

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

PART I

1. Call to Order-Chairman Bermingham Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call-Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham Jr. were Supervisor Due, Supervisor Teel, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Pinter, Township Manager Ed Nelson, and Township Solicitor Ron Karasek.
4. Approve the Agenda-Chairman Bermingham Jr., amended the Agenda, adding the approval of the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes to PART V #2. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to approve the amended agenda. Vote: 5-0.

PART II (Public Comment-3 minutes)

Richard Wilford-Hunt commented on the beauty of our Township, stating there was no traffic from Mt. Bethel to the Richmond Hotel, but when he got to Sullivan Trail, that is when the truck traffic began, all the way to Rt. 33. Richard commented on the Slate Belt Plan and stated we need more representatives from Upper Mount Bethel.

Charles Cole commented on the PennDOT permit for the flashing lights. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated the permit has been submitted. Charles stated the truck traffic problems continue.

Kevin Gilmarten commented on the ongoing issue with 125 Morningside Drive and asked where we are at with this. Manager Nelson stated this will be addressed by our Zoning Officer.

WM Ginter asked what the status of the discharge in the fields is. Chief Finan stated that it is old flour. Rich Klinge stated that it is harmless, farmers use it for ground cover.

PART III (Public Announcements) Manager Nelson announced that he would like to get a list of deployed (overseas) Township residents and have care packages delivered to them. Manager Nelson would like to do a Blanket drive for homeless veterans and welcomes anyone that would like to volunteer.

Chief Chris Finan announced that the Santa's Gift Delivery, hosted by the Mt. Bethel and North Bangor Volunteer Fire Departments, will be on December 14 & 15. Chief Finan said it should be another successful year.

PART IV (Presentation) Chairman Bermingham Jr. introduced Bud Hackett of Development Planning Associates. Mr. Hackett gave a brief presentation of his services that could possibly

assist the Township in managing the many tasks that may come with the impact of large scale development that could occur within the Township.

PART V (Official Action-matters to be voted on)

1. Curtin & Heefner Research Questions-Lauren Williams gave a summary of her memo of the three research questions posed at the BOS meeting on January 28, 2019. Chairman Bermingham Jr. referenced the three questions: 1) prohibiting certain toxic/harmful uses, such as land application sewage sludge, in certain zoning districts, 2) public schools and protections for their well-water systems and 3) testing loads of sludge. There was a discussion of an overview of relevant zoning districts, risks, and analysis. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated the Board will take some time to review the research questions and will follow up with Lauren soon.
2. Well Water Issues/Jim Comunale-Jim Comunale gave a summary of the issue that he has been having with his well-water filter. Jim stated that since the dumping in East Bangor, it has been getting worse. Jim feels as though there is a connection and will continue to run tests.
3. Approve the Minutes-November 8, 2019-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to approve the November 8, 2019 meeting minutes. Vote: 5-0.
4. Manager's Report-Manager Ed Nelson gave a summary of his report which included road department activity, activity at the Park, administrative, finance, and committee activity. Manager Nelson reported that Troy Bartron has successfully completed his probationary period and now on the full-time pay schedule.
5. Bill List-Supervisor Pinter read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor Due, to pay the bills in the amount of \$171,261.23. Vote: 5-0.
6. Computer Upgrades/Stavros Barbounis-Stavros gave a summary of IT upgrade requirements. Stavros stated that the quote for the upgrades is approximately \$17,192.42. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to move forward with the upgrades and for his time not to exceed 100 hours. Vote: 5-0.
7. County of Northampton Tax Exonerations-Chairman Bermingham Jr. discussed tax parcels and the outstanding real estate taxes on properties that are deactivated. Solicitor Karasek stated these were mobile homes that no longer exist. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Pinter, to exonerate tax bills collectively, in the amount of \$285.  
Vote: 5-0.
8. Security-Manager Nelson did an inventory of those who have access to the building. Manager Nelson would like to request authorization of getting new Fabs for those who will have access to the building. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., seconded by Supervisor Teel, to authorize Manager Nelson to order 50 new Fabs, up to \$500, for access to the Township Building. Vote: 5-0. There was a discussion on future security measures for the Township Building.
9. Resolution #2019-10-Chairman Bermingham Jr. discussed the Resolution which designates Chairman Bermingham Jr. and Secretary Cindy Beck, to execute all documents and agreements for the LSA Grant, 2-QRS Vehicles and a Generator for the

North Bangor Fire House. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to adopt Resolution # 2019-10. Vote: 5-0.

10. End of Year Meetings (Budget Adoption, Closeout 2019)-Chairman Bermingham Jr. discussed the day and time for the end of year meetings. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated the meeting will be Monday, December 30, 2019 at 3:00 pm.
11. Shredder-Manager Nelson discussed the 294 boxes that are being returned from Scantek and would like to discuss having them shredded. Manager Nelson stated that if the Board does not want to have the records shredded, then he would like to purchase a storage container for the records to be kept in.
12. Record Container-Tabled to December 9<sup>th</sup>.
13. Open Space-Manager Nelson stated that he attended the Open Space Meeting and there were questions about the two accounts established for the EIT Funds. One is the Landmark (savings) account with approximately \$200,000 in it and the other is a Merchants (checking) account with approximately \$1.6 million in it. Manager Nelson would like to close the Landmark account and move the funds into the Merchants account and research other investments ideas. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor Teel, for Manager Nelson to close the Landmark account. Vote: 5-0.

#### PART VI (Old Business)

1. Christy Granzen/Creditech Update-Solicitor Karasek stated that he was provided with some additional information regarding other outstanding accounts with Creditech. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Chairman Bermingham Jr., for Ms. Granzen to deal with Creditech, not the Township. Vote: 5-0.
2. Heritage Conservancy Proposal-Chairman Bermingham Jr. discussed the proposal that was presented to the Board last month. There was a discussion amongst the Supervisors and Representatives from the Heritage Conservancy regarding the proposal. Chairman Bermingham Jr. confirmed with Janet Pearson, that this will be funded by EIT Funds. Solicitor Karasek stated that the contract is for one year only. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, seconded by Chairman Bermingham Jr., to accept the Heritage Conservancy Proposal. Vote: 5-0.
3. Park Deed Restriction-Solicitor Karasek stated he did not have an opportunity to look into this. Supervisor Teel discussed the purpose of having a Deed Restriction on the Park, so that the Park could never be sold. Supervisor Pinter asked where or when this was ever discussed with the current Board. Supervisor Pinter stated that he heard it mentioned in Supervisor Due's interview by Chairman Bermingham Jr. Chief Finan stated that it has been rumored for quite some time. Supervisor Pinter strongly commented that we are not selling the Park.
4. Emergency Exit at Mt. Bethel FH-Supervisor Teel discussed the appraisal on the property and stated that it did not come close to what the Jewel's are looking for. Supervisor DeFranco stated that he talked to Kathy Jewel and was able to get the price down to \$80,000 and then asked the Board if we had \$43,000 to spend on the property, would they want to purchase the property. Supervisor DeFranco then stated that he met with Lou Pektor and discussed the possibility of him paying the difference on the property.

Mr. Pektor thought about it and then agreed to pay the difference. Chief Finan stated this would benefit the Township. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., seconded by Supervisor Teel, for the Township to purchase the property in 2020, for the appraised value and to have a mutual agreement with Lou Pektor to pay the difference. Chairman Bermingham Jr. rescinded his motion and Supervisor Teel rescinded his second. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., for the Township to purchase the property based on the appraised value, on the condition that Lou Pektor pay the difference and on the condition that a mutual agreement can be agreed upon between the Township and the Seller, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

PART VII (New Business)-None

PART VIII (Public Comment)

Judy Henckel commented on whether it would be beneficial to cut down trees getting onto Rt. 611 at the Firehouse.

Rich Klinge commented on the purchase of the property while no environmental studies were done.

Laura Bocko commented on the property on whether the driveway will be able to handle the large Firetrucks.

PART IX (Executive Session)-Recess to Executive Session at 9:55 pm to discuss personnel. The meeting reconvened at 10:15 pm.

1. Personnel-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated personnel was discussed. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., seconded by Supervisor Teel, to adjust Cindy Beck's hourly pay to \$24.03. Vote: 5-0.

PART X (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 pm. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary