



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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**UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

*This meeting was held in person and live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page.

I.

Supervisor Bermingham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board of Supervisors thanked Veterans who have served and continue to serve and it's because of them, we live in the greatest country in the world

In attendance were Supervisor Bermingham, Supervisor Eckman, Supervisor Erler, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Albert, and Township Manager Graziano. Solicitor Karasek and Engineer Coyle were absent.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte, Liaison to the I80 and 611 matters, stated that she would like to close out the 611 matter. Rt.611 is open, phase 1 has been completed. Tara stated that with the loss of Congressman Cartwright, the Federal Representative, she would like to reach out to Representative Ann Flood and Senator Brown and ask them if they can help us make contact with the new representatives. Supervisor Bermingham stated that the BOS supports her request to reach out to Representative Flood and Senator Brown. On the LDWSR issue, she understands that Solicitor Karasek was going to provide some information that he might have from years ago when the Board, at that time, did not want to be a part of the LDWSR. Manager Graziano will forward what information he

has to Tara. She would like to put together a history of what has transpired since 2000 and will provide a response.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy., commented on the recent Township Newsletter, stating that it had a lot of good information in it, with the exception of the article from the EAC, and whether they want to be a part of a community or not.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on the EAC article, stating that it was about all the assets we have in the Township. Judy is asking the Board, on any development, anywhere, to seriously look at the cost that comes with the financial benefits.

Marty Pinter, Lindsey Lane, commented on the issues with Plainfield and Pen Argyl's financial situation with the landfill, and if the landfill goes away, we will have a problem as well. The word that was used in terms of being conned into a business, that Judy used, he found highly offensive.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., stated the he was on the DEP's solid waste advisory committee when they put through the waste regulations back in the 80's and there was a real problem with bad landfills.

IV.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. October 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes
2. October 25, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
3. October 28, 2024, WS Meeting Minutes
4. Exonerations/Refunds

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

V.

FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manager Graziano read the bill list, totaling \$255,804.52. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pay the bills, in the amount \$255,804.52, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

VI.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 2024-26 North Bangor Statewide LSA Grant-Manager Graziano stated this is for the North Bangor garage expansion project. Manager Graziano read the Resolution, which states that Upper Mount Bethel Township is requesting a statewide LSA grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the garage expansion project, whereas, Manager Graziano and Cindy Beck, Township Secretary, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements. **MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to adopt Resolution No. 2024-26, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

VII.

TABLED ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 2024-25 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)-Supervisor Erler read the Resolution, which states that the TAC can address traffic signs, speed limits, parking, collection of transportation related data, and overall transportation concerns within the Township. Supervisor Friedman read their mission statement. MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Resolution No. 2024-25, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Discussion: Marty Pinter asked how many members there are on the committee and what their terms are. Jeff Williams stated that there are five (5) members with staggered terms, 3,2,2,1,1. There was a discussion on the budget for the committee, which the resolution states \$5,000. Marty Pinter suggested not putting a dollar amount in the resolution but having a budgeted line item. Supervisor Friedman rescinded his motion. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Resolution No. 2024-25, contingent upon the removal of the budget amount of \$5,000 noted in Section 4, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

VIII.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grant Writer for Solar Power at the Municipal Building-Supervisor Erler stated that he thought he would need a Resolution for the approval from the Board to sought after a grant writer. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he doesn't think he needs a resolution. Supervisor Erler stated that he has two estimates and would like to see what grants are available. The EAC recommends researching information and moving ahead to acquire rooftop solar panels for the current municipal building. No further action is required by the BOS. Supervisor Erler will work with Manager Graziano on researching available grants.

IX.

DISCUSSION-2025 BUDGET

Supervisor Bermingham opened the floor for a discussion on the 2025 Budget. Manager Graziano stated that \$3,500 is budgeted for the TAC but if they need more money, they can ask the Board. There was a discussion on certain line items/categories and how they are entered, ADP/Quickbooks. Stavros Barbounis stated that ADP does not have access to Quickbooks system. Supervisor Bermingham stated all municipalities have submitted their data to Cetronia ambulance for them to submit a proposal. Marty Pinter stated some concerns: budgeting of the income has been lopsided, EIT funds (2023 vs 2024, to date), sanitation (where are we budgeting the early payment discount), Manager Graziano stated he built that into the budget. Recreation donations, not accurately depicted in the budget, expenses (increase in liability insurance), Manager increase of \$18k, Manager Graziano stated that he proposed a 2.5% increase to Supervisor Albert and Supervisor Friedman. Supervisor Friedman stated that it was approved and to be included in the budget. Marty asked about the huge increase in legal expenses, the increase in property insurance, building repairs, maybe budget for the new fire truck to get ahead, there was a discussion on the CDs for the fire truck and accounted for in the budget, depreciation of trucks, contracted services. Mike Onufrak commented on the garbage, if people don't pay and their garbage is not picked up, they will dump it wherever they want. Supervisor Erler asked about the EIT funds. There was

a discussion on how these funds are distributed. Manager Graziano announced that the Preserve was just awarded a \$600k grant. Ron Angle gave a quick opinion, after a review of the budget, a budget with no tax increase, is that a good budget, with all the money spent on legal bills, with no mention of a name that said, we need to come in with a zero-tax increase budget, this may come back to haunt you.

**X.
PUBLIC COMMENT**

**XI.
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Manager Graziano thanked Representative Ann Flood for putting together a trash pickup for the Township. Thank you, Nick Bailey, for assisting with traffic control, Brian Fenstermaker from Slate Belt Rising, and all the volunteers that showed up to make it a successful event. Northampton County issued a County wide burn ban, effective until 12/10/24, no burning. Reminder that garbage bills are due by 12/31/2024.

Supervisor Erler reminded everyone to sign up for CodeRed.

Supervisor Friedman announced the Refuse to be a Victim seminar, here at the Township Building on Saturday, November 16th, 10am-1pm.

Supervisor Bermingham announced he is working on the Home Christmas Decorating contest, more information at the November 25th meeting. A Christmas event at the Chelsea Sun on December 22nd, more details to follow. The winners of the Friends and Family power washing contest for our Veterans are Richard Cowell, Dan Myers, and Dave Haines. The Emergency Shelter LSA grant agreement is currently being reviewed by Solicitor Karasek. The Township is collecting turkeys and non-perishable items for families in need in Upper Mt. Bethel Township.

**XII.
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Recess to Executive Session at 8:33 pm to discuss ongoing litigation matters.

The meeting reconvened at 9:01 pm.

Supervisor Bermingham stated that ongoing litigation matters and legal strategies were discussed with outside legal counsel in Executive Session and no action will be taken.

**XIII.
ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary