

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

PART I

1. Call to Order-Chairman Bermingham Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call-Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham Jr. were Supervisor Teel, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Pinter, Manager Nelson, and Solicitor Karasek. Absent was Supervisor Due.
4. Approve the Agenda-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Pinter. Vote: 4-0.

PART II (Public Comment-3 minutes)

Ron Angle asked for clarification on the approved budget and how the Board went from a 23% tax increase to a 0% tax increase. Manager Nelson discussed the steps he took to revise the budget that led the Board to approve the budget with no tax increase.

Richard Wilford-Hunt thanked the Board for not raising taxes. Richard commented on White Township's master plan amendment dated 2020, in response to the tremendous development pressures facing White Township and feels they did the right thing when they hired a professional planner to recommend businesses to zoning and ordinances to better protect themselves from unwanted development.

PART III (Announcements)

UMBT/LMBT "Be Safe" Partnership-Chairman Bermingham Jr. discussed the partnership between Upper Mount Bethel and Lower Mount Bethel Townships and ways we can work together to better protect children and residents. Chairman Bermingham Jr. thanked Charlie Cole for his continued efforts and we will continue to support him. Chairman Bermingham Jr. thanked the Mount Bethel Fire Company for hosting a great event held this past Saturday.

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

1. Speed Sign on Rt. 512-Manager Nelson discussed placing one of our current speed radar signs to Rt. 512 and stated since it is a State Highway, he will need to apply for a permit.
2. Impact Fee-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that River Point Logistics/Lou Pektor made the suggestion of putting in a voluntary impact fee that he would be responsible for. Solicitor Karasek stated that since it is a voluntary impact fee, it is permissible. Solicitor Karasek stated it will be at the discretion of the Township as to what the fee would be and

how often do they want to collect it. Public Comment-Charlie Cole commented on Plainfield Township Land Fill, the impact fee collected does not get evenly distributed amongst the surrounding Townships. Public Comment-Richard Wilford-Hunt asked for clarity on Lou Pektor and the impact fee. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that it will be at the discretion of the Township how we want to impose an impact fee and Lou Pektor made the suggestion that he would voluntarily pay it. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked Manager Nelson to look into other examples of impact fees. This will be on the March 23, 2020 meeting agenda.

3. Young Lungs at Play-Chairman Bermingham Jr. discussed implementing an Ordinance or policy that prohibits any tobacco products used at our Community Park. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that we will wait for a recommendation from the Park/Rec Committee before moving forward.
4. Advertise All Voting Meetings-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that there was a recent discussion on making all meetings for the remainder of 2020 to be voting meetings. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, to advertise that all meetings for the remainder of 2020 be voting meetings, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0. Public Comment-Richard Wilford-Hunt commented that the public needs a chance to voice their opinion.
5. Bids (Guide-Rails, Speed Humps, Material)-Manager Nelson would like to advertise for Bids for the Guide-Rails, Speed Humps and Material. Public Comment-Raymond Hartzell commented on the condition of River Rd. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, to advertise for bids for Guide Rails, Speed Humps and Material, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.
6. Hire Grant Writer-Chairman Bermingham Jr. discussed whether or not we should consider hiring a grant writer. Manager Nelson stated it is not in the budget. Supervisor DeFranco stated the Manager should be the one writing the grants. Public Comment-Charlie Cole stated that writing a grant is very time consuming and requires a lot of skill. Manager Nelson stated he will look into getting estimates on a grant writer.
7. Hire Full-Time CDL/Road Crew- Manager Nelson stated that there is one employee that has been terminated and one that has been out on disability for over a year and would like to replace the one that has been terminated. Manager Nelson stated the individual he would like to recommend for the position, has been a part-time employee here for seven (7) years, works well and follows directions. Manager Nelson is suggesting to hire this individual at a two (2) year rate and no probationary period. There was a discussion on how many employees are needed on the road crew. Supervisor DeFranco stated that he has watched the road crew work for the past four (4) years and his opinion is that six (6) employees are not needed on the road crew, only in the event of a snowstorm we might need that many. Supervisor DeFranco stated that Lin sends Kevin Williams out just to get him out his hair because he can't handle him. Manager Nelson stated that this is not for discussion at this table. Manager Nelson stated they do a good job, they show up every day and do their work and thinks it is wrong to disparage them. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., to hire Thomas Abbott, with no probation period, at \$23.97 per hour, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 3-1. Supervisor DeFranco voting no.

8. Part-Time Zoning Officer-Manager Nelson stated he has attached the job requirements and advertisement for the Board to review. Supervisor Pinter asked Manager Nelson if he was able to get qualifications from other Townships. Manager Nelson stated he was able to get them from Bangor Borough and Plainfield Township. Supervisor Pinter would like to see more qualifications, more professionalism, in the advertisement, so that we get qualified applicants. Chairman Bermingham Jr. suggested reaching out to Lower Mount Bethel Township to see what their qualifications are. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked for this to be on the March 9th meeting agenda.
9. Real Estate Permits-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated there have been residents who have had Real Estate Companies walking their property asking if they would sell their house. Solicitor Karasek stated that the Township may want to consider a solicitation permit that would be required, which would apply to all types of soliciting.

PART V (Reports)

Manager Nelson stated he will be providing a road report each month.

Supervisor DeFranco stated that he was not made aware of the Portland Sewer meeting. Manager Nelson stated he will make sure that Township Engineer Coyle includes him in the invites.

PART VI (Public Comment-3 minutes)

Raymond Hartzell asked what is the current status of the Act 537 Plan? Manager Nelson stated that the questions have been answered by the Engineers. The Engineers have sent them to Board to review and now it is getting prepared to go to DEP. Raymond asked why haven't the homes on Rt. 611 that have bad sewer systems been condemned? Supervisor Teel responded saying no one wants to condemn someone's property.

Charlie Cole commented on the data on the surveys are very old. Charlie asked when the Board will vote to submit the Act 537 Plan to DEP. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that Engineer Coyle will provide an update at the March 9th meeting. Charlie asked what the format will be for Thursday night's meeting. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated the format will be that the Supervisors will open the meeting and then River Point will give a 45 minute presentation, followed by questions that residents will sign up for to get on a list prior to the meeting.

Ron Angle commented that at the last meeting, the LERTA program was discussed, little funds up front. Ron stated he is concerned that our Zoning might not be sufficient for what Lou Pektor is looking for.

Judy Henckel asked what is the time limit for questions/comments at the meeting on Thursday. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated the regular 3 minute limit. Judy commented on the review of our Ordinances, which has not been done for many years. Judy commented on having a community planner.

PART VII (Executive Session)-Recess to Executive Session at 8:38 pm to discuss the Staretz litigation matters. The meeting reconvened at 8:52 pm. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that the supervisors discussed the Straretz litigation and no action will be taken.

PART VIII (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm, seconded by Supervisor Pinter. Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary