



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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**UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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, and Township Manager Graziano. Engineer Coyle was absent.

Supervisor Bermingham asked for a moment of Silence for the victims of the 9/11 attacks on the United States. On Thursday, September 11, there will be a Memorial Service at the Mt. Bethel Fire House at 6:30 pm.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

III.

GARBAGE BID AWARD ACTION ITEM-Manager Graziano acknowledged Ron Carlson, who assisted us in the bidding process. Manager Graziano stated that five (5) bids were received. All bids were for automated service only. Manager Graziano stated that Mascaro was the highest bidder at \$483.84 annually (96 gal), and \$422.64 annually (low volume). Next was Sanico at \$405 annually (96 gal) and \$357 (low volume). Next was Waste Management at \$382.44 annually (96 gal) and \$356.04 (low volume). Next was Casella at \$361.20 annually (96 gal) and \$323.64 (low volume). And the lowest bidder was Republic Services at \$315.00 annually (96 gal) and \$288.00 (low volume). These costs are for the year 2026. There was a discussion on years 2027, 2028 and the two-year extension costs.

Mike Onufrak, Summerfield Dr., commented on the current cost that we are paying Waste Management and why their bid is so much lower than what we are currently paying. Ron Carlson stated that with the last bid, Waste Management had to supply all the toters, an additional \$400k dollars that they had to depreciate over the 3-year contract. Mike asked if we have to return the toters. Manager Graziano stated no, everyone keeps their toters, unless you want the low volume toter, you will then have to turn in your 96-gallon toter.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy., commended Supervisor Erler for recommending that the trash service go out for bid.

Charles Baltic, Laurel Hill Dr., questioned the terms of the contract. Manager Graziano stated that it is a 3-year contract, with a two-year extension, 2027-\$27.56 a month, 2028-\$28.94 with the 2-year extension-1st year \$33.28 and 2nd year \$38.27.

Supervisor Erler stated that he was shocked on Republics low bid. Supervisor Erler stated that he did find some unhappy users and also a reference to a strike in Ohio. Supervisor Erler referenced some reviews he found but did note there were happy users.

Supervisor Friedman stated that he found some as well, but most appeared to deal with billing issues.

Angela Celeste, Republic Services Municipal Manager, commented on the four reference letters that she sent to Manager Graziano. The Township will have direct access to her, the operations manager, the logistics analyst and the drivers. Angela stated that the strike in Ohio was a sympathy strike. Republic Services are non-union so that would not be an issue with our PA drivers.

Stavros Barbounis, Potomac St., asked if there are penalties for bad performance. Manager Graziano stated yes. Stavros asked if there is a cost for an additional trash or recycle toter. Manager Graziano stated yes, 96 gallon only, trash-\$9.63 and recycle-\$3.50. Stavros asked about the 10% discount, is that still intended to come out of the general fund. Manager Graziano stated yes.

Ron Carlson stated that everything pretty much will remain the same, with the exception of one bulk item every other week. Minimal changes, substantial price drop.

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to accept Republic Services bid with the price, terms and conditions stipulated in the bid and contract, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Solicitor Karasek stated that he reviewed the bids, and Republic has met the necessary requirements with respect to completing the documentation necessary to support the bid. Vote: 5-0.

IV.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Onufrak, Summerfield Dr., how many people paid their garbage bill in order to get the 10% discount. Manager Graziano stated that he did not have the exact numbers, but it was significant. Mike suggested offering the 10% discount again, we would be getting a lot of money up front.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy, commented on delinquent garbage bills.

Mark Mezger, Scenic Ct., commented on the lawsuits involving the Supervisor's and RPL. Nothing is happening with the lawsuits. Each Supervisor should handle their own legal bills individually and all communication with the Pektors and RPL should cease. Supervisor Erler stated that Lisa Pektor attended his office hours on her own. He did not discuss any Township business with her. She also attended Supervisor Bermingham's office hours, but no one said anything about that. Mark stated that each Supervisor should get their own attorney.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on the survey that will be going out on the website. The survey should be more on what they like about the Township, start with the basics.

Bill Hall, Jacoby Run Rd., commented on the Rich Roberts report, which the EDC worked very hard at getting people to respond to the surveys.

V.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Erler would like NBFD to be on the agenda for the 9/22 meeting to discuss an LSA grant for radios. Supervisor Erler's next office hours will be 9/18, 7pm at TKs.

Supervisor Albert announced on November 8th, the Slate Belt Veterans Association will be hosting a fundraising event at the Bangor School Auditorium. The event is a salute to Veterans. The Swing Time Dolls will be performing. This is a tribute to Brian Perin, Mike Kovalevich, and Chip Turtzo. Show starts at 7pm.

Supervisor Bermingham announced cleanup day is Saturday, September 13th where they will be cleaning up Allegheny Rd. from 11am-1 pm. Also, on Saturday, September 13th, at 5pm, where we will be presenting Jane Ennico with her husband, Paul Ennico, Chill on Wheels, Resolution here at the Township Building. There will be pizza and ice cream. The community wide yard sale will be September 25th-September 28th.

Supervisor Bermingham's office hours will be September 15th, 7-8pm, where he will be giving a presentation on Robert's Rule of Order. October 12th will be a classic car show fundraiser in memory of Terry Lockwitch at the Chelsea Sun. Supervisor Bermingham wanted to give a big shout out to John & Peggy Post/Post Foundation for making a final

donation of \$10k to the Kelly Family, who are building at playground in their son Beau's honor.

Manager Graziano wanted to first answer some FB questions about the trash. The new contract takes effect 1/1/2026, more information will be available soon on getting the smaller toters, the routes will remain the same, bulk will be every other week, the Township will also be providing a 40-yard dumpster twice a year for the residents to dispose of miscellaneous items. Supervisor Erler asked about the 10%, are we able to give the 10% discount to everyone that has a back garbage bill, to help reduce the outstanding balance due. Manager Graziano stated that he is not in favor of rewarding someone that owes back garbage bills and the Township is not in control of those, Creditech is. Line painting starts on 9/15, the softball fields are under construction, next year the project at the Park will be pickleball courts, we will be working on the budget soon, still in communication with Met-Ed regarding River Rd., and working with United Way on getting senior discounts. Supervisor Erler stated that he would like to be included in the budget meeting.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that the candidates running for Supervisor will be having a meet & greet at the Chelsea Sun. Supervisor Erler's is Oct 9th at 6:30 pm and Courtney Gilmour's is September 10th at 6:30 pm.

VI.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. August 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes
2. August 19, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes
3. August 25, WS Meeting Minutes
4. Exonerations/Refunds

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

VII.

FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manger Graziano read the bill list, totaling \$613,200.17. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$613,200.17, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Supervisor Erler asked about the Gross McGinley Mandamus bill, why was that paid, and who authorized it to be paid. Manager Graziano stated the Supervisor Friedman and Supervisor Bermingham told him to pay it. There was a discussion on Gross McGinley getting paid \$4,000 from the Park Foundation, and whether the Township ran a conflict of interest check on Gross McGinley. Supervisor Erler asked Adrian for it and did not get it. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he suggests they meet with Adrian to discuss it further. Vote: 5-0.

**VIII.
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**IX.
ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary

