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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 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 Eckman, Supervisor Eler, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Albert, Township Solicitor Karasek, Township Engineer Coyle, and Township Manager Graziano.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Supervisor Bermingham would like to move Action Item #2 to Action Item #1. Supervisor Eckman stated that she would like to recuse herself from Action Item #3, Utility Vehicle and under new business, item #2, Appointment of Executive Director (Sporting Activities), she just received the letter this morning and would like more information before moving forward with it. Supervisor Bermingham stated this is on the agenda for discussion.

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stavros Barbounis, Potomac St., announced the Parks/Rec held their first annual Food Truck Festival/Craft Show and wanted to extend his thanks to the food vendors and crafters and to all that volunteered their time to help. Planning for 2025 events has already begun.

Tara Mezzanotte, UMBT Liaison to PennDOT and NJDOT for Rt. 611 and the I80 matter, gave a presentation on the I80/611 DWG Projects. Tara discussed how local government can help during the 2025 preliminary engineering for the I80/611 projects, multiple multi-year simultaneous projects. Tara described the DWG Area Federal Laws and protected resources. Supervisor Friedman asked if they are planning on doing the rock fall and the retaining wall at the same time. Tara stated that they are both in preliminary engineering so far, so appears as though they are.

IV.

ACTIONS ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 2024-17 I80/611 DWG Actions- Solicitor Karasek stated that he has reviewed the Resolution and sees no issues if the Board decides to approve it. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Resolution No.2024-17, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Resolution No. 2024-16 Olivia Melazzo-Supervisor Bermingham read the Resolution which honors Olivia Melazzo for her dedication to education and work performance at M & M Vineyards. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Resolution No. 2024-16, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
3. Utility Vehicle-Manager Graziano discussed the need for a utility vehicle that could be used for various events at the Park, the preserve, the municipal building, etc, and feels that it a good price. It is a 2023 Polaris Ranger for \$11,499, available at H & H Outdoor Powersports. Manager Graziano and Supervisor Friedman both agreed it is a good price for the township and taxpayers and that it is a local business. The funds are available in the Capital Funds account. Manager Graziano stated that we are receiving money back from the trucks that were purchased, which we were overcharged for, in the amount of \$31,000. Supervisor Albert wanted to make sure this could be used for the EMC, fire companies, and all township functions. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to purchase the 2023 utility vehicle for \$11,499, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 4-0-1. Supervisor Eckman abstained.

V.

NEW BUSINESS

1. UMBT Trick or Treat-Supervisor Bermingham stated that a day and time needs needs to be picked for Trick or Treat. This is to coincide with Mt. Bethel Pharmacy doing a trunk or treat at the Community Park on October 27th, 11am-2pm. Stavros Barbounis, Chairman Parks/Rec stated that this is a public event and as long as they use the parking lots and not the fields, he sees no problem with it. Supervisor Bermingham stated that the Township could do Trick or Treat from 2pm-5pm. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham that the Upper Mount Bethel Township trick or treat will be held Sunday, October 27th 2pm-5pm, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
2. Appointment of Executive Director (Sporting Activities)-Supervisor Bermingham stated this for April Pinto, whom he asked to come speak on this. Supervisor Friedman stated that he thought that Supervisor Eckman wanted this to be

tabled. Supervisor Eckman stated that since no one knew about this maybe it should not be discussed so they could get more information on this. Supervisor Eckman stated that she has a problem with appointing someone when the by-laws state "upon recommendation from the Parks/Rec" to the Board of Supervisors. The Chairman of the Parks/Rec did not know about this and the letter from April was only received this morning. Supervisor Bermingham stated that he should have worded it as a discussion on the appointment, this not to be voted on tonight. April stated that a lot of her explanations were outlined in her letter, along with a lot of examples. April stated that she does not feel comfortable going to the Chairman of the Parks/Rec or any member, to discuss this matter and that the Chairman acts more like a dictator. April stated that she feels she does a great job handling the sporting events, which she does on her own and that no one helps her. April feels as though the sporting events need to be run differently, with faster response times, hands on before and after. There was a discussion on how approvals/voting are done. Supervisor Friedman suggested that Ms. Pinto have someone else (a township resident) assist her with the finances. There was a discussion on the position, April is not looking to get paid. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to table this to the September 23rd meeting, to look more into this, seconded Supervisor Eckman.

Supervisor Albert stated that we have to get the Parks/Rec together, he'll be happy to come help out. Public comment-Marty Pinter, Lindsey Lane, prior Parks/Rec Liaison, stated that it had been discussed that a part-time person is needed to oversee the entire thing, due to the growth of the parks/recreation program. Stavros Barbounis, Chairman Parks/Rec Board, stated volunteers run the programs (softball, volleyball, field hockey, etc), some have their own board, to make decisions on how they run their program. Stavros stated that the Ordinance that is currently in effect states that the executive director of Parks/Rec, is not a voting member. If you are not a member of the Parks/Rec, you do not have the power to spend money. Stavros is in the process of re-writing the by-laws and Ordinance. Supervisor Bermingham called for a vote to table. Vote: 5-0.

3. September Town Hall Meeting-Supervisor Bermingham would like to schedule a non-voting special meeting, where all Supervisors can be present to have open discussions, on Friday, September 27th, 6-8pm. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to advertise the Special Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
4. Website-Manager Graziano stated that we would like to get our website updated/rejuvenated. Three quotes have been received, Media Spread \$3,500, Revise \$3,900, and Topps Business Solutions \$3,042, no service fees. Stavros, who has been involved in the website for many years, agrees that the Township needs more for the website. If the Board decides to move forward, he is asking that he has access to resources in case something is going on. Stavros discussed the phones/internet in the township building. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to hire Topps Business Solutions to build a new website for \$3,042, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marty Pinter, Lindsey Lane, commented on the transfer of funds, which needs to be done under a Resolution. Manager Graziano stated that he spoke with our Auditor, and they stated that if you are just making line-item adjustments, there is no need for a Resolution, there is no change in the budget. Supervisor Bermingham asked for this to be on the September 9th meeting agenda to confirm if a Resolution is needed.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy. commented on the budget, road work is primarily what our main job is in a second-class township. Ron commented on billing for Gross McGinley for outside special council/alternate solicitor. Manager Graziano explained the legal process of the lawsuits going through the insurance company.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Erler announced that East Bangor is holding a hands only CPR course and a Stop the Bleed course on October 1st, 6-7 pm at the East Bangor social hall. Supervisor Erler is still in the process of scheduling one for the Township.

Supervisor Eckman thanked everyone who helped out with the Food Truck Festival/Craft Show, which was a successful event. November 9th is the Veterans Day Event.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that the Electronics Recycling event went well, \$4,000 in donations was collected. September 28th & 29th will be the next town wide yard sale. There was a meeting held with Rep. Ann Flood and the Fire Co. to talk about LSA grant awards. September 11th, there is a blood drive at the Mt. Bethel FH 1-7pm and at 7:15pm a 911 tribute.

Manager Graziano announced on August 28th, the Open Space will be meeting to discuss more on the preserve.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 8:54 pm to discuss ongoing litigation matters. The meeting reconvened at 9:20 pm.

Supervisor Bermingham stated that discussed in Executive Session was the Municipal Authority and there is no action to be taken. They also discussed another litigation matter and asked if there were any motions to be made. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pay Kim Gambale \$1,845 for pass garbage miscalculations and be contingent upon her signing a release that there will be no further action taken by either side, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary