



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 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, and Township Engineer Coyle. Manager Graziano and Solicitor Karasek were absent.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

MOTION by Supervisor Erler to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Albert.

Vote: 5-0.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Onufrak, Summerfield Dr., commented on the Park Foundation and asked Supervisor Erler why he is pursuing this. Supervisor Erler stated a fact-finding mission.

Robert Teel, N. Delaware Dr., asked why the Act 537 is not on the agenda. Bob stated that the stacks at the power plant are coming down. Supervisor Friedman asked Bob, as Chairman of the Planning Commission, why doesn't he initiate a study on the Act 537. Bob stated that he will. Bob asked Supervisor Friedman if he would condone him for instituting the Act 537. Supervisor Friedman stated that he would. Supervisor Albert suggested that he speak to Manager Graziano because the woman from the DCED brought this up. Supervisor Bermingham asked Engineer Coyle stated that there is an approved Act 537 from 1990. There was a proposed update in 2003 and again in 2008, and in 2018/2019. None of the updates were formally approved by DEP. The Township

does have a 537 plan approved by DEP. Mark Mezger, if we don't have any water or sewer services being provided, why do we need an Act 537 plan.

Chris Finan, Apache Dr., Chief Mt. Bethel Fire Department, gave an update on the new engine. They are still waiting for some equipment to come in. And once the engine is in service, they will be having an open house. In regard to the Emergency Shelter, they are not building anything crazy, they are adding a 20x100 area to the hall for two bathrooms (with showers) and storage. Supervisor Bermingham stated that the hold-up is the government, not the fire department. Chris commended members of the MBFD, NBFD and Portland for assisting in a major accident on Rt. 611 today.

Charles Baltic, Laurel Hill Rd., referred to the BOS minutes of February 24, 2025, where the consultant, Paul Stoltz, addressed the Township. In that meeting, there was a discussion about a \$5,000 retainer. What is the nature/status of the contract? Supervisor Bermingham stated that we are still engaging with the consultant. He is not charging us, he is waiting for the deal to get signed and if the deal does not get signed, then we'll talk.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on agenda item Plan Slate Belt Full Withdraw. What does "full withdraw" mean. Judith understands the plan is to move forward with a new comprehensive plan, where's the strategy, the RFP for the consultant, and who's paying for it. Judith asked if they vote on this tonight, she would like to know why they are voting yes or no.

Rich Klinge, Totts Gap Rd., commented on feasibility studies. Rich commented on the side-by-side the Township purchased and what the purpose of the purchase was, the park, the roadcrew, etc and how many times did the windshield have to be replaced.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy., commented on the Park Foundation and the need for a forensic audit. Ron asked Supervisor Bermingham if he got the resume of the company that the Board hired to look into data centers. Supervisor Bermingham provided the resume to Ron.

Mark Mezger, Scenic Ct., commented on the Park Foundation. Mark gave an explanation on the matter of the Park Foundation.

Lee McDonald, Belvidere Corner Rd., commented on the Park Foundation. For years, we have been asking about what happened to the money that was donated by residents/businesses. Was it spent appropriately.

David Due, Shooktown Rd., commented on the Park Foundation and his request to see the books. In 2018 the Foundation wrote a check, \$22,464.52 to close out the account, the Foundation was defunct, 990s were not filed, 501c3 was withdrawn. There are still a lot of questions that need to be answered.

Marty Pinter, Lindsey Ln., stated that he was on the prior Board to investigate the Park Foundation. The original by-laws stated that the financials shall be made available to anyone. There has been email correspondence between the prior president of that Board and Rick Fisher, stating the Foundation was then discontinued, as she was the only member left. The original by-laws state that any monies left over were to be turned over to the Township.

IV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Erler announced his office will be held on Monday, August 18th, at TK's, 7pm. Supervisor Erler went to the Belfast SP and spoke with their DOT trooper and we should be seeing a slightly higher presence in the area within a month.

Supervisor Eckman announced August 16th, shred event 9am-12pm. September 6th, electronics recycling event 10am-3pm. All donations received will go towards park development.

Supervisor Bermingham announced he will be having office hours, the day has yet to be determined. He will be doing a presentation on Roberts Rules of Order. Clean up day is Saturday, September 13th. The community wide yard sale will be September 25th-September 28th. August 19th, Special BOS meeting, Tara Mezzanotte will be giving a presentation on the study along the Delaware River. October 19th, will be a classic car show fundraiser in memory of Terry Lockwitch at the Chelsea Sun. PennDOT is aware of the situation with the one lane section of Rt. 611, it is not the traffic light, people are just ignoring the signal. Grass trimmings should not be going into the roads.

V.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 7:54 pm to discuss confidential negotiations strategy. The meeting reconvened at 8:26 pm. Supervisor Bermingham stated that confidential negotiations strategy was discussed and there is no action to be taken.

VI.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. July 14, 2025, Meeting Minutes
2. July 28, 2025, WS Meeting Minutes
3. Exonerations/Refunds

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

VII.

FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Supervisor Bermingham read the bill list, totaling \$334,128.00. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$334,128.00, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

VIII.

SUBDIVISIONS

1. Kelton Lot Line Adjustment/Lot Annexation Preliminary/Final Plan Approval
 - a. SALDO Waiver Request 298-12.D (3)-Location of Natural Features- Engineer Coyle discussed the waiver request, which was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to approve the SALDO waiver request, 298-12.D (3), seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
 - b. Conditional Preliminary/Final Plan Approval-Engineer Coyle stated that this was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Kelton Lot Line/Annexation Conditional Preliminary/Final Plan, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

IX.

ACTION ITEMS

1. 2025 Roadway Line Painting Bid Award-Engineer Coyle stated that this was re-bid because only one bid was received. The rebid saved the Township \$10,000. Engineer Coyle stated that two bids were received for Line Painting project, Alpha Space Control bid, \$133,900.80 and BenJenn Corp for \$238,671.60. Alpha Space Control is the apparent low bidder, and they are compliant with all bid documents submitted. Carroll Engineering recommends awarding the project to Alpha Space Control. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to award the 2025 Roadway Line Painting project to Alpha Space Control for \$133,900.80, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Township Municipal Building Feasibility Study-Supervisor Bermingham that the proposal was presented at the last meeting and is now open for discussion. Supervisor Erler stated that the Mt. Bethel FH voted to not have their building included in the study. Supervisor Erler and Supervisor Eckman visited the Eastern Industries building and they feel this would have to be a full build out, it is not a viable building. Supervisor Bermingham would like to have Manager Graziano present to discuss further. Stavros Barbounis stated that the original master plan was to have a Township Municipal Building at the Park and there is still an area carved out for this purpose. Supervisor Erler stated that having a feasibility study done is the first step if we want to go for grants. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
3. Proclamation for Driftstone Campground-Supervisor Bermingham read the Proclamation for Driftstone Campground, recognizing and commemorating them on their 60th year anniversary. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Driftstone Campground Proclamation, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

X.

TABLED ITEMS

1. Survey Monkey-Supervisor Erler stated that this was voted on to put on the website. The only input he received was that some of the Supervisors were not in favor of it. Parks/Rec has some things they would like on the survey. Supervisor Erler would like to have the Supervisors have input. Supervisor Birmingham wondered if this was geared to try and take down certain people. Stavros Barbounis stated what he is understanding, the BOS does not want to do this. They should want to hear from the residents on what they think of the job they are doing. Chris Finan stated that having a comment section is a good idea. Charles Cole stated that doing a survey will require someone who knows what they're doing to set it up. **MOTION** by Supervisor Eckman to move ahead with the survey, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
2. Plan Slate Belt Full Withdraw-Supervisor Erler stated this is based on a meeting that he, Supervisor Albert and Manager Graziano had with the DCED. Supervisor Erler's intent to fully withdraw from the Plan Slate Belt is to protect the Township. Supervisor Birmingham stated that we should get Solicitor Karasek's thoughts on this. Supervisor Friedman asked him to define full withdrawal. Supervisor Erler stated to withdraw from Multi-Municipal Plan that was adopted on January 27, 2025. If we remove ourselves from this plan, we resort back to our current plan until we have the new plan. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 3-2.

XI.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Park Foundation-Supervisor Erler stated that he had a conversation with Solicitor Karasek and would like to fill in the Supervisors in private, one on one, with the information he has. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to table, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

XII.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Paul Ennico/Chill on Wheels Resolution- Supervisor Birmingham asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Paul Ennico. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to adopt a resolution acknowledging Paul and Chill on Wheels for what they've done for Upper Mount Bethel Township, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
2. BACIDA-Supervisor Birmingham stated that there are some questions about BACIDA that he would like to ask Solicitor Karasek and since he is not here tonight, this will be tabled. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to table, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

XIII.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary

