

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

AGENDA - 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 Rick Fisher, Township Engineer Justin Coyle, and Township Solicitor Ron Karasek.
4. Approve the Agenda-Chairman Bermingham Jr. amended the Agenda, adding the Explosion to Agenda Part VI, item 1. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.
5. Public Comment-Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked the public to hold any comments regarding the Explosion to discuss in Part VI.

Dave Friedman commented on building areas and multi-family housing for the Act 537 Plan.

AGENDA - PART II (Public Announcements) - Chairman Bermingham Jr. announced the Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show will be on March 2, 2019.

AGENDA - PART III (Approve the Minutes)

1. Meeting Minutes-January 14, 2019-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, to approve the January 14, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.
2. Meeting Minutes-January 28, 2019-Supervisor DeFranco commented on a discretion in the meeting minutes. There was a discussion regarding a motion that was made and passed on the Curtin & Heefner's Review of Ordinances. Also discussed was the billing statement from Curtin & Heefner. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, to table until the recording of the meeting is reviewed, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

AGENDA - PART IV (Presentations)

1. UMBT & BASD Drug Prevention Program-Chairman Bermingham Jr. introduced Joe Kondisko, from the Bangor Area School District. Mr. Kondisko gave a brief presentation on drug prevention/awareness. Mr. Kondisko spoke of partnering with Upper Mount Bethel Township in programs designed to raise awareness.

“Not in Our House”, a program that any student attending the prom must participate in. “Prep”, a program to educate middle school and high school students on the dangers of nicotine addiction. And “Mock Team Bedroom”, a program designed for parents to look in areas of the bedroom where drugs may be hidden. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco for Upper Mount Bethel Township to partner with Bangor Area School District, to support and advertise programs, seconded by Supervisor Pinter. Vote: 5-0.

#### AGENDA - PART V (Reports)

1. Financial Report-Bill List-Manager Fisher read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, to pay the bills in the amount of \$179,747.23, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 4-0-1. Supervisor DeFranco abstained.
2. Monthly Reports-See Attached
  - a. Manager’s Report-Manager Fisher read his monthly report.
  - b. Solicitor’s Report-Solicitor Karasek read his monthly report.
  - c. Engineer’s Report-Engineer Coyle read his monthly report.
  - d. Supervisor’s Report-

Supervisor Due reported he attended the COG meeting and COG received a letter from Pen Argyl Borough which stated if things don’t improve with the COG, they will be withdrawing next year. Supervisor Due reported Northampton County Council approved the Northern Tier Trail feasibility study and two areas where they would like to start is Portland to Lake Minsi and Pen Argyl Park to Bushkill Trail.

Supervisor Teel stated Planning Commission has no business at this time.

Supervisor DeFranco stated the road crew has had a busy month with maintaining the roads during inclement weather. Supervisor DeFranco reported projects are progressing at the Park.

Supervisor Pinter stated he is awaiting to hear back from PGLIT on the Township’s investments.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he has been in contact with Nixle and Manager Fisher will be scheduling training on the call system. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated we are waiting for a proposal from Suburban Ambulance to provide BLS services. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he spoke with Ron Stern from the DCED and Ron stated they will not do the police study unless we partner with another municipality.

The recording of the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting was reviewed as per Supervisor Teel's motion.

There was a discussion amongst the Supervisors and Lauren Williams in the misunderstanding of the motion that was made on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, to hire Curtin & Heefner if they submit a written proposal for \$3,500 on the three items previously discussed, providing Manager Fisher can validate how many loads of sludge are coming into the township. Supervisor Teel amended his **MOTION** to instruct Manager Fisher to validate DEP permits to see how many loads of sludge have come into the township for the years 2017 & 2018, seconded by Chairman Bermingham Jr. Vote: 5-0. Lauren confirmed direction from the Board to provide two written proposals, to be sent to Manager Fisher, one for \$3,500.00 on the three items previously discussed and one for \$15,000 on the remaining ordinance revisions.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. called for a recess at 8:30 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 8:45 pm.

#### AGENDA - PART VI (Action Agenda)

1. Explosion-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he received numerous calls and messages regarding an explosion that occurred Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Pinter stated a binary explosion occurred in the Saddle Creek Rd. area at approximately 4:30 pm and prior to that, was consistent gun firing that occurred for hours. Supervisor Pinter opened the subject up to the audience for discussion and to express their concerns. Allyson and Robert Hoffman, Holly and Robert Hoffman, Jennifer Green, Shelly Spring, all expressed their frustration on how and why nothing has been done to stop the shooting in a residential area. There was a discussion amongst the Supervisors and Solicitor Karasek in regards to shooting ranges, ordinances and public nuisance. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter for Solicitor Karasek to pursue an investigation into filing a lawsuit, due to a public nuisance and proper use and alteration of the detention basin, in regards to the property in question, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0. Solicitor Karasek stated that Allyson Hoffman will be the contact person for the citizen complaints. Paul Taylor stated that at one time he received multiple complaints for his actions regarding shooting and binary explosions and changed, but unfortunately the actions of one citizen will ruin it for others.
2. Northampton County Memorial Day Festival-Chairman Bermingham Jr. received a letter/invitation to join in celebrating Northampton County at the Northampton

County Memorial Day Festival, to be held on Saturday, May 25, 2019. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated they are looking for the Township to recognize an outstanding employee of Upper Mount Bethel Township to receive an award for their outstanding service to the Township. Manager Fisher recommended Tom Pysner, who is retiring after 35 years of working for Upper Mount Bethel Township. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., to nominate Tom Pysner, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.

3. Recreation Committee Appointment-Manager Fisher recommended Stavros Barbounis. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, to appoint Stavros Barbounis to the Recreation Committee, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0.
4. Open Space Advisory Board Resignation and Appointment-Manager Fisher stated he received a letter of resignation from Terry Abramson. Manager Fisher stated he received a letter of interest from Laura Bocko and also a letter of interest from Jeff Manzi. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, to appoint Jeff Manzi, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0. Supervisor Pinter asked Manager Fisher if a recommendation was received from Janet Pearson, Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Board. Manager Fisher stated that Janet would recommend Laura Bocko. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked Jeff Manzi to speak of his qualifications. Mr. Manzi stated he has served on numerous Committees and Boards over the years. After a discussion amongst the Board, there was a **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, to rescind Supervisor Teel's voted motion, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter to have Solicitor Karasek research as to whether Jeff Manzi can hold the position on the Open Space Advisory Board, since he is currently on the Zoning Hearing Board, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 5-0. Tabled to March 11, 2019 meeting.
5. Potomac Street Park-VW Consultants, LLC/Soil Scientist-**MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, to hire VW Consultants, LLC, to do a preliminary site evaluation for \$400.00 and a soil test for \$900.00, to determine the feasibility of the site for the on lot sewage system at Park, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.
6. Resolution # 2019-03-Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update-Chairman Bermingham Jr. read the Resolution. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, to adopt Resolution #2019-03-Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.
7. Hydro-Geologist-Manager Fisher stated he would like to recommend to hire a Hydro-Geologist to study the watershed along 611, to determine if it is contaminated. Manager Fisher stated he will provide estimates for the next meeting. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, to table, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.
8. Financial Consultant-Manager Fisher stated a proposal for Consulting Services for Public Financing from Mullin & Lonergan Associates was received. The proposal is to prepare a presentation to show how to get municipal financing. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, to acquire Mullin & Lonergan Associates, to prepare a financial

plan, fee not exceed \$4,000.00, to be presented to the public at the next Draft Act 537 Plan meeting. Vote: 5-0.

9. Public Relations-Manager Fisher discussed a proposal for from Saperde, a Public Relations Service Firm, which may be beneficial to the Township, especially in regards to the Act 537 Plan, in providing transparency to the public in getting out the information in a timely, efficient, manner. Chairman Bermingham Jr. suggested getting additional proposals to compare. No action.
10. Northampton County Gaming Grant Recommendations-Manager Fisher discussed the Grant funds, which need to be used by May 30, 2019. Manager Fisher's recommendation is for the funds to be used at the Park. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., to use the Gaming Grant Funds for projects at the Community Park, seconded by Supervisor Teel. Vote: 5-0.

AGENDA - PART VII (Old Business)-None

AGENDA - PART VIII (New Business)-None

AGENDA - PART IX (Public Comment)-Ron Angle stated tonight's meeting was very productive. Jeff Manzi asked if there is a certain criteria the OSAB is looking for in a member. Richard Wilford-Hunt-asked about the surveys done in the areas of concern. Chief Chris Finan will be providing Manager Fisher with a 5-10 year apparatus plan. Judy Henkel stated she is happy to see that the Township is pursuing professional services.

AGENDA - PART X (Executive Session)-Chairman Bermingham Jr. called for a recess into Executive Session at 10:35 pm. The meeting reconvened at 10:50 pm.

1. Personnel-No action.

AGENDA - PART XI (Adjournment)-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 pm, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary