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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Erler, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Albert, Township Solicitor Karasek, Township Engineer Coyle, and Township Manager Graziano.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Bermingham announced that there will be 911 Memorial Service on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at the Mt. Bethel Fire House, beginning at 6:30 pm. Supervisor Bermingham asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of those lives that were lost.

Ty Schreffler, S. Delaware Dr., commented on the propane cannons that are going off, 7 days a week, every two minutes, at M&M Vineyards and would like the Township to ban them. Manager Graziano explained the difference between this being a nuisance vs a health hazard. They are covered under the Right to Farm Act. Manager Graziano will meet with Mohinder to discuss this matter with him.

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., commented on the propane cannons at the Vineyard, he can hear them, but it will come to an end. He is trying to keep the birds from eating his ripe grapes.

IV.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. August 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes
2. August 26, 2024, WS Meeting Minutes
4. Exonerations/Refunds

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

V.

FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manager Graziano read the bill list, totaling \$549,718.82. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to pay the bills, in the amount \$549,718.82, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

VI.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Simone Collins Proposal-Manager Graziano discussed the Simone Collins Proposal for construction documents, design and engineering services for the Preserve. All funds for this project will come from the Open Space account. The cost for this phase is \$276,530. A grant was approved for \$600,000, which is a matching grant. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Simone Collins Proposal in the amount of \$276,530, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. Conservation Easement-Manager Graziano stated this came as a recommendation from the Open Space Advisory Board for a conservation easement with the Heritage Conservancy, tax parcels D12 2 13 and D12 5 6. In March the BOS approved the appraisal for this property and the next step to conserve the property is to adopt a Resolution. The estimated cost of this project is \$176,510, of which \$93,265 will come from the Open Space Fund and the remaining \$83,245 will come from Northampton County grant funds. This will be on the September 23rd meeting for adoption.
3. Resolution No. 2024-18 LSA Grant (NC) Shady Ln Bridge-Manager Graziano stated that we are applying for a Northampton County LSA and a Monroe County LSA grant hoping that we get approved for one. The Resolution states that the Upper Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors are requesting an LSA grant of \$220,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for a single-lane bridge repair and rehabilitation located on Shady Lane. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Resolution No. 2024-18, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
4. Resolution No. 2024-19 LSA Grant (Monroe) Shady Ln Bridge-Supervisor Birmingham stated that this Resolution mirrors Resolution No. 2024-18, Northampton County, this Resolution is for Monroe County, for the same

Amount of \$220,000. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Resolution No. 2024-19, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Truck Sign Ordinance-Manager Graziano stated that Engineer Coyle, Lindsey Manzi, and himself looked at Potomac St. and Railroad Ave. and would like to put up No Trucks signs. A Ordinance is needed to erect the signs. Solicitor Karasek stated that he cannot draft an Ordinance without a traffic and engineering study. Engineer Coyle stated that he could have the study to Solicitor Karasek by the end of the month. Solicitor Karasek stated that he is not sure if there is enough time to advertise in order for this to be adopted by the October 14th meeting. Supervisor Birmingham stated this will be on the agenda for the October 14th meeting and if it is not ready, it will be on the October 28th meeting. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to instruct our Engineer to prepare a traffic study report for Potomac St. and Railroad Ave in order for Solicitor Karasek to prepare an Ordinance, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
2. Line-Item Transfers-Manager Graziano stated that at the last meeting he was asked to look into whether a Resolution was needed to move line items. He did receive an email from Kaitlyn Watt, she is a CPA for Kirk Summa, our Auditor, in which she states a Resolution is not needed to move line items, just a Board vote. If you are moving money from one fund to another, you will need a Resolution.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on all the natural amenities we have in Upper Mount Bethel Township. Judy stated she is going to be a constant environmental advocate.

Mark Mezger, Scenic Ct. commented on getting committee reports. Supervisor Birmingham asked that all committee reports for the 3rd quarter be submitted for the September 23rd meeting and 4th quarter reports for the November 25th meeting.

Supervisor Birmingham stated that there will be no meeting on November 11th in observance of Veterans' Day. Supervisor Birmingham stated that this meeting will be rescheduled, depending on available dates.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manager Graziano stated that he will be starting to work on the budget next week and moving forward one day a week. Manager Graziano stated that he should have a draft of the budget for the October 28th meeting. Ultra-Poly is having 4 more silos delivered, they will be coming up Potomac St. to Marshfield to River Rd. Ultra-Poly will be responsible and will repair any damage done to anyone's property, please call the

Township Manager to report any property damage. If anyone plans on burning (leaves, brush), please remember to call John Bocko, 570/688-6191, for permission to burn.

Supervisor Erler announced the Stop the Bleed, and Hands Only CPR course, October 1st at the East Bangor Social Hall, 6-7pm. Supervisors Erler will be having office hours on September 16th, 7-8pm at TKs.

Supervisor Friedman announced that he is going to ask the Parks/Recreation Board about putting in two small gazebos at the park. The Township will be having a Free Shred Event on October 26th, 9am-12pm, at the Township Building.

Supervisor Bermingham announced that he and Jimmy Potter will be meeting with St. Luke's to discuss ambulance service. On Wednesday, September 11th, there is a blood drive at the MBFH 1pm-7pm, and the 911 Tribute will be held at 6:30pm. On Friday, September 27th, there is a non-voting Town Hall meeting, 6pm-8pm, at the Township Building. Supervisor Bermingham stated that they have been speaking with certain companies, but there are some things that will have to remain confidential. The community wide yard sale is September 27th, 28th, and the 29th. Supervisor Bermingham is asking the residents to submit pictures of Upper Mount Bethel Township to be on the new website.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 8:04 pm to discuss litigation involving RPL.
The meeting was reconvened at 8:40 pm.

Supervisor Bermingham stated that discussed in executive session were litigation matters and attorney/client privilege matters, there is no action to be taken.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary