



Upper Mount Bethel Township
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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 – 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, Township Engineer Coyle and Township Manager Graziano.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

Supervisor Bermingham congratulated Supervisor Erler on winning the Election. Supervisor Bermingham asked for a Moment of Silence for Dick Cheney, who passed away on November 3, 2025.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on the Delaware River being named the River of the Year and being designated as Wild and Scenic would be a huge sense of pride for the Township.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy., stated that today is the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. Ron congratulated Supervisor Erler on winning the Election.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Erler reminded those with political signs still up to make sure you take them. Supervisor Erler announced the Slate Belt Museum will be having an event on Veterans Day 10am-noon. On Wednesday, David Due will be a guest at the TAC meeting to give a presentation on all the local trails located in Mt. Bethel.

Supervisor Eckman announced that the Veterans Day fireworks event at the Park will be held on November 11th, starting at 5pm, with the fireworks at 6:30pm.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that we are still collecting donations for Thanksgiving dinners. We will be scheduling an electronics recycling day in December. The Mt. Bethel Ladies Auxiliary is having soup night on Thursday, November 13th, they will also be serving breakfast and lunch at the annual craft show on Saturday, November 29th. NBFC and MBFC will be hosting their annual Santa Gift delivery on December 20th, 4-7 and December 21st, 2-5. It is a \$10 donation.

Manager Graziano announced the toter exchange process. If a resident would like to exchange the large toters with smaller ones, there is a form located on the Township website. We will be working with Republic to get them replaced by the first week in January. Friendly reminder trash bills are due by December 31st. Thank you to fire departments and all the volunteers that do a great job for our community.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. October 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
2. October 27, 2025, WS Meeting Minutes
3. Exonerations/Refunds

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

VI. FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manger Graziano read the bill list totaling \$372,185.58. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pay the bills in the amount of \$372,185.58, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Supervisor Erler discussed funding our operational reserve fund account. Vote: 5-0.
2. 2026 Proposed Budget Discussion-Manager Graziano stated that the 2026 proposed budget has been advertised and published on the Township's website and at this time, he received a few questions from one resident, which he answered. Supervisor Bermingham would like to schedule a special meeting to discuss the proposed budget with the residents if they should have any

questions. Rich Klinge commented on having a police department in the budget each year. Supervisor Bermingham stated that once the police study is presented to the Board, then it will be presented to the town. Supervisor Erler asked Solicitor Karasek if he could make a motion to move funds from the General Fund to the Operational Fund? Solicitor Karasek stated no, because it was not on the agenda. Supervisor Erler asked for this to be on the agenda for the next meeting. Fran Visicaro, can we poll the community if they want a police department, may put the question on the ballot. Solicitor Karasek will look into that. Charles Baltic stated that he would like to suggest to the Board, before voting on the budget, to hear from the residents. Charles stated that one major expense is the litigation, which could amount to significant damage. Ron Angle stated that he was here when we had a police force and when it disbanded, and it was a joke.

VII.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Security Area Application (ASA)-Solicitor Karasek stated that an ASA application has been filed by Michael and Karin McMillen for 15 acres on 1072 Five Pts. Richmond Rd. The Township simply counts 180 days after the filing date and at the point the application is deemed approved. There was a discussion on the amount of viable acreage. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to approve the ASA application for Michael and Karin McMillen, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Purdue University Partnership-Supervisor Bermingham discussed the program Purdue University has, providing a tuition discount to employees/family members of the Township. Solicitor Karasek stated that he has reviewed the agreement and stated that there are three-four items that need to be checked. Solicitor Karasek summarized his comments regarding the agreement, including the PA Public Official and Employee Ethics Act. If the Township decides to participate in this program, it must establish a policy (through a Resolution/Ordinance) that the Purdue Educational Global Alliance benefits are of part of the employment benefit package offered to Township employees. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to authorize Solicitor Karasek to prepare a Resolution to partner with Purdue University, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-1. Supervisor Albert voted no.

VIII.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PPL Grant of Public Utility Easement-Manager Graziano stated that PPL is retiring a line that goes over our property, Lake Minsi and Totts Gap. PPL does not want to give up the easement. PPL wants to pay the Township \$1,000 to keep the easement for the future if they ever want to use it again. Solicitor Karasek reviewed the agreement. Solicitor Karasek stated that it is a standard document in which PPL is given the right to enter the easement, 150 ft track of land. There was a discussion on the T-ball field that is there but no longer being used, what if we want to start using that field again. Engineer Coyle would like to see the area more defined on a map. Engineer Coyle recommends tabling this until we can see where all the lines are on a map. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedmant to table, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

2. Met-Ed Power Outages-Supervisor Bermingham discussed the issue with multiple and prolonged power outages. Supervisor Bermingham would like to see what the BOS can do against Met-Ed (the power company). Do we have any legal options? Solicitor Karasek stated that he reviewed the matter and sent a memo to the BOS. Under the PA Public Utility Act, the utilities have a statutory duty to provide "reasonable and adequate service", "reasonably continuous, without unreasonable interruptions or delays". It appears that the Township can file a complaint with the utility company. If the utility company does not do anything, then the Township can then file an informal complaint with the Public Utilities Commission, or a formal complaint if nothing is done. The utility company cannot award monetary damages. The Township would have to prove that the utility company did something wrong. The Township would have to hire an expert in utility law/use. Supervisor Eckman stated that it isn't always Met-Ed, trees come down, no fault of Met-Ed. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he asked residents to let him know how often they are without power, many residents responded. Supervisor Bermingham stated that the Township needs to do more investigating. Supervisor Bermingham asked why hire an expert in utility law. Solicitor Karasek stated that there are three parts to power, generation, transmission, and distribution. Transmission is the most important, how you get power from place to another, that is what an expert in utility law would be beneficial.

IX.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Solicitor Karasek stated that on the Stine/Czopoth matter with the DEP, the case will be heard in January.

X.
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary