a meeting with the National Park Service and the Lower Scenic Delaware River. The developer will be involved and this will be a private meeting. Both Chairman Pinter and the Lower Scenic Delaware River will provide an update after the meeting is held.

#### **V. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Material Bids-Supervisor Due stated the Material Bids were opened today. Two bids were received for material, Heidelberg Materials (Hanson) and Eureka Stone Quarry. Supervisor Due stated that in the past the Board accepted all bids because we might be able to get a product from one and not the other, depending on the time of the year. Supervisor Due stated that neither company bid paving material. One bid was received for diesel fuel/heating oil, and unleaded gasoline, Reimer Brothers. There was a discussion on total usage amounts. Chairman Pinter would like Solicitor Karasek to review each bid before they are awarded. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to table, seconded by Chairman Pinter. Vote: 4-0.
2. Emergency Signs and Barricades-Supervisor Due stated these are for the Rt. 80 traffic that could potentially come through the Township if Rt. 80 gets closed. With Rt. 611 closed until possibly December, these signs will be used to direct traffic to stay on state roads. The cost of the signs is \$3,821.00. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to approve the purchase of the emergency signs and barricades for \$3,821.00, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 4-0.
3. Road Crew (2-Seasonal, 2-Part Time)-Supervisor Due stated this is the time of the year where we hire seasonal and part timers and would like approval to hire 2-seasonal and 2-part time workers, per the union contract. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to hire 2 seasonal and 2 part-time road crew members, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 4-0.
4. Resolution No. 2023-06-Establish a Municipal Authority-Solicitor Karasek discussed the request made to prepare by-laws/incorporation in regards to a Municipal Authority for water/sewer. Solicitor Karasek stated that a notice has to be prepared and advertised in both a local newspaper and the legal reporter at least once. The notice must state when the Authority is going to be incorporated, the names of the people on the Authority, and that notice must be published at least 30 days prior to the public hearing. Solicitor Karasek would like the Board to give him some time to seek special council on this, since he has not incorporated on an Authority. Solicitor Karasek stated the going rate for special council is \$300 an hour. Solicitor Karasek would like to use June 12<sup>th</sup> for the public hearing. Solicitor Karasek stated the Board should establish a rate for special council. Engineer Coyle stated that the Act 537 Plan will have to be modified based on the outcome of the Authority. Engineer Coyle asked Solicitor Karasek at point does the Township conduct a feasibility study, financial

analysis, and overall impact of creating an Authority. Solicitor Karasek stated these are all policy issues, not legal issues. MOTION by Supervisor Birmingham to table until Solicitor Karasek does his research, seconded by Supervisor Due. Chairman Pinter stated he would like to extend the date for the public hearing until July 10<sup>th</sup>. Vote: 2-2. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to move the date of the public hearing to July 10<sup>th</sup>, to authorize Solicitor Karasek to seek special council, not to exceed 10 hours, cap of \$3,000, and to move forward with Resolution 2023-06, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0.

## **VI.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Dry Hydrants-Supervisor Teel stated that it has been year since he last discussed the feasibility of having dry hydrants at Lake Minsi, Slateford Rd., Tuscarora, Sandy Shore, and RPL East. Chairman Pinter would like for Engineer Coyle to look at each site and determine which ones are viable and which ones the Fire Companies request to be done (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>). Chief Finan stated that Tuscarora was a no and RPL East will handle on their own. MOTION by Chairman Pinter to have Engineer Coyle to do further research and report back to Board in one month, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0.

## **VII.**

### **REPORTS**

1. SEO-Scott Policelli was not present to discuss his monthly report, which included permits issued, inspections completed, and complaints addressed.
2. Zoning-Tina Serfass was not present to discuss her monthly report, which included applications received, reviewed, and issued. Nick Graziano, the property maintenance officer stated his report is included.
3. Accounting/Bookkeeper-Diann Eden was not present to discuss her monthly report.
4. Open Space Advisory Board-Laura was not present to discuss her monthly report, but stated the only thing she wanted to report was the Simone Collins presentation that was presented at the last BOS meeting.
5. Economic Development Committee-Chairman Pinter stated the Scott did not submit a monthly report but did state that their monthly meet and greet will be held on Monday at Tuscarora.
6. Manager-Manager Nelson did not submit a monthly report.
7. Engineer-Engineer Coyle discussed his monthly, which included applications reviewed, a meeting with FEMA next week, updated the Township Road maintenance map, and prepared bid documents for the Line Painting project.
8. Solicitor-Solicitor Karasek discussed his monthly report, which included meetings attended, subdivision/land development/zoning matters, and miscellaneous office matters.
9. Secretary-Cindy Beck discussed her monthly report, website maintenance, normal daily functions, assisting residents, assisting Tina with ZHB documents, assisting with Heritage Conservancy, submitted the NPB for the 2023 Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Award (which we did not win), and gave an update on the garbage service/bill.

10. Park/Rec-Stavros Barbounis discussed his monthly activity, looking for volunteers, park development, sports programs, and organizing upcoming events. Supervisor Birmingham will provide Stavros with an update on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
11. IT/Telecom-Stavros Barbounis discussed his monthly report, routine maintenance, website updates, live streaming of the meetings and the need to increase security on the computers.
12. Planning Commission-Supervisor Teel reported the next Planning Commission meeting will be May 17<sup>th</sup>.
13. Supervisors
  - Supervisor Due gave a report on the road crew monthly activity. Supervisor Due still has not heard anything in regards to VIP and their Lot Line Adjustment Plan.
  - Supervisor Birmingham reported the UMBT clean-up program will be April 30<sup>th</sup>, cleaning up Boulder Drive, working with NB Fire house, looking into grants for their emergency shelter, working with a resident on Price Lane for garbage pick-up, and working with Dr. Haas on a meeting-Proud Parents Organization.

Recess to Executive Session at 9:17 pm to discuss workman's comp issue.

#### **VIII.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting reconvened at 9:24 pm

Chairman Pinter stated that Supervisor Due provided an update on a workman's comp case and no official action will be taken at this time.

#### **IX.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary