



## Upper Mount Bethel Township

387 Ye Olde Highway

P.O. Box 520

Mount Bethel, PA 18343-5220

Phone: (570) 897-6127 Fax: (570) 897-0108

[www.umbt.org](http://www.umbt.org)

### UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 – 7:00 PM

\*This meeting was held in person at the Mt. Bethel Fire House and live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page and YouTube channel.

#### I.

Supervisor Bermingham called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

#### II.

##### APPROVE THE AGENDA

Supervisor Friedman made a statement that agenda items 3 & 4 in IX. New Business, he will be asking for these items to be tabled.

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

**MOTION** by Supervisor to Erler to amend the agenda adding to IX. New Business, 3, Millings Deliveries, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

#### III.

##### PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Donnelly, Township resident, commented on our neighbors, a community worth fighting for. Trusting elected officials, holding office hours, working with your constituents. Supervisor Eckman responded, saying she has talked with residents, met

with residents, unfortunately, her work hours limit her to setting office hours, but she is more than willing to meet with anyone. Supervisor Erler stated that he will be working hard to set a time for office hours, which he done in the past.

Rich Klinge, Township resident, commented on misuse of township funds, hauling millings and shale delivered to residents by our road crew. Manager Graziano stated that this has been going on for a long time, but if the Supervisors want to stop it, they need to let him know. Supervisor Bermingham stated we need to revisit this policy. The agenda was amended to include further discussion on this matter.

Tom Gilmour, Township resident, commented on items on the agenda getting tabled. Supervisor Friedman stated that agenda item, Land Use Attorney, there was a family emergency, and the CBA Consultant, there may be a conflict of interest. Tom urged the BOS to pass a strong data center ordinance before the validity challenge. Solicitor Karasek stated that adopting the ordinance will not affect the validity challenge. Tom commented on Purple Martin's at Lake Minsi.

Shane Svant, Township resident, commented on data centers catching on fire. Shane commented on the data center visit, and the type of data centers that they will be visiting. Manager Graziano stated that they will be visiting a variety of data centers, old ones and new ones. Shane stated that will be wasting taxpayers' money to go to some random facilities that you don't know what they are. Shane expressed his frustration and was asked to leave.

Stephanie Picone, Township resident, commented on the vicinity of the data centers.

Anna, Portland resident, commented on emotional connections, health concerns of data centers, and the ramifications of AI.

Allison Wright, Plainfield Township, commented on all the different people that come from surrounding communities to express how they feel about the proposed data center.

Stacy Stone, Township resident, asked for forgiveness for Shane, he is very upset, rightly so. Stacy commented on having a fully executed regional grid and water study completed before any approvals. Stacy about if the BOS were familiar with PJM, a regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity and to make sure we have a service agreement with them.

Bridget Folts, Belvidere NJ, commented on protecting everyone, including those outside of UMBT, listen to the people.

Tim Hayes, Township resident, commented on representing the people. Tim stated that 90% of the community does not want data centers. Don't sign anything. Hire a big lawyer. Fight them. Pass the data center ordinance.

Melissa Wagner, Bangor resident, commented on keeping the environment in your thoughts as we go through the process.

Andrew Stone, Township resident, commented on Supervisors making time to have office hours, if you can't make the time, then they should step down. Andrew compared 2 gigawatts to Hoover Dam, wind turbines, solar photovoltaic panels, and motor vehicles.

Jan Syvertsen, Township resident, commented on a very ununified board, you need to get on the same page.

Henry Lennihan, Township resident, commented on three articles in the NY Times, EPA moves to curb public input on data centers, Trump administration moves to drop protections for more wetlands, AI boom poses growing public health threat.

Jason Abbott, Township resident, commented on Engineer Coyle's draft ordinance and DEP guide to write these ordinances based off other counties. Jason would like Engineer Coyle to consider some of his changes.

Samatha Gala, Bangor resident, commented on all the well-educated and passionate speakers that have spoken this evening.

Ron Angle, Township resident, commented on emotions, they are never the answer, it's facts and dialog. Ron commented on hiring a land use attorney and a negotiator for a benefit package. Ron asked Supervisor Bermingham if he believes he has any power to stop a data center. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he has things he is going to fight about.

Eddie, Township resident, commented on a data center that dumped 55,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Raymond loves living in this area. Put the residents first.

Vanessa, Township resident, commented on living in beautiful Mt. Bethel.

Robert Dunning, Township resident, commented on Upper Merion Township fighting data centers. Be a team, work together.

Ralph, Lower Mt. Bethel Township, stated that LMBT passed their data center ordinance 5-0. Work together for the township, fix the division.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Erler announced that he will be attending PSATS regional forum on data centers and large-scale development. Supervisor Erler stated that a data center visit has been scheduled. Supervisor Erler will be focusing on protections for the township.

Supervisor Erler commented on township reserves and would like this to be on the next agenda.

Supervisor Eckman announced that due to the lack of interest, the October 3<sup>rd</sup> 5k race will be cancelled. There is a public meeting scheduled for the master plan on September 30<sup>th</sup>. And happy birthday to our Chairman of the Parks/Rec and IT director.

Supervisor Bermingham announced the community wide yard sale, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone that came out to the office hours. Thank you to everyone for coming out for the 911 Tribute. Mo Sweets 1 year anniversary, 9/19, 10 am. Halloween-Saturday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Supervisor Bermingham would like to have a special meeting on data centers on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. Supervisor Eckman would like to push it back, she will not be available. A date will be determined.

Manager Graziano announced that in regard to the data center visit, every board is represented, except the ZHB. They are all going open-minded. Thank you to NC Council members for approving the \$30k grant for the gazebo at the park. Budget discussions will start, and he is not proposing a tax increase for next year. Manager Graziano would like to start a bridge fund because our bridges are getting old.

## **V.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. August 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes
2. August 24, 2026, WS Meeting Minutes
3. Exonerations/Refunds

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

## **VI.**

### **FINANCIALS**

1. Bill List-Manager Graziano stated the reason for the high bill list is because we had to pay for our two fire trucks. Manager Graziano read the bill list totaling \$885,542.48. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pay the bills in the amount of \$885,542.48, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

## **VII.**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Final Payment to T. Schiefer Contractors Inc/Pickleball Courts-Engineer Coyle stated the final payment was submitted. The work completed for this project has been performed in compliance with the Contract Documents and Engineer Coyle recommends final payment in the amount of \$96,120.00 to T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to approve the final payment to T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc, in the amount of \$96,120.00, to close out the Pickleball Courts project, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

2.

- a. LSA Grant Resolution No. 2026-16 (NC) Plow Truck-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to adopt Resolution No. 2026-16, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. 5-0.
- b. LSA Grant Resolution No. 2026-17 (Monroe) Plow Truck-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Resolution No. 2026-17, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

Manager Graziano stated that both Resolutions are for the same truck. Last year we procured \$50k from Monroe County for a plow truck. We are applying again to recoup \$350k. This truck will be replacing the Peterbilt we just sold. These Resolutions are authorizing the submission of a PA Local Share Grant, designating Township officials to execute all documents and agreements. UMBT is requesting a grant in the amount of \$350,703.56 from Northampton County and Monroe County, to be used to purchase a 2027 Western Star 47X Plow Truck.

## VIII.

### TABLED ITEMS

1. Open Space Equipment Purchase-Supervisor Albert stated that the Open Space Advisor Board approved to use Open Space funds to purchase two pieces of equipment for the preserve only. They are looking to purchase a Bobcat UV56 (\$73,134) and a Bobcat UV3XL (\$24,613). The cost for both total \$97,747. Manager Graziano asked Solicitor Karasek if these can be used on open space (trails, park, preserve)? Solicitor Karasek stated that the Ordinance that was passed years ago, he is not sure if it deals with equipment, it deals with open space, recreation, farmland, etc. Supervisor Erler stated that these are very nice machines, but do we need them now, since construction has not started yet. Manager Graziano stated these machines are needed now. Construction at the preserve may begin in the first quarter of 2027. Supervisor Eckman suggested looking into extended warranties. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve of the purchase of the two Bobcat UVs for \$97,747, and to look into an extended warranty that does not exceed \$1,000 per vehicle, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-1. Supervisor Erler voted nay.

## IX.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. North Bangor Accessory Building-Supervisor Erler stated that the NBFD has currently been undertaking an expansion building project to house a truck. President Tom Austin stated that last year NB applied for an LSA grant for an expansion project, to add two more bays to the station. It was determined that they have a shortfall of \$35k. There was a discussion on both Fire Companies and their need for funding. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he has no problem giving NB \$35k. Tom stated they are still looking into getting grants. Manager Graziano stated that we are not budgeted for this, but we have money. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to advance the NBFC an amount to not exceed \$35k, for their building expansion project, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
2. Mower Max Roadside Mower-Manager Graziano stated that we received a \$70k check to cover the mower that was involved in an accident with one of our road

crew, which doesn't cover the cost of a new one. We will be going after the trucking company that hit Nick. We are currently renting a tractor for \$8,000. The Mower Max is a unique new piece of equipment. There are a lot of options that we can have on it. The total cost of the Mower Max is \$289,472.30. Lindsey Manzi, Road Crew Chief, explained why we need this mower. This is a very safe tractor the way it is set up. Supervisor Erler would like the funds to come directly out of the machinery fund. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to purchase the Mower Max Roadside Mower for \$289,472.30 with the stipulation that any insurance money we get goes towards the purchase price of this machine, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Supervisor Erler would like to amend the **MOTION** that the full balance, after the insurance money, is to come out of the road machinery fund, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

3. Limit Millings Deliveries-Supervisor Erler stated this was brought up for discussion because of the recent discovery of possible misuse. He has not heard of anyone abusing the process. Supervisor Erler would like to limit the delivery of millings to residents to 2 deliveries a year. Supervisor Bermingham stated they should come pick them up. Manager Graziano stated that would be difficult, not all residents have a truck. **MOTION** is to limit residents to getting two triaxle loads of millings from the township per year, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Supervisor Friedman would like to get the facts. Manager Graziano stated this will be hard to enforce. Lindsey stated that it is a good idea to limit the delivery of millings. PennDOT delivers millings as well. Supervisor Bermingham called for a vote. Vote: 5-0.

#### **X.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **XI.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Supervisor Eckman to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

*Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary*