



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

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 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 Due, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Birmingham, Supervisor Teel, Township Manager Nelson, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Supervisor Birmingham asked to amend the agenda, adding Well Water Testing. Chairman Pinter stated it will be added to Section X, Old Business, item 1. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to amend the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

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

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on putting the Open Space Funding on the ballot and cutting the fund. Judy gave numbers on the EIT.

Frances Visicaro, N. Delaware Dr., commented on keeping children in their hometown. Frances asked Supervisor Teel if he has a signed contract from the developer stating that they will be giving us free emergency services, a building, etc. Supervisor Teel stated yes.

Cori Eckman, Potomac St., commented on the LERTA, giving tax breaks to the developer. Chairman Pinter responded, the LERTA does not give the developer a tax

break, it gives the person who has built the building and the business coming in the tax break. If the LERTA does not go through, the NIDMA will no longer happen.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., commented on the LERTA, 303 Demi Rd., looks like a warehouse and the developer will get the tax break.

Dave Philips, Crystal Terr., commented on the bidding process for a second-class township code and what was done for the trash contract.

Sharon Duffield, Potomac St., commented on River Pointe building and at this point is looking like manufacturing, CBRE advertising, there is no guarantee that there will be manufacturing.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Bermingham announced that he met with Dale Handelong and Jason Miller, MBFH, and it looks like they will be putting the shovel to the dirt starting in May, for the Emergency Shelter. The Upper Mt. Bethel clean-up program will be April 29th, on Boulder Dr. The 4th of July parade committee is up and running, working on the parade for the 4th of July. Chairman Pinter asked if the parade committee was coming to the Parks/Rec with the needs and wants. Supervisor Bermingham stated that they will provide updates. Chairman Pinter stated he has not seen an Ordinance or Resolution on the formation of a parade committee. Supervisor Bermingham stated the members are Lance and Lisa Prator, Portland Mayor Fisher, and Terry and Donna Lockwitch. Chairman Pinter stated there should be an intermunicipal agreement.

Supervisor Teel announced the Planning Commission meets on Wednesday, April 19th, and there will be some announcements.

Chairman Pinter announced the Parks/Rec committee is finalizing the events for the year.

V. PRESENTATION-The Preserve Master Plan-Simone Collins

Peter Simone gave a presentation on the master plan for the Preserve. The plan is currently in the draft plan stage. The plan keeps the preserved area of the site intact, where most of the environmental features will be. Removing trails, adding trails, adding boardwalks, handicap accessibility throughout the park, possible beaver cam, just to name a few features. Peter provided a probable cost of development and discussed the availability of grants, which they provide the service of completing. The UMB Preserve Improvements projected cost is \$2,150,000. The UMB Building Improvements projected cost is \$1,063,900. Peter stated that depending on how aggressive the Board is, the project could move forward quickly.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the March 30, 2023, Meeting Minutes
2. Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds and Exonerations

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

**VII.
FINANCIALS**

1. Bill List-Manager Nelson read the bill list. Chairman Pinter wanted to confirm that the Fire Companies received their payments. Manager Nelson stated yes.

MOTION by Supervisor Teel to pay the bills in the amount of \$178,572.34, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

**VIII.
ACTION ITEMS**

1. Nordstrom Appraisal-Manager Nelson stated that the Board previously approved of the re-appraisal to be completed on the Nordstrom property. The new appraised amount is \$528,000. Matt Babbitt, Heritage Conservancy, stated that this property had to be re-appraised due to the time frame of the last appraisal, which was October 2021 and since they are applying for a grant, a new appraisal was required. The County grant program is on a reimbursement basis. The Township is required to pay the \$524,850.00 up front and once the grant is awarded, the Township should receive half back, \$262,465.00. The County is also requiring a new Resolution indicating the revised amounts. Laura Bocko, Chairperson of the OSAB, stated the this was approved two (2) years ago. The OSAB was present, and they are all in favor of the new appraisal and to move forward. **MOTION** by Chairman Pinter to accept the Nordstrom appraisal with the new Resolution, at the request of the Heritage Conservancy for the grant application, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

**IX.
NEW BUSINESS**

1. Traffic Light-Supervisor Teel stated he spoke with RPL today and they have agreed to pay for anything to be done on the PennDOT right of way. This will be discussed further at the Planning Commission meeting.

**X.
OLD BUSINESS**

1. Well Water Testing-Supervisor Birmingham stated this is a follow-up from the last meeting where well water testing was discussed. This needs to take place around the drip irrigation system near the Potomac St. area. The goal is for Engineer Coyle to put together a program for well water testing. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to have Engineer Coyle develop a well water testing program starting with the homes in and around where the drip irrigation system will be and then in the future, expand it to other areas of the Township, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Discussion: Supervisor Teel stated that RPL does not have a problem with the well water testing, but he does have a problem that the people of North Bangor, where dirty dirt has been coming in from New Jersey, have been overlooked. Supervisor Due stated this should have been done several years ago. Charlie Cole commented on the testing around the drip irrigation site, there needs to be a baseline. Engineer Coyle stated he needs to put together an overall plan, a

scope of work, concentrate on areas of concern and get an estimated cost. Supervisor Bermingham amended his **MOTION** to include Engineer Coyles's overall plan, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

Recess to Executive Session at 8:25 pm to discuss legal matters.

XI.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting reconvened at 8:39 pm.

1. Legal Matters-Chairman Pinter stated that legal matters were discussed in Executive Session. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel to have Solicitor Karasek investigate Valley Industrial Properties monthly reports on the dumping of fill, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.
Supervisor Due would also like for Manager Nelson to gather information regarding the lot line adjustment and have East Bangor Borough notify Upper Mount Bethel Township that if and when the Township has a Water Authority that they would like to have a cooperative agreement.

XII.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Chairman Teel to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.