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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 – 7:00 PM

*This meeting was held in person and live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page.

I.

Supervisor Bermingham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were Supervisor Bermingham, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Eckman, Supervisor Albert, Supervisor Erler, Township Solicitor Karasek, Township Engineer Coyle, and Township Manager Graziano.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

MOTION by Supervisor Eckman to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Erler.
Vote: 5-0.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on this day being Earth Day, the value of trees. At the next EAC meeting, Tara Mezzanotte will be there representing the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River.

IV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tara Mezzanotte-UMBT Liaison for NJDOT I-80 and DWG Project-gave an update on both projects. The Rt. 611 project is moving forward with phase I-removing loose rock, then phase II-a planned rockfall mitigation, just like the planned rockfall mitigation on the Jersey side. The goal is to have one lane available by July. There is a lot of activity regarding the I-80 retaining wall replacement project. There are still missing pieces to get through the process, Historical assessments, comments. There is no real update on

the rockfall mitigation project because this is completely on pause until the DOT resolves what they are going to do about their questionable retaining wall project. Supervisor Albert stated that he hopes that our State Representatives are pushing the issue for the businesses at the end of Upper Mount Bethel Township, Portland, and the Delaware Water Gap.

V.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Seal Coat and Line Painting Bid Awards-Engineer Coyle discussed the bids received for both projects. The 2024 Seal Coat project, one bid was received, Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, who has done the project for the last seven years. Their bid came in at \$309,832.50 and the bid packet was complete. Carroll Engineering recommends awarding the bid to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions for the Seal Coat project. Engineer Coyle stated that one bid was received for the 2024 Line Painting project, Midlantic Marking Inc, who has provided services to the Township in the past. Their bid came in at \$126,910.08 and the bid packet was complete. Manager Graziano stated that the funds have been budgeted for the Line Painting project and the Seal Coat project comes out of the Liquid Fuels fund. Carroll Engineering recommends awarding the bid to Midlantic Marking Inc. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to award the bids to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions for \$309,832.50 for the Seal Coat Project and to Midlantic Marking Inc. for \$126,910.08 for the Line Painting Project, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Material Bids-Manager Graziano discussed the one bid received for Materials. There was a discussion on rejecting the bid and using COSTARS. Solicitor Karasek stated that we can use COSTARS. Manager Graziano discussed Sourcewell, a company similar to COSTARS, which he signed up for, and will provide more information to the Board once he receives it. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to reject the one Material Bid received, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to table the Material Bid until more information is available, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
3. Ordinance 2024-01 Vacating Marshfield Dr.-Solicitor Karasek stated that he asked that this be on the agenda for the new Supervisors that were not at the December 29, 2023, meeting, that this vacation was approved with those five conditions that are noted in the Ordinance. The stub street mentioned in the Ordinance needs to be revised. Solicitor Karasek is looking for a motion to advertise the Ordinance. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to advertise Ordinance 2024-01, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
4. Fidelity Resolution-Solicitor Karasek stated that he had prepared the General Resolution that was adopted at the last meeting. The Resolution stated that a new Resolution will be adopted then appointing your investment company and your investment person. **MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint Fidelity as the Financial Investor, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Solicitor Karasek stated that he is not sure if Fidelity is appointing an investment person, or if we need to appoint a liaison, but he will put in the Resolution that someone needs to be appointed on Fidelity's end so there is a contact person, and he will put Manager Graziano as the Township's contact person. Vote: 5-0.

VI.

TABLED ITEMS

1. Feasibility Study-Supervisor Erler stated that he still believes that a feasibility study is important to address the area of concern. Engineer Coyle stated that the cost of a public authority feasibility study/alternative analysis study, is estimated about 60-80 hours, approximately between \$5,000-\$10,000. If the Board chooses, it could be delivered in about 2 months. Engineer Coyle discussed the scope of the study, background of the Authority, makeup of the Authority, pros/cons of having an Authority, potential service area of the Authority, how a fee schedule is set up. Supervisor Bermingham asked if we should wait or move forward with the study. Engineer Coyle stated that it will outline what the pros/cons are of a Public Authority and then the Board can make a decision. Supervisor Friedman discussed starting up Act 537. Engineer Coyle stated that the Feasibility study is part of Act 537. Supervisor Bermingham asked for this to be on the May 13th agenda.

VII.

NEW BUSINESS

1. IT/Website-Supervisor Bermingham stated that he and Manager Graziano met with Topps, who submitted a quote to rework the Township Website and IT services. The website is separate from IT. Three quotes were submitted, Stavros Barbounis, \$102 an hour, Topps \$80 (\$800 for 10 hours), and the third is Cloudserver Techs, set up fee of \$750 and \$320 a month. Topps website quote is \$3,000. **MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to table, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

VIII.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stavros Barbounis, Potomac St. commented on the proposals for IT/Website services.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Highway, commented on an insight from the Dalai Lama. Ron commented on Attorney Cousens, who was hired to dismantle the Municipal Authority, and who dictates what he is to do. Ron asked if the Board voted on for Attorney Cousens to attend ZHB meetings. Supervisor Bermingham said yes.

Judy Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on a biased mind, is it a closed mind, not open to other people's perspectives.

IX.

SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Committee Reports-Supervisor Bermingham stated that the committee reports are in their packets and asked if anyone has any questions. The only committee report not received was the EDC. Supervisor Erler, Liaison to the EDC, stated that they have finalized their town brochures with a town business map. Supervisor Friedman, Liaison to the OSAB, stated that they will be having a trail meeting soon. Supervisor Eckman, Liaison to the Parks/Rec, stated that she will be working with Stavros with some of the upcoming events. Supervisor Erler announced that he was at the Electronics Recycling event that

went very well. Supervisor Erler stated that he would still like to see if the Township could help some of the local businesses on Rt. 611. The PennDOT project for the widening of Rt. 611 from Portland to Rt. 512 should be announced at this upcoming Planning Commission meeting. Sharon Duffield asked for clarification of what Supervisor Erler just stated about the widening of Rt. 611. Supervisor Erler met with Lisa Pektor in which he had questions for her that he needed answers to. Supervisor Erler will put the questions in an email for all the Supervisors. Engineer Coyle stated that the comment about the widening of Rt 611 is not a PennDOT project. It is a transportation impact study that was submitted by RPL back in September.

Supervisor Friedman announced that attending the PSATS Conference was very productive, he attended numerous seminars and made good contacts.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that the free electronics recycling event raised \$11,000 for the benefit of a local family in need. Community wide yard sale possibly in May. Supervisor Bermingham will be reaching out to the other Supervisors to schedule the first town hall meeting, which will be a questions/answers meeting. The next neighborhood community meeting will be held on May 23, 6:30-8 pm, at the Mt. Bethel FH. The discussion will be on ambulance service in our community. Thank you to the PASP for giving a presentation on senior scams at Evergreen Village.

Manager Graziano announced that union contract negotiations will start for the highway department. The bathrooms and the pavilion at the park are moving forward.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 8:20 pm to discuss legal matters.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 pm.

Supervisor Bermingham stated that a legal matter was discussed and asked if anyone would like to make a motion. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to contact Attorney Cousens and have him take any action necessary in dissolving the Authority and also to check into the Bond issue that was mentioned at the Authority meeting, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Albert to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary