



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 28, 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 Eckman, Supervisor Erler, Supervisor Albert, Township Manager Graziano, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle. Supervisor Friedman was absent.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

MOTION by Supervisor Albert to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Erler.
Vote: 4-0.

Supervisor Bermingham asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Terry Lockwitch. Supervisor Bermingham stated that there will be a classic car show fundraising event on September 6th to benefit the Lockwitch family.

III.

PRESENTATION-Township Municipal Building Feasibility Study

Randy Galiotto, Alloy5, gave a brief presentation on a proposal to do a feasibility study on the Township Municipal Building. Randy stated that included in the proposal is to look at two (2) existing buildings, Township Municipal Building, the MBFH, and to look at the possibility of a building at the Park. He will assess and make recommendations. The feasibility study should take 2-3 months. There are opportunities for grants, which he would assist us in the application process. Supervisor Erler stated that he is not a fan of having the Township Municipal at the Firehouse and would rather see another building/indoor court or such at the Park. Supervisor Erler would like to see a feasibility

study on the Eastern Industries building. Supervisor Bermingham asked for this to be on the August 11th meeting.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Albert announced that he and Supervisor Bermingham met with RPL and it was a very good, productive meeting.

Supervisor Erler announced that unfortunately he will need to reschedule the Chairs meeting to later in the year. Supervisor Erler stated that to serve better as the Emergency Services Liaison, he has taken FEMA classes, currently completing six (6) courses.

Supervisor Bermingham thanked the Chelsea Sun and the Mt. Bethel Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary for putting together the event thanking the Mt. Bethel Volunteer FC for their service. The Chelsea Sun will be hosting another one for the NBFC. The Mt. Bethel clean up day is scheduled for September 13th, 9-11. The community wide yard sale is scheduled for September 25th – 28th. Supervisor Bermingham has received a few calls regarding the stop light on Rt. 611 going through the Gap.

Manager Graziano stated that he met with Met-Ed on the power outage issues. There is a two-year River Rd plan. PennDOT has been placing traffic counters on various roads throughout the Township.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte gave an update on the Explore Act, the Rt. 611 Rockfall Mitigation, and the Lower Delaware River Tributaries. Tara stated that the Township should have a representative to serve as a liaison to the Delaware Water Gap Gateway Community. The Township will accept letters of interest from anyone interested.

The 611 Rockfall mitigation and retaining wall project. Tara sent PennDOT some questions to get her enough information to get what to expect. This is a multi-year project. Tara stated that the resolution that was adopted to appoint her as the liaison will need to be amended, adding her husband to the Resolution. Supervisor Bermingham asked for this to be on the September 8th meeting.

The Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Expansion project, where they are looking at all the River segments not designated and also the tributaries. The BOS will be having a special meeting on August 19th, at 7:30, to provide an update to everyone on what was discovered with the potential outstanding remarkable values of Slateford Creek, Jacoby Creek, Allegheny Creek and Mill Creek and will the BOS want to support or not support certain segments of the Delaware and add certain segments to the tributaries. There was a discussion on the Tocks Island Dam.

Robert Teel, N. Delaware Dr., commented on his recent request to have Act 537 on the agenda and why it is not on the agenda. Supervisor Bermingham stated because of the current litigation issues. Robert commented on the BOS not having a fellow Supervisor's back during a public comment from Charles Hentz.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on the presentation on the Township Building Feasibility Study and the area at the Park designated for a Township Building.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., commented on the Slate Belt Museum and their bylaws and the financial needs of the cemeteries.

Lee McDonald, Belvidere Corner Rd., commented on the agenda item to discuss the garbage bid and senior discount. There are some people in the township that are not doing well (financially) and then there are some that are doing very well. Seniors represent 23% of the Township, they all may not need the discount, the intention is a good idea, but to offer a blanket discount to seniors is not a good idea.

Rich Klinge, Totts Gap Rd., commented on the money the Township spends on feasibility studies, when we get nothing out of them. Supervisor Erler stated that feasibility studies are the first steps to finding the best option. Manager Graziano stated that a feasibility study has to be done before applying for any grants.

David Due, Shooktown Rd., commented on an audit of the books on the Park Foundation, which he has been trying to get for 15 years. The bylaws state the public shall be allowed to look at the books.

Mark Mezger, Scenic Ct., stated that he would like to know who signed the bylaws and what year they were signed. The Bylaws were changed in 2022. The only thing that can be looked at is the 990n, which is posted online. Mark submitted a copy of all the documents to the Solicitor to review. He has no intention of showing the balance of the Foundation to anyone.

Solicitor Karasek stated that he reviewed the documents that Mr. Mezger sent to him and presented his review to the BOS for their consideration. The only records he had were through 2023. Supervisor Erler asked Solicitor Karasek if he saw any gaps. Solicitor Karasek stated that the only thing he saw was that the Foundation was nonexistent for several years. Supervisor Erler stated that he recalls Mr. Mezger stating that the Foundation was \$30,000 in the hole, did he (Solicitor Karasek) see that. Solicitor Karasek stated that he did not. Supervisor Erler asked Mr. Mezger why he didn't send any current information to Solicitor Karasek, 2023 forward. Mr. Mezger responded, saying he sent him what was requested by the Attorney General. The \$30,000 was paid to get through the Attorney General's investigation. Mr. Mezger stated that the Township gave one donation in the amount of \$15,000 to the Foundation. Supervisor Erler about the \$8,000 balance that has been the topic of concern, is that still in the account. Mr. Mezger said no. Supervisor Erler asked if he could provide

documents from 2023 to current. Mr. Mezger stated that he is not required to and why does he need to know. Supervisor Erler stated the issue has not died. Supervisor Erler asked Solicitor Karasek if it is possible to reissue litigation. Solicitor Karasek said that they could certainly refile the matter. Supervisor Erler asked Solicitor Karasek if he is satisfied that you don't believe that lawsuit might not be necessary. Solicitor Karasek stated his concern is that he first needs to determine if the bylaws were changed properly. David Due stated that the original bylaws are very specific. Who appointed Mr. Mezger to be Chairperson of the Foundation? Things just haven't looked right, constantly getting push back.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy., stated that he reviewed everything from 2008 to 2022 on the Park Foundation and thinks this Board owes the residents of UMBT answers and to move forward on a lawsuit, demanding all records. Ron complimented Supervisor Erler and Supervisor Albert for meeting with RPL. Ron would like to see resumes of the firm the Board hired to negotiate with RPL. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he will get something from them.

Supervisor Erler asked that the Park Foundation be on the agenda for the August 11th meeting.

VI.

ACTION ITEMS

1. ASA Application/Litzenberger Family Trust-Solicitor Karasek discussed the Litzenberger Family Trust ASA (Agricultural Security Area) application submitted. They are requesting approximately 23 acres to be put into the ASA. The Board can approve the application and after 180 days it is deemed approved. **MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to approve the ASA application for the Litzenberger Family Trust, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 4-0.
2. Open Space Advisory Board Member Appointment-Supervisor Albert read the two letters of interest received, Tom Gilmour and Jeff Williams. Supervisor Bermingham stated his thoughts are that both gentlemen do a lot for the community, and since Jeff is busy with TAC, it would be good to bring Tom in on the OSAB. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to appoint Tom Gilmour to the Open Space Advisory Board, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-0.

VII.

TABLED ITEMS

1. Salt Sheds-Manager Graziano stated that it is both the tarp and frame that needs to be replaced. He needs to make some adjustments to the quotes that he received. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to table, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 4-0.

VIII.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Solar Panel Farms Ad Hoc Committee-Manager Graziano stated that at the last EAC meeting, they had a good discussion on solar panels. A lot of residents have been getting calls about solar panel farms. Manager Graziano feels as

though we should get ahead of this and form a committee of five. This will be advertised on the Township website.

2. Resolution for Driftstone-Supervisor Bermingham would like the Supervisors thoughts on drafting a Resolution for Driftstone Campground, who will be celebrating being in business for 60 years. This will be on the agenda at the August 11th meeting.
3. Mt. Bethel Pharmacy Trunk or Treat at the Community Park-Supervisor Bermingham stated the Mt. Bethel Pharmacy would like to hold its Trunk or Treat at the Community Park on October 26th, 12-3. This is a tentative date pending Parks/Rec approval.
4. Garbage Bid and Senior Discount-Manager Graziano discussed the possibility of a senior discount. He ran this by Ron Carlson, our consultant, and Frank Brooks, Northampton County. In the garbage bid, there are going to be two options, 96 gal toter and 32 gal toter. The 32-gal toter will have a discount built into it, no cost to the Township residents. The Township is not qualified to obtain information from residents to see if they qualify for a senior discount. United way is an option for those looking for a discount. The bid is ready to be advertised.
MOTION by Supervisor Bermingham to advertise twice for the garbage bids, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 4-0.

IX.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Correll/Reddinger Campground Violation Notices-Supervisor Bermingham stated that both Correll and Reddinger were going to meet with Tina, Township Zoning Officer, to discuss this matter. Manager Graziano stated that he and Tina met with them. They agreed to no more than five (5) campers at a time, which is state law, until the Comprehensive Plan has been updated. The Board has no issues.

X.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Erler to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary