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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 – 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.

In attendance were Chairman Pinter, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor Due, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Bermingham, Interim Manager Graziano, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., commented on RPL's Petition to Vacate Marshfield Dr. and stated do not give it away, it has great value to the Township.

Supervisor Friedman commented on a Portland Borough meeting that was attended by representatives of the Municipal Authority, that had not been established yet, and Mr. Pektor was the spokesperson.

IV.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jacob Smith Eagle Scout Project- Supervisor Bermingham stated that Jacob's Eagle Scout Project is to design a new sign for the Slate Belt Complex, the baseball field by the Township Building, and would like the BOS to waive the fee for the Zoning Permit, which is required.

MOTION by Chairman Pinter to waive the Zoning Permit Fee, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manager Graziano announced that one of the new Mack trucks has been delivered.

Supervisor Bermingham announced the Steel Wool Sisters have boxes located at some local businesses for toy donations. Office hours will be December 13th at 6 pm at TK's. Mt. Bethel Pharmacy has a gift giving angel tree that anyone can pick a tag that has a child's wish list on it. Supervisor Bermingham would like to change the time of the end of the year meeting to 6pm. Supervisor Bermingham asked about hiring more road crew members. Chairman Pinter stated two (2) full-time and one (1) seasonal.

Chairman Pinter announced the Movie Night is Sunday, December 17th at Allegheny, starting at 12pm.

Supervisor Teel asked Supervisor Bermingham if he reached out to Susan Wild to see if she could attend a public meeting to discuss the Rt. 611 closure. Supervisor Bermingham stated he will reach out to her to see if she is available on December 29th.

Secretary Cindy Beck reminded everyone to sign up for CodeRed. And the garbage service bills are due by December 31st.

VI. FINAL 2024 BUDGET ADOPTION

Chairman Pinter opened it up for discussion. Supervisor Bermingham thanked Supervisor Friedman for working with Manager Graziano on the 2024 Budget and stated there will be no tax increase for 2024. Chairman Pinter stated it has been a good year for collecting taxes. Solicitor Karasek explained the process of opening up the budget if the newly elected board members coming in have questions. Solicitor Karasek will send out the procedure to the Board as well as the newly elected Board members.

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to adopt the Final 2024 Budget, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the November 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the November 27, 2023, WS Meeting Minutes

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

VIII. FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manager Graziano read the bill list, totaling \$288,225.41. No discussion.
MOTION by Supervisor Teel to pay the bills in the amount of \$288,225.41, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

IX.

TABLED ITEMS

1. Code Adoption Ordinance-Solicitor Karasek stated the Code of Township Ordinances needs to be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the LVPC because of the Zoning and Subdivision changes. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
2. NIDMA Cooperation Agreement-Solicitor Karasek stated Attorney Bolewitz met via ZOOM with Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Bermingham, and himself, to discuss their concerns with respect to changes in the agreement and it appears that what was discussed were clarifications not just changes to the agreement. Attorney Bolewitz (via phone) stated that the specifications/clarifications discussed during the ZOOM meeting were sent to the NIDMA's council, and they have agreed to accept the clarifications. Attorney Wu (via phone) stated that they were clarifications, not changes to the Cooperation Agreement and would like to move forward tonight. Supervisor Bermingham would like more time to review the agreement and would like to move this to the meeting on the 29th and possibly meet with Attorney Bolewitz to clarify the agreement one more time. Solicitor Karasek stated some items that were discussed were the enhanced services, the maintenance of trails, driveways and sidewalks, which should not be the Township's responsibility. Attorney Wu stated a lot of the items discussed are already in the final plan and in the Cooperation Agreement itself. The Negotiations of Good Faith, which is very important to Supervisor Bermingham, and the NIDMA, and hopes that both sides agree with. Lou Pektor stated that they are losing contracts and would like a decision. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table to the 29th, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote:2-3. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to approve the NIDMA Cooperation Agreement, seconded by Supervisor Due. Discussion. Supervisor Friedman asked if the clarifications that were discussed in the final agreement. Chairman Pinter stated the agreement as itself, is not going to change. Lisa Pektor, President of the NIDMA, stated that there are still enhanced services that have yet to be created. There was a discussion on the emergency access. Chairman Pinter called for the vote. Vote: 3-2. Yay, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor Due and Chairman Pinter. Nay, Supervisor Friedman and Supervisor Bermingham.
3. Million Dollar Hwy One-Lane Bridge-Manager Graziano stated he spoke with PennDOT and right now they are looking into the historical history of the bridge. They stated they will perform a traffic count on the bridge. If the count is less than 400, they will keep it a one lane bridge and fix it. If the count is more than 400, it would be a two-lane bridge. Eleanor Shelton stated that due to the bridge being closed on Sand Pit, would that increase the number of vehicles going over the bridge. No further discussion.
4. Simon Collins Grant Writing Proposal-Manager Graziano stated that the changes that were discussed at the meeting have been addressed and the agreement was changed to reflect those changes. All in favor.

X.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Joinder Deed-Folkner-Solicitor Karasek stated that Mr. Folkner asked that two parcels he has on Winter St. be consolidated. One lot is 1.88 acres, the other is 2.1 acres, one parcel is vacant, the other has a home on it, and the consolidation of parcels are such that will permit to construct a pole building on it. Review letters from the SEO and the Zoning Officer were received, both have no concerns or objections. Solicitor Karasek stated it appears that he does not have a full copy of the deed and just wants to make sure the merger language is in it. Solicitor Karasek has no problem with the approval of the consolidation as long as the deed meets his approval. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to approve the Joinder Deed providing clarification on the deed meets the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
2. Petition to Vacate Marshfield Dr.-Schedule Hearing-Solicitor Karasek stated that at the last meeting the Board agreed to accept the Petition and at this point a Public Hearing needs to be scheduled. Adjoining property owners will be notified, River Pointe, Custom Laminating, and the Township. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to advertise for the Public Hearing to be held on December 29th at 5 pm, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
3. David Due Letter of Resignation/Retirement-Supervisor Due thanked the residents for letting him serve them for all these years. Supervisor Teel commended Supervisor Due for all he has done for the Township. Chairman Pinter also thanked Supervisor Due for his time, service, and dedication to the Township. Supervisor Birmingham and Supervisor Friedman also thanked Supervisor Due for his service to the Township. There was a discussion on the effective date of his resignation/retirement. The Board did not accept his letter of resignation/retirement, effective November 15, 2023, at the meeting on November 27, 2023, therefore, he continues to stay a Supervisor until the 45 days comes, then his letter is deemed accepted, unless the Board makes a motion this evening. Supervisor Due stated December 31st will mark the 45 days. No further discussion.

XI.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 8:12 pm to discuss legal matter regardin Police Pension.

The meeting reconvened at 8:24 pm. Chairman Pinter stated that a legal matter was discussed in Executive Session. Solicitor Karasek provided the Board with an update on litigation regarding Police Pension. There is no action to be taken at this time.

XII.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary