



## Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' WS MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 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

Supervisor Bermingham amended the agenda, moving item 1 under **VIII. New Business**, Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Special Meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, to item 1 under **V. Action Items**. And add Board of Supervisor meeting time to **VIII, New Business item 1**.

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

### III.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Potter, Audubon Rd., commented on the proposed Ground Water Study. Jim stated the PBA is in favor of the study, but not using the information from the 2011 study, which has deficient information. He suggests starting from ground zero. The PBA would be willing to contribute if it would start at ground zero.

Raymond Garcia, Red Fox Ln., commented on the road conditions on Quiet Valley Rd. Raymond stated that it is like driving on a dirt road, there is an excess amount of gravel. Raymond asked if the township is accepting sludge. Manager Graziano stated that the company admitted that the job was not done properly and they are going to take care of it, at no charge to the township. Manager Graziano stated that there is one farmer that is using sludge in the township, and by law, they are allowed to use sludge. Raymond spoke of the sports programs in the township but would like to see baseball. Supervisor Bermingham stated that yes there is a baseball program. Supervisor Bermingham's brother sits on the Board and will provide him with his number.

Tara Mezzanotte asked the BOS if it would be okay with them if she could reach out to PennDOT asking them why they are going North of Slateford for the rehabilitation project of Rt.611. None of the Supervisors object. Tara commented on the water drainage condition on Rt 611 going through the Gap. Tara commented on the meeting with TAC on the Amtrak project with the people of Slateford.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy, commented on having a solution on the Park Foundation issue, a forensic audit, from the very beginning to the end. He and other residents are willing to come up with the \$10k to have the audit done. Will the BOS accept that? Solicitor Karasek stated that the Foundation is a separate entity, they do not have to provide that information, however, it may be done through a lawsuit. Supervisor Erler stated that the original by-laws stated that the records should be made available. Solicitor Karasek stated that the by-laws were changed. Solicitor Karasek stated that he will need to look into this further. Ron would like to see a show of hands of who would be willing to do this if the taxpayers of the township furnished the money. Supervisor Eckman, yes, Supervisor Bermingham, yes, Supervisor Erler, yes, Supervisor Albert, yes, Supervisor Friedman, no. Supervisor Erler stated that he did try to reach out to Mr. Mezger about the presentation he was going to give, he has not gotten a response. Ron also commented on the current Alternate Solicitor from Gross McGinley and the possible conflict of interest.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Friedman announced the letter drafted by Solicitor Karasek was sent out for the groundwater survey.

Supervisor Erler announced that he did receive the resume of the potential Alternate Solicitor, Attorney Marek, that Supervisor Bermingham requested at the last meeting. Supervisor Erler would like this to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Supervisor Eckman announced planning has begun for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event at the park on July 4<sup>th</sup>, rain date July 5<sup>th</sup>. Gates open at 4, fireworks about 9:15. All vendors can register through rec desk.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that he is still working with Slater Baseball Association on their indoor training facility. The Emergency Shelter at the Firehouse is moving forward, and bids should be going out soon. The Prince of Peace Church is now looking to make their church a warming center. A meeting is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. UMBT clean-up day is scheduled for May 2. There will be electronics recycling event May 23<sup>rd</sup>, community wide yard sale on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and office hours on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 7pm at TK's. Supervisor Bermingham, Manager Graziano and Chief Potter met with Suburban about getting an ambulance in Upper Mount Bethel Township.

Manager Graziano reiterated for ATV's to please stay off the Potomac Park and out of the Preserve. There will be no oil and chipping this year on our roads. The following roads will be fixed from last year's oil and chipping, Carolee, Quiet Valley, Red Fox, Frutchey Ct. and Scenic Ct. Manager Graziano read a couple of thank notes received from those we sent donations to. Manager Graziano announced the annual Slate Belt Rising clean-up day is April 18<sup>th</sup>, 10-1.

## V.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Special Meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm- Supervisor Bermingham stated that he wanted to do a special meeting instead of doing it a regular meeting. Supervisor Erler asked Tara if there was a deadline for this. Tara stated that originally the goal was to have this whole project wrapped up by December. Then came the government shutdown and other related factors. Tara would like clarification on what to expect from the special meeting. Will there be a decision at that meeting what, if any, of your tributaries that have been discussed, Slateford, Jacoby above Portland, and Allegheny to be included and then voted on the following meeting. Supervisor Bermingham stated that it will be voted on at the special meeting and then memorialized at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
2. 2026 Line Painting Bid Award-Engineer Coyle stated that Alpha Space was the lone bidder in the amount of \$125,796.00. Engineer Coyle stated that he was a little concerned that only one bid was received so he put together a tabulation of bids for comparison for the last few years. Although being the only bidder, Engineer Coyle recommends awarding the bid to Alpha Space Control for \$125,796.00. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to award the bid to Alpha Space Control for \$125,796.00, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
3. Pickleball Courts Bid Award-Engineer Coyle stated that five (5) bids were received for the Pickleball Courts at the Park. Bids ranged from a low of \$88,020 from T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. up to \$116,871.00 from Grace Industries, Inc. In reviewing T. Schiefer Contractors submitted all the required documentation, therefore, Engineer Coyle recommends awarding the bid the lowest bidder, T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc in the amount of \$88,020.00. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to award the Pickleball Courts to T. Schiefer Contractors for \$88,020.00, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

## VI.

### TABLED ITEMS

1. Truck 20-Municipal-Manager Graziano stated that at the request of Supervisors from the last meeting, he contacted Mac Mobile to get a second opinion on the status of the truck, which concurred with the initial determination that the truck is dead. Supervisor Erler stated that he did reach out to Mac Mobile, and they stated that the check engine codes were a lot more than anticipated. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to sell Truck 20 on Municipal, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Philip M. Jones Lot Consolidation Deed-Solicitor Karasek stated that he reviewed the Deed, and it was in order. There was a concern that Engineer Coyle did not have the opportunity to review the Deed, however, Engineer Coyle has since reviewed the Deed and stated that it is acceptable to his office. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Philip M. Jones Lot Consolidation Deed, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

## VII.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Board of Supervisor Meeting Time-Supervisor Bermingham stated that there has been discussion on starting the meetings at 6:30pm. Supervisor Bermingham asked Solicitor Karasek if we could vote on having the meeting at either 6:30 or 7:00. Solicitor Karasek stated the statute states one set day and time but he will do some research. Supervisor Erler feels we should keep the meeting at 7:00 until we are sure all the Supervisors can make it at 6:30
2. Live Stream Meetings- Manager Graziano stated this has been a subject for a few years as to whether we continue live streaming our meetings. This originated because of COVID. This is a discussion for the Supervisors if they want to continue the live streaming. Supervisor Erler would like to see the quality of the live streaming improved. Stavros discussed limitations and bandwidth. There was a discussion on putting the videos on YouTube in order for the remain active longer since FB only keeps them on for 30 days. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to pursue uploading finished recorded meetings on YouTube, pursuant to any added costs, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-0-1. Supervisor Friedman abstained, only because he doesn't understand the subject of IT.
3. PA Act 172-Supervisor Bermingham discussed the PA Act 172, which gives our volunteer firefighters tax break incentives. Supervisor Albert stated that in 2016 PA enacted Act 172, which allows municipalities to give their volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance services tax breaks on the municipal real estate property tax or their EIT money or both. Supervisor Albert provided copies of Bangor Borough's Ordinance and Roseto Borough's Ordinance. There are strict requirements to be eligible. Both MBFD and NBFD will have to come up with their requirements and maintain all the records. Scott Meixsell, President of the MBFD, stated that Chief Chris Finan will be keeping track of the active firefighters. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to proceed and appoint Supervisor Albert to lead the effort, seconded by Supervisor Friedman.

Supervisor Albert will meet with both fire departments and then with Solicitor Karasek to draft an ordinance. Vote: 5-0.

4. Home of Schoolhouse Rock Creator Bob Dorough Sign-Tim Hayes kids presented the Board with a proposal for a Welcome to Upper Mount Bethel Township sign to honor Schoolhouse Rock Creator Bob Dorough, who was a resident of Upper Mount Bethel Township. They are looking to raise funds for the sign. There was a discussion on where to place the sign. The community park seemed to be the ideal place for it. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to move forward to create a proposal for the Board and have the sign placed at the Community Park, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

### **VIII.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Recess to Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

The meeting reconvened at 8:34 pm.

Solicitor Karasek stated that personnel matters, specifically road crew employees, was discussed in Executive Session. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman bring back Tom Rinehart, part-time status, laborer rates, stipulations to be outlined by Solicitor Karasek and Manager Graziano. seconded by Supervisor Erler. Ron Angle stated that neither discussion qualified for Executive Session. Supervisor Birmingham stated that the Board had legal questions to be discussed. Vote: 5-0.

**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to advertise for two part-time road crew personnel for the summer with conditions that will be stipulated in the advertisement, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-1. Supervisor Erler voted no.

### **IX.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary