



## *Upper Mount Bethel Township*

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### UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 – 7:00 PM

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

#### **I.**

Chairman Pinter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were Chairman Pinter, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Bermingham, Township Manager Nelson, Township Engineer Coyle and Township Solicitor Karasek. Supervisor Due was absent.

#### Public Comments

Judith Henckel commented on the previous meeting and statements that were made in regards to past documents that were signed 15 years ago, I-2 and I-3 Zones. Judith also commented on the difference of cutting down trees to bring back farmland and cutting down trees from hillsides.

Charles Cole commented on the Water Cooler Talk, testing of drinking water and would like to link the power point presentation on the Township Website.

Mark Mezgar commented on his concerns of infrastructure, revenues for the Township and School District and how RPL calculated the revenues.

Ron Angle commented on Supervisor Berminghams' role in the Text Amendment and what changed when it came to the vote. Supervisor Bermingham stated he did not write the Text Amendment, but he did spend time with Supervisor Teel negotiating, then he started holding his office hours and once he started getting educated from the residents and experts, he was no longer in on the negotiations. Ron commented on the recent Facebook comments and offered a \$5,000 reward for information on the individual responsible for the posts. Ron stated that Stavros is an asset the Township and whoever is responsible for the posts, should be ashamed.

## II.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Application- Solicitor Karasek discussed the application received from John R. Wilson, 24.19 acres on Belvidere Corner Rd. and 7.07 acres on River Rd. If the Board takes no action for 180 days, the application is deemed approved. Chairman Pinter asked for this to be on the next meeting to be voted on to accept the application.
2. Manager Nelson announced the one lane bridge on Million Dollar Highway is going to be repaired by PennDOT, it is not going away. Manager Nelson stated he met with the Cozza Law Firm and will keep the Board updated.

## III.

### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the April 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the April 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds and Exonerations

**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.

## IV.

### ACTION AGENDA

1. River Rd. Roadway & Embankment Repairs Bid Award-Engineer Coyle stated two (2) bids were received, Grace Industries for \$99,664.20 and Kobalt Construction for \$117,775.00. Engineer Coyle stated the estimate for the project was \$65,000, so the bids received are considered excessive. Engineer Coyle's recommendation is to reject the bids and re-advertise on PennBid. There was a brief discussion that the road crew could potentially do the project if it could wait until the end of summer or fall. Manager Nelson will work with Engineer Coyle on the numbers to do the project in house. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to table to the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0.
2. Truck 27-Manager Nelson stated that Truck 27 was advertised for sale for \$140,000 and one bid was received, Phillipsburg Board of Education. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to sell Truck 27 to Phillipsburg BOE for \$140,000, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.

## V.

### SUBDIVISIONS

1. 1596 & 1608 Potomac St. Lot Line Adjustment-Solicitor Karasek discussed the recommendation from the Planning Commission that the plan is conditionally approved with SALDO waiver No. 2016-03 Section 200 (D), which has not been received. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to table and to check on the status of the SALDO waiver, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0.

## VI.

### TABLED ITEMS

1. Zoning Officer-Manager Nelson stated that he and Supervisor Due interviewed the applicant, Matthew Wojaczyk. Manager Nelson stated he will be working for the Township assisting Tina conducting mostly property maintenance issues. This will be a part-time position, 25 hrs. a week at \$55 an hour. Supervisor Birmingham asked Manager Nelson if there is a job description, Manager Nelson stated yes. Public

- Comment-Chris Finan suggested Barry Isett and Associates. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to table to the next meeting, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.
2. Firearms Ordinance-Chairman Pinter stated that Solicitor Karasek attended a seminar related to Firearms and would like update. Solicitor Karasek stated that the seminar he attended mainly dealt with concealed carry laws. Solicitor Karasek stated he would recommend no changes made to the current draft. Supervisor Bermingham asked how minor/major subdivision is defined. Solicitor Karasek stated it would be defined by the way it is filed at the Township. Supervisor Bermingham stated he would like more time to review the Ordinance. Chairman Pinter stated we have been working on this since December. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to advertise the Firearms Ordinance, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0. Solicitor Karasek stated to Supervisor Bermingham that the earliest this will be advertised will be June, so if he has any additional comments, he has some time.
  3. Resolution 2021-06-Over Paid Taxes-Solicitor Karasek discussed Resolution 2021-06, whereas any overpayment of \$15 or more will be an automatic refund by the Township and whereas any overpayment of less than \$15 will be refunded upon written request of the taxpayer. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to pass Resolution 2021-06, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.

**VII.  
FINANCIALS**

1. Bill List-Manager Nelson read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to pay the bills in the amount of \$165,346.26, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.

**VII.  
ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Bermingham announced a Memorial Day drive-by parade will be held at the Park on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary