



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
END OF YEAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 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.

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

Supervisor Bermingham asked for a Moment of Silence for the passing of Jimmy Carter at the age of 100. He was the 39th President of the United States from 1977-1981.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Teel, N. Delaware Dr., commented on Judith Henckel's Ethics violation. Bob stated that she used her authority and her position as a public official that resulted in fiduciary benefit to a business in which a family member, her son, was located. Bob commented on a comment that Supervisor Friedman made at the last meeting, that he (Supervisor Friedman) had unreputable evidence that I had a conflict of interest, and he would like to know what evidence he has. Supervisor Friedman stated that he has evidence and will present it at his office hours.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., stated that if Bob would like a copy of the ethics investigation, she will provide it. There was nothing other than my inability to consider the Township as my employer on the ethic report. She was not fined. It was investigated and nothing was found.

Marty Pinter, Lindsey Ln., urges anyone who is visiting the Atlanta, GA area, to go see the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library. Marty stated that he was having breakfast and overheard a conversation about the Township Treasurer and next year he will not be the treasurer and that we're looking at having a Treasurer outside of the Board, either the Township Manager or the Township Secretary because the current treasurer will not be able to get bonded. Supervisor Birmingham stated that they are still not sure what they are going to do.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy., stated that a lot of good things happened this past year, several of our committees have done a number of good things. One of the greatest things that could happen with us is with industry coming in but would have liked to have seen a gentleman that lives in the Township do the negotiations. Ron commented on the Concerned Citizens not giving up and they will not stop doing what they are doing to stop something positive for this Township.

IV.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Final 2024 Bill List-Manager Graziano read the final 2024 bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to pay the bills in the amount \$107,012.53, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
2. Ordinance No. 2024-04 Weight Limit/Sign Ordinance-Solicitor Karasek stated that he prepared this Ordinance earlier but forgot to put in the signs. This is now a revised Ordinance. Solicitor Karasek read the header of the Ordinance. This an Ordinance establishing weight restrictions of a maximum of ten (10) tons on Potomac St and Railroad Ave. and establishing turning restrictions for truck traffic. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-04, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Discussion: Marty Pinter commented on certain properties that may be having work done, i.e. a driveway paved, those trucks are going to exceed the weight limit. He suggests putting exceptions into the Ordinance. Solicitor Karasek stated that if the Board would like something added, it would have to re-advertised and voted on at a later date. This will be on the agenda for January 27, 2025. **MOTION** to amend his motion to table, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
3. Ordinance No. 2024-05 Transportation Advisory Committee-Solicitor Karasek Stated this was originally prepared as a Resolution, which may not have the same force and effect as an Ordinance. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-05, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
4. Frank's Deli Improvement Agreement-Solicitor Karasek stated that the owners

are requesting an extension to the Improvements Agreement. The improvements were to be completed by November 2024, paving, fencing and trees to be planted. The agreement states that the owner/developer shall have until May 31, 2025, to fully complete the required improvements. Ray Higgins, what happens if they can't make the improvements because they can't afford to. Solicitor Karasek stated that they have a letter of credit, if they can't do it, we call in the letter of credit and do the work ourselves. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Frank's Deli Improvement Agreement, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

V.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 7:35 pm to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The meeting reconvened at 7:48 pm.

Supervisor Bermingham stated that a personnel and legal matter was discussed and there is no action to be taken at this time. Ron Angle asked for a brief description of what legal matter was discussed. Solicitor Karasek stated certain township records are subject to disclosure under the PA Open Records Act.

VI.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winners of the Best Christmas Lights Contest.

Supervisor Bermingham stated that we had about 15 entries. Supervisor Erler announced the top three winners:

3rd place- 88 Lenape Tr.

2nd place- 30 Frutchey Ct.

1st place- 1126 Potomac St.

Supervisor Bermingham stated the winners will receive:

1st place-\$100 gift card and six bottles of wine, courtesy of M&M Vineyards

2nd place-\$500 gift card and four bottles of wine, courtesy of M&M Vineyards

3rd place-\$200 gift card and two bottles of wine, courtesy of M&M Vineyards

Supervisor Friedman announced he will be having office hours at the Township Building on Thursday, January 2, 2025, 6-7:30 pm. and he will be giving his side of the ethics thing.

Supervisor Erler announced that there is still an open seat on the EDC, as well as ZHB. If anyone is interested in filling one of those seats, send in your letter of interest.

Supervisor Bermingham stated that the time to send in your letter of interest is extended to Friday, January 3, 2025.

Supervisor Albert announced that the mailers from Waste Management have been mailed.

VII.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Erler to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary