



Upper Mount Bethel Township

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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025- 7:00 PM

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

I.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were Supervisor Birmingham, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Eckman, Supervisor Albert, Supervisor Erler, and Township Manager Graziano.

Appoint Recording Secretary-2025-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint Cindy Beck as Recording Secretary for the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission for 2025, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

II.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1. APPOINT TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Marty Pinter** as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
2. APPOINT CHAIRMAN-Temporary Chairman Marty Pinter asked for a nomination for Chairman. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **John Birmingham as Chairman to the Board of Supervisors**, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
3. APPOINT VICE CHAIRMAN-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to appoint Jason Albert, Supervisor Albert declined. **MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to appoint **David Friedman as Vice Chairman to the Board of Supervisors**, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 4-1. Supervisor Erler, nay.
4. APPOINT SECRETARY-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Cori Eckman as Secretary to the Board of Supervisors**, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

5. APPOINT TREASURER/SET BOND-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **John Bermingham** as Township Treasurer, and **set bond at seven (7) million**, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marty Pinter, Lindsey Lane, commented on the position of Treasurer and he offered his services, as treasurer, at no charge to the Township.

Supervisor Erler would like to amend the agenda, adding TAC Liaison and EAC Liaison. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

III.

APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINT TOWNSHIP MANAGER/ASSISTANT TREASURER/SET BOND-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Nick Graziano** as Township Manager, Assistant Treasurer, and **set bond at two (2) million**. There was a discussion on the bond amount. Marty Pinter suggested that it be the same as the Treasurer. Supervisor Friedman stated that his motion stands as is, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Supervisor Erler commented on the PSATS Salary Survey results and would like to amend the motion to not include a salary increase, no seconded, motion dies. Vote: 5-0.
2. APPOINT 2024 AUDITOR-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Kirk, Summa & Co. LLP for the 2024 Audit**, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0
3. APPOINT ADMINISTRATION/OFFICE LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Dave Friedman** as the Administration/Office Liaison, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
4. APPOINT ROADMASTER/ROAD DEPT. LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Dave Friedman** as Roadmaster/Road Dept. Liaison, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
5. APPOINT BOARD OF SUPERVISOR SOLICITOR (SET RATE)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Ronold J. Karasek, Esquire** as Township Solicitor at a rate of **\$160** per hour for office/court time and **\$375** per meeting, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
6. APPOINT ALTERNATE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SOLICITOR (SET RATE)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Eckman to appoint **Adrian Cousens** as Alternate Township Solicitor for the Board of Supervisors at a rate of **\$160** per hour seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote:5-0.
7. APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION SOLICITOR (SET RATE)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Ronold J. Karasek, Esquire** as Township

- Planning Commission Solicitor at a rate of **\$160** per hour for office/court time and **\$375** per meeting, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote:5-0.
8. APPOINT ALTERNATE PLANNING COMMISSION SOLICITOR (SET RATE)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Adrian Cousens** as Alternate Planning Commission Solicitor at a rate of **\$160** per hour, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote:5-0.
 9. APPOINT TWO (2) PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS-MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Frank Klein and James Potter**, five (5) year term, expiring 12/31/2029, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
 10. APPOINT TOWNSHIP ENGINEER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Carroll Engineering-Justin Coyle** as Township Engineer, with noted rate increase to \$150 per hour, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Supervisor Erler would like to amend the motion to not include the increase, no second, motion dies. Vote:4-1. Supervisor Erler voting nay.
 11. FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman, to appoint **Carroll Engineering-Justin Coyle** as the Township Flood Plain Administrator, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote:5-0.
 12. APPOINT ALTERNATE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER (SET RATE)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Robert Collura** as the Alternate Township Engineer, at the rate of **\$100** per hour seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
 13. APPOINT ZONING, BUILDING CODES AND SEO LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Jason Albert** as the Zoning, Building Codes and SEO Liaison, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
 14. APPOINT ZONING/CODES OFFICER/SET RATE-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Tina Serfass** as the Zoning/Codes Officer, at the rate of **\$68** per hour, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Supervisor Erler would like to amend the motion to not include the increase, no second, motion dies. Vote: 5-0.
 15. APPOINT ALTERNATE ZONING OFFICIAL/CODES OFFICER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Robert Collura** as the Alternate Zoning Official at a rate of **\$100** per hour, seconded Supervisor Albert. Vote:5-0.
 16. APPOINT BUILDING CODES OFFICIAL/CODES OFFICER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Tina Serfass** as the Building Codes Official/Codes Officer at the rate of **\$68** per hour, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Supervisor Erler would like to amend the motion to not include the increase, no second, motion dies. Vote: 5-0.
 17. APPOINT ALTERNATE BUILDING CODES OFFICIAL/CODES OFFICER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Barry Isett and Associates** as Alternate Building Codes Official/Codes Officer, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote:5-0.
 18. SET RATE FOR ZONING HEARING BOARD SOLICITOR-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to set the rate for the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor at **\$145** per hour, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote:3-2. Supervisor Eckman and Supervisor Erler vote nay.

19. APPOINT ONE (1) MEMBER TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD-Two letters of interest were submitted, Ron Angle and Mark Mezger, along with their Statement of Financial Interest forms. **MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Ron Angle** as a member of the ZHB for a five (5) year term, expiring 12/31/2029, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Supervisor Friedman stated that Mr. Angle provided a less than adequate financial statement, listing only various things and does not feel as though he should be considered. Supervisor Friedman stated that the first time he was appointed was done illegally. Supervisor Erler stated that this is a highly contested position and spoke of pros and cons. Supervisor Birmingham called for a vote. 2-3. Motion fails. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint Mark Mezger as a member of the ZHB for a Five (5) year term, expiring 12/31/2029, seconded by Supervisor Birmingham. Supervisor Erler spoke of pros and cons. Supervisor Erler asked Mark what are his qualifications are. Mark stated that he was a project manager for 42 years for the US Army, he managed projects, he has a bachelor's degree in physics and engineering, and feels he is more than qualified for the position. Ron Angle stated that Mr. Mezger never accounted to the Township his 501c3, money has not been accounted for. Ron stated that Mr. Mezger stated that he is involved with negotiations with the 76ers for their new arena in Philadelphia. The Lead Partner in the project has never heard of Mr. Mezger. Ron stated that he told Supervisor Friedman that he would recuse himself in regards to any issues with the selling of his land. Ron stated that his qualifications speak for themselves. Supervisor Erler stated that it wasn't just selling the land for drip irrigation, there were sludge issues, providing small mortgages to people, counterfeit bills. Ron stated that yes, he has helped people who could not buy a home, the counterfeit bills was a joke, as far as the sludge, we live in a right-to-farm state, you can spread sludge. Mark stated that Supervisor Erler's comment about missing money from the Park Foundation, that the Attorney General has inspected all of the records of the Park Foundation and there were no issues found, there is no issue. Supervisor Birmingham called for a vote for the appointment of Mark Mezger. Vote:3-2. Supervisor Eckman and Supervisor Albert voting nay.
20. APPOINT 3RD PARTY INSPECTION AGENCIES-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to appoint **1) Keller Zoning and Inspection Services 2) Barry Isett & Associates 3) Key Codes Inspection Services** as 3rd Party Inspection Agencies, seconded by Eckman. Vote:5-0.
21. APPOINT SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (SET RATE)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Scott Policelli** as the Sewage Enforcement Officer at the rate of **\$75.00** per hour, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
22. APPOINT ALTERNATE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Robert Collura** as the Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer at the rate of **\$100.00** per hour, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

23. APPOINT CHAIRMAN TO THE VACANCY BOARD-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Mark Mezger** as Chairman to the Vacancy Board for a one (1)-year term, expiring 12/31/2025, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
24. APPOINT OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Jason Albert** as the OSAB Liaison, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
25. APPOINT TWO (2) OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Laura Bocko and David Clunie** as members of the Open Space Advisory Board, for a three (3) year term, expiring 12/31/2027, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
26. APPOINT PARKS/RECREATION BOARD LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Cori Eckman**, as the Parks/Recreation Board Liaison, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
27. APPOINT ONE (1) PARKS/RECREATION MEMBER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **Orion Barbounis**, as a member of the Parks/Rec Board for a term of five (5) years, expiring 12/31/2029, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
28. APPOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Jonathan Erler** as the Liaison to the EDC, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
29. APPOINT THREE (3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Stavros Barbounis** as a member of the Economic Development Committee for a term of five (5) years, expiring 12/31/2029 and **Geoff Dean and Anthony DeFranco**, members of the EDC for a term of three (3) years, expiring 12/31/2027, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
30. APPOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to appoint **Jonathan Erler** as Emergency Services Liaisons, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.
31. APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT PSATS CONVENTION-**MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to approve **Dave Friedman, Jonathan Erler, Lindsey Manzi, and Nick Graziano** to attend the PSATS Convention, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
32. APPOINT PSATS VOTING DELEGATE-**MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to appoint **Jonathan Erler** as the PSATS Voting Delegate, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
33. APPOINT RECYCLING COORDINATOR-**MOTION** by Supervisor Eckman to appoint **Nick Graziano** as the Recycling Coordinator, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
34. APPOINT OPEN RECORDS OFFICER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Eckman to appoint **Cindy Beck** as the Open Records Officer, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 5-0.

35. APPOINT ALTERNATE OPEN RECORDS OFFICER-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint **Nick Graziano** as the Alt. Open Records Officer, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
36. DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to designate **1) Fidelity Bank 2) Morgan Stanley 3) Embassy Bank** as Designation of Depositories, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
37. ESTABLISH REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION, DAY & TIME-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to establish the **Regular Monthly Meetings** to be held the **2nd Monday** of each month at **7:00 pm at the Township Municipal Building**, unless otherwise designated, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
38. ESTABLISH MONTHLY WORK SESSION MEETING LOCATION, DAY & TIME-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to establish the **Monthly Work Session Meetings** to be held on the **4th Monday** of each month at **7:00 pm at the Township Municipal Building**, unless otherwise designated, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
39. SET PAY PART-TIME/SEASONAL EMPLOYEE (non-union)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to set the pay, **\$21.37 per hour for laborers** and **\$24.96 per hour for CDL operators**, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
40. SET PAY FOR BUILDING JANITORIAL MAINTENANCE-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to set the pay for building/janitorial maintenance at, **\$19.85 per hour**, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
41. SET IRS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to set 2024 IRS Mileage reimbursement rate of **70 cents** per mile, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
42. APPOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POSITIONS-**MOTION** by Supervisor Albert to appoint **1) Lindsey Manzi, Emergency Management Coordinator 2) Bill Williams, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator**, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
43. APPOINT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION LIST-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint the Emergency Notification List as follows: **1) All Supervisors 2) Township Manager 3) Township Office Staff 4) Road Foreman**, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
44. APPOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to appoint the **Emergency Management Staff as follows**:
- Public Information Officer-Lindsey Manzi
 - Communication & Warning Officer-Lindsey Manzi
 - Deputy Communication & Warning Officer-Bill Williams
 - Logistics Liaison-Lindsey Manzi
 - Fire & Rescue Officer-Bill Williams
 - Police Services Officer-Joe Battillo
- seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

45. APPOINT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to appoint David Friedman as the Transportation Advisory Committee Liaison, seconded by Supervisor Birmingham. Vote: 5-0.
46. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON-**MOTION** by Supervisor Birmingham to appoint David Friedman as the Environmental Advisory Committee Liaison, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.

Manager Graziano stated that he invited Met-ED to come speak to residents of the Township in regards to the recent power outages. We hope to get them on the agenda for the January 27th meeting.

Manager Graziano stated that the burning on Orchard Rd. is an ongoing issue. Currently the DEP is involved, charges have been put against the owner of the property as well as the tenant, on the Townships' end, Tina has sent violations. The court date is January 21st.

IV.

ACTION AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION #2025-01 POLICE PENSION-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to adopt Resolution #2025-01, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
2. POLICE PENSION FUND ADMINISTRATOR-**MOTION** by Supervisor Erler to appoint **John Birmingham** as the Police Pension Fund Administrator, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.
3. ALL VOTING MEETINGS FOR THE 2025 YEAR-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman for all Board of Supervisors meetings be voting meetings for 2025, seconded by Supervisors Albert. Vote: 5-0.

V.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Erler to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm, seconded by Supervisor Friedman. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck, Recording Secretary