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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WS MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 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 Friedman, Supervisor Eckman, Supervisor Erler, Supervisor Albert, Township Manager Graziano, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle.

**II.**

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

**III.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judith Snyder, Ridge Rd., read her public comment on the recent zoning violations occurring at 659 Ridge Rd. Judith is currently awaiting information regarding the issuing of enforcement notices for a firing range, a commercial business, and a commercial firing range. Judith's public comment will be part of the official record.

Tara Mezzanotte stated that the Government is back open and would like to revisit the Wild and Scenic. Supervisor Bermingham stated that it will probably be in January. There is no update on the Rt. 611 or I-80 projects. Adele Starrs will be back as Mayor of Knowlton and will be advocating for the projects.

Frances Visicaro, N. Delaware Dr., commented on the congestion in the one-way section on Rt. 611 in the Gap.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Erler announced that he will be having office hours on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm at TK's. The next meeting of the Chairs to the Table meeting, allowing the public to attend, will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Manager Graziano reminded everyone that if they are interested in exchanging their larger toters with the smaller ones, to complete the form. Manager Graziano is still working with United Way in setting up a fund for UMBT residents who run into unforeseen circumstances. Thank you to Ant's Tree Service for assisting with downed trees, thank you to Jesse Poliskiewicz for donating the straw for our fields at the Park, and to Lou Pektor for donating the dirt. Manager Graziano stated that the EMS meeting with DCED went very well. The main issue will be funding. Each community will have to contribute to make it work. Discussions will continue.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that we received the police study back and will be asking Chief Dave Mettin to come present it to the residents.

#### V. 2026 Proposed Budget Discussion

Charles Baltic, Laurel Hill Rd., asked about the budget reduction in auditing, and insurance coverages. Manager Graziano stated that the auditor proposal is much less this year and explained that he overbudgeted for insurance coverage, with the increase of new trucks and the decrease in maintenance. Charles asked about the budget allocation for police services, is it premature. Charles stated that he does not see any expenses budgeted for anything associated with the consultant hired to facilitate the data center development. Charles asked if there are any legal obligations right now by the Township to pay that consultant under any scenarios. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he does believe we owe any money to the consultant. Charles commented on the BOS compensation and feels that each Supervisor should be compensated for the amount allowed by law.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy., commented on the budget for blacktop. Manager Graziano stated that he did increase it a little bit because they will be doing more blacktop work next year. Why are budgeting \$115,000 for a police chief when we don't have a police department, why not put that into roads. Ron recommends transferring the \$115k back into roads before approving the budget. Ron asked the funds in Embassy bank. Manager Graziano stated those funds are Covid Funds for the Fire Truck. Ron asked about the funding to the Slate Belt Museum. Charles Baltic stated that the Museum Board agreed that the Township directly fund the cemeteries \$1,000 each (3), therefore, the donation to the Museum was decreased by \$3,000.

Rich Klinge, Totts Gap Rd., commented on the proposed budget for a police chief, who would be in charge of him? Manager Graziano stated he would be. Rich agrees with Ron Angle on the budget for a police chief, put the budgeted funds towards the roads. Rich asked why we are spending money on shoes for the road department. Manager Graziano stated that it is contractual.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., stated that the people living in the villages support having a police department.

## VI.

### PLANNING MODULE

1. Edward M. & Mary R. D'Amelio-Solicitor Karasek stated the Planning Commission reviewed the Planning Module and recommended approval. **MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to approve the Planning Module, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

## VII.

### SUBDIVISION

1. Edward M. & Mary R. D'Amelio- Solicitor Karasek stated this was reviewed by the Planning Commission and they recommend approval. Solicitor Karasek went over the agreement for conditional preliminary/final plan approval form. Compliance with all conditions set forth in Engineer Coyle's review letter of November 19, 2025. A grant of Easement for right-of-way along Hemlock Dr. to be done, park/recreation fees-in-lieu for one lot, SALDO waiver 298-12.D.3, natural features to be approved by the Board and noted on the plan. Ryan Dentith signed the form as the agent. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve SALDO waiver 298-12 D.3 and grant Conditional Preliminary/Final Plan approval with conditions, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Supervisor Erler stated that he attended the Planning Commission meeting and was happy to see the plan went from 3 lots to 2 lots. Vote: 5-0.

## VIII.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Secretarial & Clerical Contract-Supervisor Friedman discussed the proposed contract. 5% per year for 4 years, payout of retroactive pension contribution of \$.05 per hour for 5 years, to bring them to par with the road crew, and payment of up to 5 days of unused vacation days at the end of the year. Supervisor Friedman recommends approval of the contract as negotiated with the Teamsters Local. Solicitor Karasek has not reviewed the contract. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the contract upon Solicitor's review and approval, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Sell Push Box on Municibid-Manager Graziano stated the push box is an attachment for the loader for plowing and hasn't been used in many years so we would like to sell it on Municibid. Supervisor Erler asked if this push box could be used at Eastern. Manager Graziano stated that the road crew has no use for it.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to sell the push box on Municibid, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 4-1. Supervisor Erler voted no.

3. General Fund Transfer-Supervisor Erler discussed transferring funds from the General Fund to the Operational Reserve Fund which has been depleted, from \$1.6 million down to \$8,500. Supervisor Erler stated that he would like to get that account back up in the next 3 years. Manager Graziano stated that we would basically be creating another General Fund. The funds in the General Fund now are easily accessed. Funds in an Operational Reserve account has limitations. You have to vote to remove funds, generally by a Resolution. Supervisor Erler stated that he would like to move \$500,000. Supervisor Friedman stated that it doesn't make sense to put \$500,000 into an account that has restrictions on it. Supervisor Erler stated that if Manager Graziano is okay with \$300,000 to be transferred, he would make a motion for that. Manager Graziano stated that if that is what he wants that's fine. Solicitor Karasek asked for clarification, is it one lump sum of \$300,000 or \$60,000 a year for five years. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to transfer \$300,000 each year for the next five years. Ron Angle stated, how can you make that commitment for the next five years. Supervisor Erler amended his **MOTION**, to transfer a one-time amount of \$300,000 seconded by Supervisor Albert. Supervisor Friedman stated that it is not a good idea to make this transfer at the end of the year, if anything, wait until the beginning of next year. Supervisor Eckman asked how long those funds have been sitting in the Operational Reserve fund. Manager Graziano stated he has not touched those funds since he's been manager. Supervisor Eckman suggested transferring a smaller amount, maybe \$150,000. Supervisor Birmingham called for a vote on Supervisor Erler's motion to transfer \$300,000 (one shot) into the Operational Reserve Fund. Vote: 2-3. Motion fails. **MOTION** by Supervisor Eckman to transfer a one-time amount of \$150,000, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Marty Pinter, Lindsey Lane, stated that none of this happened before he was on the Board, that is why the budget was a complete disaster. Marty stated that having funds in a emergency account requires you to on it and you should be putting an amount in the budget. You should look at what your surplus is, which could determine how much to transfer. Manager Graziano stated that our surplus right now is about \$300,000. Supervisor Eckman amended her motion. **MOTION** to transfer \$150,000 a year, for the next five years, out of the General Fund into the Operational Reserve Fund. Manager Graziano stated that we will need to re-advertise the budget. **MOTION** by Supervisor Eckman to transfer a one-time amount of \$150,000 this year, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 4-1. Supervisor Friedman voted no.
4. Resolution No. 2025-24 Purdue University Partnership-Solicitor Karasek was questioned whether the Township could do this, so he reached out to PSATS and Harrisburg and was told it is a customary tool to have benefits given to municipal or state employees. Solicitor Karasek removed the language about being able to use logos and trademarks from each individual. A Resolution has been prepared to be added to an employee's benefit package. **MOTION** by

Supervisor Erler to adopt Resolution 2025-24, seconded by Supervisor Eckman.  
Vote: 5-0.

## IX.

### TABLED ITEMS

1. PPL Grant of Public Utility Easement-Manager Graziano provided the Board with a copy of map showing exactly where the easement is. They are taking down the wires but do not want to give up the easement, that is why they are giving us \$1,000. Supervisor Erler stated that it might be best not to give them a blanket easement, it could be addressed in the future if needed. Stavros Barbounis stated that we should not inhibit the power company, we should keep them as friends. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to grant PPL the utility easement, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 4-1. Supervisor Erler voted no.

## X.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Township Cellphones-Supervisor Erler stated he wanted to address this policy that brought on by Ed Nelson, the previous manager, that all employees have cells phones to clock in and out on. Supervisor Erler thinks it's something we could eliminate to cut costs. Looking at the budget, the amount for cellphones is \$6,400, and then the road crew communications of \$25,000. Manager Graziano stated that everyone uses their phones, for some, it's a necessity not a privilege. Will we be giving them a stipend to use their personal phones? Stavros Barbounis stated that yes, the phones were provided because everyone had to use the electronic time clocks through the phones. Stavros feels that essential personnel should keep the cellphones, Manager Graziano, Cindy, Lindsey (road crew chief and EMS Coordinator), and Dave C. (asst road crew chief). Stavros did not realize the expenses are that high and would like to review them. Stavros stated that he will be upgrading the township phone system next year, which should save the township up to \$300 a month. Supervisor Bermingham would like to have more discussions on this before they make a decision. Fran Visicaro stated that we should do an audit on the phones. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table to the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Ground Water Survey-Supervisor Friedman stated that we received two bids to do the groundwater survey. Supervisor Friedman feels this is necessary because the Planning Commission is now in the midst of updating the Act 537, which will be including drinking water supplies. This survey will give us the drinking water supply in the township. The two proposals received were, SME-UHL at \$25,522 and Carroll Engineering at \$21,820. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to attain Carroll Engineering to do the groundwater survey, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Engineer Coyle stated that this survey is separate from the Act 537. This survey will determine if adequate quantities of groundwater are present to meet future and current demands by analyzing groundwater users in each of the eight (8) sub-basins. Supervisor Eckman asked Supervisor Friedman if he plans on looking to get funding from American Water, Portland, East Bangor. Supervisor Friedman stated that once this gets approved, he will send out letters to everyone who's getting water out of Upper Mount Bethel.

Supervisor Eckman stated that we should get funding before starting. Supervisor Erler stated that we should be focusing on getting the water testing in AOC- A. Charles Cole commented on Slateford and Jacoby Creek watersheds are the most stressed areas. Supervisor Erler suggested putting this on the agenda for January, to see if we can get any funds from those pulling water out of the Township. There was a discussion on whether we could impose a tax on third parties pulling water from the Township. Solicitor Karasek will do some research. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table this to the next meeting, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Judy Henckel commented on the quality of water; will we have it. Supervisor Erler amended the **MOTION** to table this to the WS meeting in January (1/26/2026), seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Charles Baltic stated that there is a practical and legal issue if we are going to ask other entities to pay for this study and that is how the parameters of the study are going to be set and privity of using the results of the study afterwards. This may change the way the study is structured and conducted and change the ability to use the results. Vote: 5-0.

## **XI.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Recess to Executive Session at 9:24 pm to discuss personnel and a business and legal strategy.

The meeting reconvened at 9:35 pm. Solicitor Karasek stated that discussed in Executive Session was a personnel matter and a claim in which the township against 21<sup>st</sup> Century Security Company, which was owned by Mr. Jeff Manzi, with respect to work that was done here at the township, which a claim letter was sent to him. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pursue the claim against 21<sup>st</sup> Century Security and the local DA's office, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

## **XII.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary

**To: UMBT Supervisors**

**From: Judith Snyder**

**Henry Lennihan**

**Date: Nov 24, 2025**

**Re: Property at 659 Ridge Road**

**We are here regarding the zoning violations occurring at 659 Ridge Road.**

**We'd like to begin by thanking Zoning Officer Tina Serfass and Township Manager Nick Graziano for their help and assistance in this matter.**

**Although informal conversations may have taken place, we see that nothing has been submitted to the Supervisors. If you have not been privileged to this information, please let this be your introduction.**

**We also understand that there have been some conversations with the property owner. However, at this point, it is merely hearsay.**

**We are currently awaiting information regarding the issuing of enforcement notices for the following:**

- 1) a firing range**
- 2) a commercial business**
- 3) a commercial firing range**

**Despite the similarities between the three, there are also significant differences. We trust that the guidelines from the PA Game & Wildlife Code, the Department of Environmental Protection as well as the Upper Mount Bethel Township Supervisors & Zoning Committee are taken into consideration.**

**We look forward to a resolution and thank you for your time regarding this matter. It's greatly appreciated.**

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Judith Snyder  
Henry Lennihan**

**535 Ridge Road  
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570-269-2112**