



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 – 7:00 PM

*This meeting was held in person and live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page.

I.

Supervisor Erler called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were Supervisor Erler, Supervisor Albert, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Eckman, Township Solicitor Karasek, Township Engineer Coyle and Township Manager Graziano. Supervisor Bermingham was absent.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Erler stated that anyone making a public comment just has to state whether they are a resident or not, they no longer have to provide an address.

Tara Mezzanotte gave a brief update on the Amtrak project. Tara discussed the most recent event that happened at the light in the Gap. Tara is going to advocate for a sign to notify drivers that there is an issue at the light. Tara would also like to ask about an Emergency Task Force. Tara would like the approval of the BOS to bring this up for discussion with PennDOT.

Rich Klinge commented on backroom deals going on in the township. Rich stated that a discussion on hiring someone for the road crew was not on the agenda, but it was

discussed in Executive Session and then voted on. Rich questioned why we have so many road crew members. Manager Graziano stated that we need the manpower to do what needs to be done in the township. He gets compliments all the time on the great job they do.

Judith Henckel stated that this week is dark sky week. We are currently in a moderate drought. Judy stated that she was heartbroken from the vote on the Wild and Scenic. Judy attended the town hall meeting for the proposed data center in Lower Mt. Bethel and stated it was well attended.

Ron Angle commented on the great job the road crew does and there are a lot of roads to take care of. Ron commented on an obscene hand jester made to Supervisor Birmingham and other Board members by a resident who attended the meeting and would hope they would offer an apology.

Frances Visicaro asked if the bears were out, garbage can was knocked over and trash was all over. Fran asked about the Rt. 611 road work. Tara stated that it will be going out to bid soon.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Friedman stated that he received an email from Jim Potter notifying him that American Water will be looking to renew their withdraw permit. Jim, Charlie Cole, and himself will be reviewing the application.

Supervisor Albert spoke of a data center webinar that he attended. It was very informative and non-biased. He will be working with the Fire Co. officers on the 172 Plan.

Supervisor Eckman announced the 4th of July event at the Park.

Supervisor Erler announced he will be having office hours on Monday, April 20th, 7pm at TK's. Last Thursday, Manager Graziano, Supervisor Birmingham and himself had a meeting with RPL & Talen Energy. The meeting was to update the BOS that RPL and Talen Energy have entered into a partnership under a new entity, Slate Belt Holdings. Supervisor Erler is planning a chairs to the table meeting.

Manager Graziano thanked Air Liquide for their generous donation to Parks/Rec. Annual clean-up day is April 18th. Manager Graziano read a thank you note from Dave Beck, on behalf of Saint Paul's Cemetery. Manager Graziano announced we will be having our first 5k race, Oct. 3rd, 9am, starting at the park. This was brought to us by Carroll Engineering, thank you to our Engineer Justin Coyle for their \$1,000 donation. Anyone interested in donating or sponsoring can call the township office. More information to follow. Thank you to Stephanie Steele from Portland, she is donating an Osprey statue. Manager Graziano stated that he has conversations with all the

committee members on what might possibly be coming to the Township. Since he's been the manager, there are no backdoor deals happening, everything is transparent. We need to be civil. What happened at the last meeting after the Supervisors voted, was appalling. Just because it didn't go your way, sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. In the end, we all live here together.

V.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. March 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes
2. March 23, 2026, WS Meeting Minutes
3. Exonerations/Refunds

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 4-0.

VI.

FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manger Graziano read the bill list totaling \$440,328.30. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pay the bills in the amount of \$440,328.30, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-0.

VII.

LAND DEVELOPMENT

1. Theodore & Claudia Howard/Chelsea Sun LD Plan-Solicitor Karasek stated the Planning Commission reviewed the Plan, granted a SALDO Waiver, and then recommended to the Board for approval. Their engineer has since requested another waiver, having one plan filed (preliminary/final), which requires notices to be sent to adjoining neighbors and reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission. Solicitor Karasek stated that this will be on the Planning Commission agenda for the May 20th meeting. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table until such time the revised plans be reviewed by the Planning Commission and acted upon and voted on at the nearest meeting of the BOS, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-0.

VIII.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Material Bid Award-Manager Graziano stated that this is the standard procedure we do each year. The only material out for bid was fuel and the only bid received was Reimer Bros. Diesel Fuel-\$4.76, Heating Oil-\$4.44 and Unleaded Gasoline-\$3.38. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to award the Material bid for fuel to Reimer Bros., seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 4-0.
2. Purchase 2027 Western Star Plow Truck-Manager Graziano discussing the purchase of the 2027 Western Star Plow Truck. This will take approximately 14 months to be upfitted and delivered. This truck will be replacing truck 20, which is currently listed on Municibid. The total price for the truck is \$357,117.83. Supervisor Albert asked if we've looked into pre-upfitted trucks. Manager

Graziano stated that no one has them. Lindsey Manzi, Road Crew Chief, stated leasing is not an option for plow trucks. Rich Klinge asked if we have parts for this new truck. Why go with another brand of truck if we already stock parts for Mack trucks. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to purchase the 2027 Western Star Plow Truck for \$357,117.83, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-0.

**IX.
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**X.
ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary