

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

- I. Call to order-Chairman Bermingham Jr. called the meeting to order @ 7:01 PM. Tonight is a non-voting meeting. Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham Jr. were Supervisor Due, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Pinter, Township Manager Rick Fisher, and Solicitor Ron Karasek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. **MOTION** to approve the agenda by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote 5-0.

II. Public Comment – 3 minutes

Kathy Ruggiero expressed her concerns about the noise ordinance and why has nothing been done. She stated that neighbors need to have more respect for each other. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that it is on the agenda to be discussed.

Allison Hoffman expressed her concerns regarding the noise ordinance. She stated the shooting is out of control, something has to be done.

Robert Hoffman also expressed his concerns regarding the noise ordinance. He stated the shootings have been going on far too long. He's concerned more about someone getting hurt. Supervisor Pinter commented on the PA Hunting Laws. He stated that as a township, we need to take a closer look at those laws and be very careful how we handle this moving forward. Supervisor Teel stated that the Board is trying to figure a way to pass an ordinance that is enforceable and a way to enforce it. Supervisor Pinter encouraged the residents to file complaints, whether written or making formal complaints at Public Meetings.

Paul Taylor commented he understands that the noise ordinance is a hard topic to deal with and that the decisions the Board has to make is not easy. Paul also commented on the newspapers that are being littered all over the township. Manager Fisher stated is there is not an ordinance that prevents papers being delivered in yards. Chairman Bermingham Jr. suggested that Solicitor Karasek draft a letter to the Express Times.

Jeff Manzi stated he would like the Board to extend the LERTA program down Rt. 512 to Wildon.

Presentation - John Bermingham Sr. gave a brief overview on SB GOG. SB COG is an organization consisting of local municipalities. They are focusing on budget development, actively pursuing grants, economic development and making communication a priority. Supervisor Due commented on the organization and he agreed that open communication between the municipalities is important. There was discussion on how COG can help Upper Mount Bethel Township.

- III. Act 537 Plan-Manager Fisher stated that he spoke to our Township Engineer Justin Coyle who should have a draft completed by the end of September.

Noise Ordinance-Solicitor Karasek stated he has reviewed the Ordinance but did not get a chance to provide the Board with his responses. He briefly discussed his comments and will provide the Board with his responses. Manager Fisher stated that the sound meter we have was donated by Professor Everbach which he has used himself and it does comply with our ordinance. Supervisor Teel stated the majority of resident complaints have been shooting ranges, which are not regulated. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked for the noise ordinance be put on the 9/10/18 agenda. Jimmy Potter asked if any action has been taken on Evans Tuning, Solicitor Karasek responded that an enforcement notice has been filed.

Environmental Review of Ordinances-Chairman Bermingham Jr. put together a power point presentation to summarize a memo that was sent back to the Board from the Law Firm that reviewed the Ordinances to see what they would recommend to strengthen the Environmental Protections. There were discussions amongst the Board on the presentation. Chairman Bermingham Jr. suggested we speak to both the Law Firm and with an Economic Consultant, to get a balance of recommendations.

Budget Meeting Schedule and Discussion-Manager Fisher stated that a meeting will be set up with Supervisor Pinter, Bob Schneider and other officials to discuss the budget. He is requesting from all the committees and the Fire Companies their budget recommendations by 9/21/18, in order to prepare a draft for the Board on 9/24/18. He would also like to see what the Board has planned for the years ahead. Supervisor Pinter stated we have to look at the budget a different way. Supervisor Pinter asked Janet Pearson and Tracy DeFranco to give their input on tax income history.

Mt. Bethel Music Festival-Manager Fisher discussed the upcoming Music Festival on 10/14/18 at Chelsea Sun. He created a budget for discussion. His goal is to raise the funds with sponsorships. He stated that he will be meeting with the Park Committee to discuss further. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that the event is a great potential revenue maker for the Park.

IV. Public Comment-3 minutes

Paul Taylor stated he agrees with Economic Development, but he is concerned about abandoned wells. He also asked if the budget is available to the public before the Board approves it. Supervisor Pinter said all has to do is ask for it.

Jimmy Potter asked if the Fire Company's Workmen's Comp was still through Swift. Manager Fisher stated yes. Jimmy stated that we should make sure that it covers inactive members.

Judy Henckel commented on balancing environmental standards. On 9/19/18 in Blairstown NJ, there is a meeting on Economic Development for small communities.

V. Adjournment-**MOTION** to adjourn at 9:07 PM by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Pinter. Vote 5-0.