

UPPER MT. BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES - MONDAY, MAY 22, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER- Chairman Bermingham called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham were Supervisor De Franco, Supervisor Geake, Supervisor Due, Supervisor Hallett, Township Manager Fisher and Solicitor Ronold Karasek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. APPROVE AGENDA - **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor De Franco to approve the agenda. Vote: 5-0.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT – Judy Henckel spoke about water testing at Lake Minsi water turned out clear and not a lot of storm water sediment and mentioned there being wild life and different kinds of trout. Judy talked about the Martin Creek North of Bangor and the Walton property request for preservation. They are keeping that wooded and for the protection of the woodlands between here and the ridge.
4. Outstanding Professional Fees owed to Township – PowerPoint by Manager Fisher. Rick noted he removed Iorio from the comparison because that plan had six storm water reviews. Rick realized T&M Engineering would be a better comparison because they reviewed some of our plans, they are a higher priced firm and Bob Collura didn't always bill us. Supervisor Due said he's been following the Matour Trust minor subdivision, it is just a simple lot line adjustment with no issues and they were charged the same billable hours as Vough which was a major subdivision. Solicitor Karasek explained the arbitration process under the MPC. The Board asked if we should include all subdivisions. Solicitor Karasek replied to only include the ones that objected to the prices including Larry Hallett who was on the list and objected, but paid anyway. Chairman Bermingham said the township should consider giving a reduction to property owners since the township hired Mr. Ott, and we have a duty to the citizens to give them a break when they are overcharged by someone we appointed. Public Comment by Jeff Ackerman - should he hold off on paying the outstanding bills until this is resolved. Chairman Bermingham said "yes "until a decision is made. Judy Henckel asked why didn't this come up sooner and why do the taxpayers have to pay? Chairman Bermingham said this didn't surface until the township started invoicing the applicants. Supervisor Geake said the Board increased the fees in June because of the higher costs of the Engineer, which they knew of then. Public Comment by Mrs. Vigliotti - one bill was 14 hours. Supervisor De Franco said a flat fee of \$1,630.44 is a big discount for some of the invoices it should be a percentage. Chairman Bermingham asked this be put on our June 12<sup>th</sup> agenda to see if a percentage can be discounted or a flat fee and if Larry Hallett should be put on the list.
5. Township Manager quarterly report – power point – Manager Fisher presented his quarterly report to the Board and the audience. Chairman Bermingham recommended on the next quarterly report putting a disclaimer at the bottom "these numbers are subject to change and are an estimate". This will be put on our BOS 6/12/17 agenda under old business.
6. Municipal Waste and Recycling Agreement Addendum. Manager Fisher indicated he is going to bid out a straight bid and then an option with tires. Manager Fisher explained the "tag a bag" option. There was a consensus by the Board not to pursue the "tag a bag" option.
8. Multi-family Housing – Solicitor Karasek mentioned we were supposed to advertise for an ordinance, but needs clarification by the Board and review by LVPC. Judy Goldstein recommended multi-family housing in R-1, VCR, C-1 & C-2. Solicitor Karasek said we need to remove the requirement in VCR zone for central water and sewer and reviewed the definition for Multi-family housing. Charlie Kull said Forks Township is being challenged and would like to see us adopt an

ordinance before we have the same problem. Charlie Kull said the advantage of putting in the VCR zone is it's close to businesses. Supervisor Geake recommended C-1, VCR & R-1 zones.

Supervisor Hallett mentioned Act 28 which includes development, malls and bicycle paths. No further comments. This will be put on our BOS 6/12/17 agenda under old business. Supervisor Geake asked Solicitor Karasek to research whether or not we can spend our own EIT money to prevent sludge from being spread on township properties, as a township policy. Solicitor Karasek said the higher courts ruled sludge is allowed to be spread in Pennsylvania. Chairman Bermingham asked if we could give money and make our own policy with conditions. Solicitor Karasek said he will look into whether or not we can use our EIT money to establish our own policy.

9. Adjourn – **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor De Franco to adjourn the Work Session Meeting at 8:45 p.m. No comments. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Mastrogiovanni, Recording Secretary  
Upper Mount Bethel Township