



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 – 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 Albert. Vote: 5-0.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte provided an update on the proposed Amtrak multi-year project, currently in step 2, advancing the project. The Township's Resolution is on record in Harrisburg. February 19th they are kicking off formal public information sessions and will open it up for public comment. Tara will have a conversation with Jeff Williams, TAC Chairman, to discuss writing a comment letter.

Charles Baltic, Laurel Hill Rd., wanted to follow up on the meeting addressing outside council, Gross McGinley's conflicts check. Charles asked Supervisor Bermingham if he received a response from Gross McGinley. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he did respond via email and stated that there was no conflict. Charles stated that several

current and former township officials, including current and former Supervisors sent requests to the law firm requesting that information and was never responded to. Charles stated that they identified a conflict. The Supervisors should review what work was done and when it was done, which should have been done prior to retaining him. Charles questioned the proposed police force and that Supervisor Bermingham stated at a prior meeting that a public meeting would be held separately on that topic in February for the Township residents to share their views. The budget was passed with money for a police force of some kind. Charles would like to know when the Supervisors are going to schedule a separate meeting on the topic of a police force. Supervisor Bermingham stated that they are going to have a separate meeting, a single topic on a police force, but they decided to hold off because of winter and because most of the police budget is going to salt. As of right now, it is limbo until we get through winter. Supervisor Albert stated that he has not been or made aware of any single meetings on the formation of a police force. Supervisor Albert stated that he does not want a police force. Supervisor Erler asked that the police study report be posted on the website.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., asked about Wild and Scenic. Everyone has different opinions, but she would like to know where we are going with it. Supervisor Bermingham stated that it is on the agenda for February 23rd meeting.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy, commended the road department for doing an outstanding job they've done in these storms. Ron commented on the conflict of interest that he assured Mr. Baltic that it would be handled. Ron had asked Supervisor Bermingham about having Alternate Solicitor attend the meeting so the residents so specific questions could be asked. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he did ask him to attend but he wasn't able. He (Adrian Cousens) stated that he gave the information, there is no conflict, the Supervisors can do what they want. Ron stated that it is very important that he attends a meeting, these are very serious accusations. Supervisor Bermingham will ask him again to attend a meeting. There was a discussion on whether there is a conflict of interest with the Park Foundation. Supervisor Bermingham stated that they will have to look into that. Ron offered to pay \$320 for the Alternate Solicitor to attend the meeting.

Fran Visicaro, N. Delaware Dr., commented on the NID attorney that the Township hired, and she understood that law firm had dealings with Pektor's lawyer. Fran stated that there was a conflict of interest where one of the ZHB members should of recused himself during the drip irrigation hearings.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Albert commended the road department on doing a great job on the two storms that hit back-to-back.

Manager Graziano gave a summary of the scheduling of the road crew and how they managed the storms and the cleaning up of roads. Manager Graziano stated that he recommended the Board to use the budgeted police funds to pay for salt.

Supervisor Erler stated that he rode along with the road crew during the first major snowstorm. He said it was very informative and has a newfound respect for exactly how the road crew goes above and beyond for our residents to keep the roads safe.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that he is still working with Slater Baseball Association on getting funds for an indoor training facility. There was a meeting on the Emergency Shelter at the Firehouse, bids will hopefully go out soon and they are waiting for a response on the grant. Met-Ed will be switching all the lights in the Township to LED lights. The agreement with Purdue University has been signed and will send Manager Graziano all the benefits that the employees of the Township and their family members can take advantage of.

Secretary Cindy Beck reminded the residents that they need to call Republic Services for a bulk pickup. The call has to be made by noon the day before to be on the list. Republic hopes to have the smaller toters delivered to the residents by the end of the month.

Manager Graziano announced that the tank used for waste oil will now be locked due to another contamination, which costs \$1,500 to clean the tank. Manager Graziano reminded the residents to move their trash bins out of the easement during snowstorms. Manager Graziano stated that we almost had a tragic accident due to someone passing one of our plow trucks going 9 mph on River Rd. at the black bridge. The pickup truck never slowed down, passed the plow truck nearly missing an oncoming car and missing hitting the plow. Please respect the plow trucks.

V.

PRESENTATION-Township Feasibility Study

Michelle Mazingo and Christian Hoffer, Alloy5 representatives, gave a presentation on the Township Feasibility Study. Michelle stated this study was completed over a course of three months. The study was broken into three stages, 1) data collection, analysis, and evaluation 2) building evaluations 3) concept design phase. Alloy5 was tasked with evaluating the potential for a new municipal building and complex. The current site of the building has pretty much remained the same for quite some time. Michelle discussed the existing programming of the building, public/civilian, administration, tax office, public works, and previous police, as well as building deficiencies. The existing building is roughly 7500 sq. ft. Current condition overview, site, building envelope and architecture. Michelle discussed the three most viable solutions, build a new municipal building at the Community Park site, and keep public works here, second option was build a new building at the Community Park and using Eastern Industries for the public works department, and the third option was evaluating the existing site and a doing renovation of the building, and move public works to Eastern Industries. Option two checked all the boxes. Michelle discussed the potential proposed municipal building at the Community Park. Probable cost, low range-\$3,665,625, high range-\$4,312,500, she also included escalation (4% per year) costs for 2026, 2027, 2028.

VI.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. January 5, 2026, Reorganization Meeting Minutes
2. January 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes
3. 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 \$253,957.81. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pay the bills in the amount of \$360,292.78, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Supervisor Erler asked about the \$30,000 in donations. Who decides who and how much gets donated? Supervisor Bermingham stated that some have been on the list for quite some time. Any Supervisor can come forward with an organization that they may want to place on the list. Supervisor Friedman explained the increase in the donation amount to FURR, animal (cats) control fund. The increase to \$2,500 doesn't come close to the actual cost in controlling the cat population in the Township. Vote: 5-0.

VIII.

ACTION ITEM

1. Appoint Well Enforcement Officer-Supervisor Friedman stated that we neglected to include this position at the reorganization meeting. We now have a new well ordinance, which includes a Well Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Friedman asked Scott Policelli if he would be interested and he agreed. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint Scott Policelli as the Well Enforcement Officer (WEO), seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Haddad Gas Easement-Solicitor Karasek stated the Haddad property is part of the property that the Haddad's are considering granting a conservation easement to the Township. There are two utilities right of ways on the property. One is a PPL power line, and one is for Columbia Gas. PPL has agreed to an amendment so that their power line would not affect the nature of the conservation easement. Columbia Gas is not willing to make an amendment. Heritage Conservancy is still trying to see if they can get an agreement with them to make an amendment. Their ROW would not affect the nature of the conservation easement. The Open Space Advisory Board recommends the BOS to continue the easement process. Heritage Conservancy does not see any risk in proceeding. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman that we instruct Heritage Conservancy to move forward with the easement on condition they are not able to get the amendment, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
3. Embassy Bank CDs-Manager Graziano stated that there are two CDs coming due at Embassy Bank. One in the amount of \$128,207.03, which is the Covid funds that were being held for the Fire Truck loan payment. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to close the matured CD and use the funds to pay the Fire

Truck loan, No. 2997645, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0. The second is the Township's money, approximately \$150k. Those funds were divided into 3 CDs at approximately \$54k each. One of the CDs is maturing. The rates are as follows: 3mo. 3.9%, 6mo. 3.9%, 9mo. 3.8%, 12mo. 3.8% and 18mo. 3.6%. Manager Graziano recommends the 6mo CD at 3.9% because we have some good projects coming up. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to move the matured CD in the amount of \$54k to a 6mo CD at Embassy Bank at a rate of 3.9%, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

IX.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CodeRed-Manager Graziano discussed discontinuing the service. The cost annually is \$5,771. We only have 400 residents subscribed. We have not used the service in a year. Facebook and our website are used as a good source of getting information to residents. Manager Graziano recommends not renewing the program. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to not renew the CodeRed program for 2026, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

X.

DISCUSSION

1. Delinquent Trash Bills-Supervisor Erler discussed the outstanding amount of trash bills that are owed by residents. Some of the bills go back as far as 1995. It has been determined that these amounts are records subject to a Right to Know request. The Township cannot advertise these residents to try to recover the funds owed. Solicitor Karasek stated that if the Township wants to collect it's delinquent taxes, etc., they can do that, they would not be in any violation of any federal or state law, the Township cannot disclose names. Under the RTK Act, a Right-to-Know request by any person, are records that are publicly available. Fran Visicaro asked about the properties having liens on them, do we get the funds if the house sells. Supervisor Erler stated it's not 100% that we get what is owed.

XI.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 8:25 pm, to discuss legal and personnel matters. The meeting reconvened at 8:42 pm.

Solicitor Karasek stated that two personnel matters were discussed in Executive Session and there are no motions to be made, it was simply attorney client privilege. As to the legal matter discussed, there was a claim against Mr. Manzi's company, 21st Century. We made a claim and asked him to reimburse the Township for what we believe are damages that the Township sustained in not doing the best job when he put in his IT/computer information. A demand letter was sent to him. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to instruct Solicitor Karasek to pursue the suit in the Magisterial District Court, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

MOTION by Supervisor Erler to terminate Gross McGinley as the Alternate Solicitor for declining to attend this meeting and declining to provide the requested documentation in

regard to his Conflicts of Interest check, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Solicitor Karasek stated this motion can be made coming out of Executive Session. Solicitor Karasek stated that if this motion passes, he is not sure of the status of the cases, we may want to make sure we have someone ready to jump into the other cases. Supervisor Erler stated that we did receive a letter of interest from Newman Williams for the Alternate Solicitor position. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he will ask Adrian Cousens to attend the meeting on the 23rd. Supervisor Friedman stated that Supervisor Erler should have an Alternate Solicitor all set up. Supervisor Erler stated that the current court matters that Adrian Cousens was dealing with are currently on hold. Supervisor Albert stated that he is comfortable removing Gross McGinley but would be more comfortable making sure we know who we have as an alternate. Vote: 2-3. Motion fails.

XII.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary