

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2020 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020 @ 4:00 PM

PART I

1. Call to Order-Chairman Bermingham Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call-Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham Jr. were Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Pinter and Manager Nelson. Supervisor Due and Supervisor Teel were present via phone conference.
4. Approve the Agenda-**MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to approve the agenda. Vote: 5-0.

PART II (Public Comment-3 minutes)

Charlie Cole thanked Chairman Bermingham Jr. for hosting the meeting with Lower Mount Bethel on the traffic on the Rt. 611 corridor. Chairman Bermingham Jr. commented on the meeting and stated it is tough for the townships to do anything on State Roads but we do have speed radar signs that seem to help.

Paul Smith commented on having either a three way stop sign or traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 611/Rt. 512 because it is very dangerous with the truck traffic. Paul asked about land preservation and how do we protect that. Manager Nelson stated that land preservation is from the County and our township uses Open Space funds to protect farm land.

Travis Fraunfelter commented on the day and time of this budget meeting and felt it was not suitable to many residents to attend. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that he would have preferred another day and time, but this was the best for all the Supervisors and there was also a time frame for the budget to get approved. Travis stated that a 23% tax hike will hurt residents, some that are just getting by.

PART III (Official Action-matters to be voted on)

1. Financial-Bill List-Manager Nelson read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to pay the bills in the amount of \$203,246.97. Vote: 5-0.
2. Advertise for Part-Time Zoning Officer-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to table to the February 24, 2020 meeting. Vote: 5-0.

#### PART IV

Adoption of the 2020 Budget-Manager Nelson stated the 2020 budget was proposed on February 3 was with an increase of 1.5 millage and since that time, he has worked diligently to get that adjusted the best he can. Manager Nelson stated that was able to work the numbers out so there would be no tax increase for 2020. Manager Nelson stated the estimated expenditures for 2020 are \$3,799,410.00 and the revenue is estimated at \$3,799,410.00, therefore, there is no tax increase for 2020.

Supervisor Pinter stated that as the Township Treasurer, he would like to explain four (4) parts to what he sees as the Treasurer. 1) The Township is consistently burning cash every year. The amount of tax income that the Township has is \$1.32 million. One problem is the delinquent garbage tax bills and property tax bills. 2) Our Liquid Fuel funds from the State continually decrease each year because the State is pushing the liability onto the Township. 3) Our cumulative inflation rate, nationally, rises each year. 4) The Township has never factored in depreciation into the budget. An Ordinance should be in place, making it mandatory for depreciation to be in the budget each year. Supervisor Pinter would like for the Township to consider using another accounting program.

Public comment-Renee Gale stated for a Manager getting paid \$109,000, what is the timeframe for the Manager to do what he would like done in regards to the budget. Supervisor Pinter stated July.

Public comment-Charlie Cole stated that it sounds as though the Township could use a CPA. Supervisor Teel stated he would like for our auditor to come in and speak with the Board and the public to give his point of view/ideas on some of our questions and concerns.

Public comment-Ron Angle stated that we need someone in the office that can accomplish what needs to be done.

Manager Nelson explained how he amended the budget with a no tax increase. 1) Figures were adjusted on certain projects scheduled for the year. 2) Worked on labor costs. 3) Depreciation was factored in.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he has spoken to many residents who live on paycheck to paycheck and is not in favor a tax increase. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that he and Refiners Church, are assisting a family who are currently homeless and would not like to see any more families put in that situation. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, seconded by Supervisor Pinter, to stick to the original budget of a 1.5 mil increase. Vote: 2-3. Motion does not carry. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., seconded by Supervisor Teel, to approve of the revised budget with no tax increase. Vote: 3-2. Motion carries.

Supervisor Teel had to leave the meeting.

#### PART V (Public Comment)

Renee Gale asked when the revised budget was advertised. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he will confirm with Solicitor Karasek on the advertising of the revised budget. Renee asked if there is anyone in the office that can write grants to help with costs in the Township.

Ron Angle commended Supervisor Pinter on his presentation. Ron asked Supervisor Pinter if he sees it possible for the Manager to accomplish what he would like. Supervisor Pinter replied, not without assistance.

Wade Fredheim commented that our community has people with knowledge and time and maybe some would be willing to volunteer their time to assist the Township.

Barry Hahn asked about salary increases. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that Manager Nelson will explain.

Ray Hartzell commented on the stated qualifications listed on the Township's website for the Manager's position and does the Manager possess any of those listed.

Randy Temples stated that the Board should put it on a template as to what they expect from the Manager.

Ron Angle stated he was the only Supervisor that laid the road crew off in the wintertime, if there was not work.

Rich Klinge stated that if the road crew was a business, they would not be in business.

PART VI (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary