

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER- Chairman Bermingham called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham were Supervisor De Franco, Supervisor Geake, Supervisor Due, and Solicitor Ronold Karasek. Supervisor Hallett was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. APPROVE AGENDA – Chairman Bermingham asked the agenda be amended to include Jose Gonzalez’s Aftershock Fast pitch Softball’s request to use our Echo Ball Field. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, Seconded by Supervisor De Franco, to approve the amended agenda. Vote: 5-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

4. Municipal Waste and Recycling Agreement Addendum bid specs – Manager Fisher indicated we received 4 bids; **1). Advanced Disposal Services** (low bid) – Option (A) 3 year unit price \$171.12, (B) same price, (C) 183.12. Total annual contract = 443,200.80 / 474,280.90 5 year unit price option (A) \$174.60 (B) same (C) 186.60. Total annual contract = \$452,214.00/ 483,294.00. **2). County Waste** – Manager Fisher said at the bid opening we realized they had pages missing, we contacted them and they indicated they would submit the missing pages, they still did not submit all the pages and they did not submit a bid bond, so the bid is incomplete and suggested the Board reject the bid. **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor Due to reject County Wastes bid for being incomplete. Vote: 4-0. **3). Waste Management** Option (A) 3 year unit price \$209.76 (B) same price Option (C) same price. Total annual contract = \$543,907.68. 5 year unit price \$212.29, Option (B) same price Option (C) same price. Total annual contract = 550,442.04. **4). Solid Waste Services Inc., dba J.P. Mascaro & Sons** (A) 3 year unit price \$219.84, (B) same, (C) \$224.84. Total annual contract = \$569,385.60/ 582,335.60 5 year unit price – (A) 227.04, (B) – same (C) 233.04. Total annual contract =603,573.60. Solicitor Karasek said he only reviewed the bid specs, but not the results that came in. Manager Fisher checked and said we are ok with time on the contract. Tom Stang was present from Waste Management and said we can always get another extension on the contract. Manager Fisher said we are paying \$226.60 on the extension as we did last year. Supervisor De Franco noted that’s more than the bids we just received and wouldn’t suggest doing that. **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor Due to table to the BOS 8/14/17 meeting to allow our Solicitor to review the bids that came in. Vote: 5-0.

5. Fire trucks Down payment / Financing. The Fire Departments were present. Manager Fisher submitted and reviewed with the Board his report on proposed fire truck purchases. Manager Fishers report recommended for Mt. Bethel FD Option A – purchase a mini-pumper on the secondary market while waiting for DCED to complete their study, Option B – Purchase a Rescue / PUC on the secondary market and Option C – Purchase the new Heavy Duty Rescue / PUC Truck for \$798,000.00. For North Bangor FD – Option A – Purchase a pumper on the secondary market, Option B – Purchase the new Pierce Velocity Custom Pumper for \$788,000.00. Chris Finan mentioned a decrease of volunteers. Supervisor De Franco suggested a bonus / incentive or reduction in taxes for volunteer residents. Chris Finan and Todd Pinto agreed. Chairman Bermingham mentioned his concern with North Bangor’s Engine truck. Supervisor De Franco mentioned Forks Township going thru the same thing, they ended up buying a new rescue truck. Supervisor Geake said we need to decide how were paying for this. Manager Fisher reviewed the financing: For new engines: Merchants Bank 3% for the first 5 years and variable rate for the remainder of the loan. This would be a tax certified loan. USDA Rural Development 3.75% interest fixed for the life of the loan. Volunteer Financial Services: Multiple options for repayments;

First 20,000.00 of the loan PEMA 2% and remainder of the loan Bank for 3.54%. Community Leasing Partners, A Division of Community First National Bank – Multiple options for down payments / terms in years – 10years @ 2.99%, 12 years @ 3.12%, 15 years @ 3.19%. Manager Fisher recommended going with Community Leasing Partners – 2.99% interest with 10% down / 10 year term. North Bangor Option @ - \$75,624.00 down payment and Mt. Bethel - \$76,054.00 down payment. Public Comment by Fred Farleigh – why would you pay for 2 loans? Chris Finan said they had multiple meetings and their main need is for a mini pumper/bush truck. Chris said he would like to see a long term replacement plan for emergency services, most townships have an emergency based tax. Public Comment by Bob Schneider – there is an immediate need, this is a serious problem, they need something immediately and North Bangor is in critical need of an engine truck. Chairman Bermingham said we need to do something immediately. Chris Finan noted his concern with buying used, sometimes you get problems and it ends up being costly. Public Comment by Fred Farleigh – he wouldn't recommend used, they get rid of it for a reason and you need to build a fire truck for your needs, a used truck might not meet your needs. Supervisor De Franco said a used fire truck could take care of the Fire Departments' needs for a few years until a plan is put in place. Supervisor Geake suggested passing a fire tax tonight for emergency services. Supervisor De Franco mentioned us having no development, we priced ourself out of business. Bob Schneider said a tax increase involves a lot of things, you can't do it tonight. Public Comment by Charlie Kull – he would be hesitant raising taxes. Chairman Bermingham said not everyone will be happy about raising taxes, but it could benefit everyone. Fred Farleigh recommended raising taxes 2 mill - \$211,000.00. Supervisor Due mentioned there might be the possibility of two reductions in taxes, the EIT referendum and reduction in garbage taxes. Supervisor Due noted he has been asking about instituting a procurement tax for Emergency service for 3 1/2 years. Chris Finan read a letter to the Board and mentioned comments made by Supervisor De Franco. Supervisor De Franco explained his comments were misconstrued, he has been on board trying to help the fire companies and wants them to continue to have fund raisers and continue trying to support themselves in raising money, not just be handed money over. Chris Finan said they are still doing their fundraising letter drive which brought in \$16,000.00, they try to do 15-20 fundraisers per year. Public Comment by Dale Handelong – how much fundraising can they do, people are not interested in renting out the Fire Hall or bingo anymore. Fred Farleigh agreed, the turnout for bingo isn't there. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham, seconded by Supervisor Geake to approve purchase of the new engine truck and the township put a down payment of up to \$75,624.00 minus any contribution to be made by North Bangor if they are able to get financing through Community Leasing Partners for 10 years at 2.99% interest rate and institute a 1 mill. Emergency Services Tax effective January 1, 2018. Vote: 4-0.

6. EMS – Jeffrey Young and his assistant Ryan were present from Suburban EMS. Mr. Young explained that currently we have coverage 12 hours per day out of Bangor and the costs are \$264,635.83. There is no profit built into that number, it's all costs. They have 136 employees with 20% increased employee costs. There are 19 communities they service in the area. They didn't ask to increase to 24/7 hour coverage, they were contacted by the Township. They can continue to provide the same 12 hour coverage from Bangor if the township is inclined to do so. Chairman Bermingham said he has been in contact with St. Luke's to try and see if they can come here, but they are having a re-organization of management. St Luke's said they might be able to provide Upper Mt. Bethel Township 24/7 coverage free of charge. Mr. Young said they probably won't come here because geographically where UMBT sits, it's hard to move fluidly through the area. Chairman Bermingham indicated he will continue to reach out to St. Luke's. Supervisor De Franco noted the main priority of the Board is to keep the residents safe with emergency services and keep the roads safe and secure.

7. County Initiative – Supervisor Geake said he talked to John Brown from the County regarding 33 bridges the county is attempting to repair in 4 years. The County is moving forward with financing through the General Purpose Authority for replacement and repair of bridges to be paid off over a period of 12 years, the General Purpose Authority front the money. Supervisor Geake thought maybe 2-3 townships can do it together, repair some bridges and roads. They also provide engineering and specs, and wanted to pass this along as an FYI for the Board. Supervisor Geake will get more information.

8. Eastern Industries – status of appraisals. We received two quotes for appraisals 1). Gleason Real Estate for \$11,000.00 and HL Mantle Inc. for \$4,500.00. **MOTION** by Supervisor De Franco, seconded by Supervisor Due to accept and move forward with HL Mantel Inc. appraisal of the Eastern Industries property for the amount of \$4,500.00. Vote: 4-0.

9. Eastern Industries Hunting – Walt Meczywer was present to talk about hunting at Eastern Industries. Walt explained how the deer population is extreme and statistically the population will only go down by hunting being permitted. Supervisor Geake said this was a hot topic last year and there was never a problem before last year. Supervisor Geake said they took away the rights of the citizens personally. Supervisor Due pointed out that's not what happened at all. They sat down with Brown & Brown and they told us hunting is not covered under our insurance policy. Supervisor Geake said that wouldn't matter, because it's covered under state law. Public Comment by Kull – it should be archery only at Eastern. Supervisor De Franco stated you didn't want a shooting range there, so why allow hunting? Walt said you can make the heavily wooded area designated for hunting and the other areas less wooded for archery. Supervisor Geake asked this be put on the next meeting agenda since the hunting season is coming soon. This will be on the BOS agenda 8/14/17.

9. Request to use Echo Lake ballfield – Jose Gonzalez is requesting to use the Echo Lake ballfield for his Aftershock Fast pitch Softball team July 29, 30, August 2 & August 13th. He is also requesting to use the Echo Lake field for practice when their fall season beginning soon. Jose also made his request to Mike Hudak, Chairman of the Recreation Board. Solicitor Karasek said he would not recommend approving Mr. Gonzalez's request unless all coaches have full background check, criminal and child abuse, that at least one coach have CPR / AED training and certification, that he obtains insurance naming the township on the policy and that they pay for 2 porta potties be put on the field. **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor Due that the request be approved with the condition that Jose Gonzalez meet all the requirements and conditions stated by our Solicitor and provide proof to the township that he complied. Vote: 4-0.

10. Adjourn – **MOTION** by Supervisor Geake, seconded by Supervisor De Franco to adjourn the Special Public Meeting at 9:27 p.m. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted - Melissa Mastrogiovanni Recording Secretary
Upper Mount Bethel Township