

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 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, Township Manager Rick Fisher, Township Engineer Justin Coyle, and Township Solicitor Ron Karasek. Supervisor Pinter was present via phone conference.
4. Approve the Agenda-Supervisor Pinter stated he would like to add the PR Firm quote to the agenda. Manager Fisher stated he will discuss in his manager's report. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to approve the agenda. Vote: 5-0.
5. Public Comment (5 minutes) - Charlie Cole was thankful to hear the speed sign was up and running. Charlie commented on the difficulty of using the website. Manager Fisher stated he is in the process of updating the website. Charlie asked about the police survey. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he will provide an update in his report. Charlie commented on the importance public involvement throughout the Act 537 plan. Bob Gerwig commented on the difficulty of using the website. Richard Wilford-Hunt asked about the status of the TIPS program. Manager Fisher stated he has not heard back from them. Mr. Wilford-Hunt asked about the "attached reports" as stated in the minutes, Engineer's Report, and Manager's Reports. Manager Fisher stated he will work on making them available. Judy Henckel commented on the possible impact Economic Development will have in the Township and maybe the Township should look at other alternatives. Dave Friedman commented on overlaid zoning maps showing properties suitable for open space. The Supervisors discussed the Open Space Fund. Richard Klinge asked about the Virgil Kasebier case. Solicitor Karasek stated he is coming back to work as long as he is physically able.

AGENDA - PART II (Public Announcements)-Chief Finan announced the Sportsman's Banquet is being held at the Mt. Bethel Fire House on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Tickets can be purchased at the door or through Chief Finan.

AGENDA - PART III (Approve the Minutes)

1. January 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes-**MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, seconded by Supervisor Due, to approve the January 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Vote: 5-0.
2. February 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to approve the February 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Vote: 5-0.
3. February 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to approve the February 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Vote: 5-0.
4. February 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Pinter, to approve the February 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Vote: 5-0.

AGENDA - PART IV (Presentations)-None

AGENDA - PART V (Subdivision and Land Development Plans)-None

AGENDA - PART VI (Reports)

1. Financial Reports-Bill List-Manager Fisher read the Bill List. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to pay the bills in the amount of \$179,120.30. Vote: 5-0.
2. Monthly Reports
 - a. Engineer's Report-Engineer Coyle read his report. Engineer Coyle discussed his continuation with the Act 537 Plan Update, the Park Pavilion project, the Speed Awareness Devices, Lake Minsi Dam Repair project, the Township Paving and Chip Seal project, and review of a Grading Plan.
 - b. Solicitor's Report-Solicitor Karasek read his report. Solicitor Karasek discussed meetings attended, subdivision matters, zoning and other land use matters, outstanding developments on Litigation, and other misc. matters.
 - c. Manager's Report-Manager Fisher read his report. Manager Fisher discussed the County Blight Removal Task Force, meetings and training he has attended, and several other items he has worked on for the month. Manager Fisher stated he will be going on vacation and will not be attendance at the April 8th meeting and is requesting the March 25th WS meeting be changed to a voting meeting to cover any items he may have for consideration. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to advertise the change from a WS meeting to a voting meeting for the March 25th meeting. Vote: 5-0.
 - d. Supervisor's Report-Supervisor Due had nothing to report. Supervisor Teel reported there is no business with the Planning Commission, the EMC

meeting went very good and will be planning another meeting in April. Supervisor DeFranco reported the road crew has been busy keeping up with the roads, due to the snow. Supervisor Pinter reported on the EDC meeting he attended. Chairman Bermingham Jr. reported the bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower was a good turn-out, the Mock Team Bedroom Event held at the Bangor Area School was very interesting and informative, the Fireman's Appreciation Dinner was a very nice event, the 4th of July celebration event is in the planning stages, and as far as the police survey, still awaiting calls from third-party marketing firms to conduct the survey. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated he had the honor of meeting Steven Riker, a hiker that stopped off in Portland, who hiked from the Statue of Liberty on the Liberty Gap Trail.

AGENDA - PART VII (Action Agenda)

1. Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds, Exonerations-**MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor Teel to approve the Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds, Exonerations. Vote: 5-0.
2. Advertise for Road Bids-Engineer Coyle gave a presentation of the Township Roads projects that need attention this year and also the long term plan. Engineer Coyle stated the estimated of cost of chip seal coating the recommended roads at approximately \$350,000. Engineer Coyle stated the estimated cost of paving the recommended roads at approximately \$250,000. There was a discussion on the budget for road projects. **MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, seconded by Supervisor Due, to advertise for Road Bids but to not include the overlay on Sunset Dr. Vote: 5-0.
3. Advertise for Lawn Maintenance-Manager Fisher stated he would like to advertise locally for Lawn Maintenance. **MOTION** by Supervisor Pinter, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to advertise locally for Lawn Maintenance. Vote: 5-0.
4. Pine Tree Lane Study-Manager Fisher discussed the traffic issue on Pine Tree Lane with tractor trailers. Manager Fisher stated he would like to have Township Engineer Coyle do a study on the road. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., seconded by Supervisor Teel, to have Engineer Coyle do a study on Pine Tree Lane. Vote: 5-0.
5. Park Grant-Manager Fisher discussed the Park Grant that was applied for in 2015, but was never completed. Manager Fisher stated a revised estimate of improvements, suggestions by the Park Committee, was prepared by Engineer Coyle. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to approve the revised estimate for the Park Grant. Vote: 5-0.

6. Appointment to Open Space Advisory Board-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated a letter was received from Jeff Manzi withdrawing his application. Janet Pearson recommended Laura Bocko. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco, to appoint Laura Bocko to the OSAB. Vote: 5-0.
7. The Preserve at Upper Mount Bethel Township Deeds-Solicitor Karasek stated the Deed is done but did want to clarify the lots to be included to finalize the Deed. Solicitor Karasek stated he needs to know the permitted uses and non-permitted uses in order to complete the Ordinance.
8. OSAB Wetland Delineation Penn Bid-**MOTION** by Supervisor DeFranco, seconded by Supervisor Due, to approve to advertise the Wetland Delineation Penn Bid. Vote: 5-0.
9. Ackerman Farmland Preservation Request for Funding-There was a discussion regarding the area that is going to be preserved. Manager Fisher stated he will reach out to Marie Bentzoni at the Northampton County Farmland Preservation, to clarify the eligibility of the Robert A. Ackerman and Beverly A. Beahn farm. **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due, to table. Vote: 5-0.
10. Request to use Township Parking Lot for Wedding Guests-Manager Fisher discussed a letter he received from a township resident requesting to use the Township parking lot to park approximately 75-100 cars for a wedding being held at their home on Sunset Dr. There was a discussion regarding insurance coverage. Chairman Bermingham Jr. suggested checking on the insurance coverage at the park and to see if they would consider parking at the park.
11. Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan-Manager Fisher stated the Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive will not be going through the COG, they are going to go directly through the 10 municipalities. They are looking for 3 representatives to represent the Township. Solicitor Karasek stated he is aware of the Agreement. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked this be on the March 25th meeting. No action.
12. Blue Mtn. Antique Gas & Engine Association Signs-Manager Fisher stated that each year we waive the fee for the signs. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to grant the waiver. Vote: 5-0.
13. Inter-Municipal Agreements-Softball-Manager Fisher stated that each year we complete the Agreements for Softball with Portland Borough, Roseto Borough, East Bangor Borough and Bangor Borough. Solicitor Karasek stated that the only formal agreement we have in the way of an Ordinance is with Lower Mount Bethel. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due, seconded by Supervisor Teel, to sign the agreements. Vote: 5-0.

14. New Truck to replace #17-Manager Fisher stated that he has only one truck at this time. Manager Fisher also stated he is working a five year plan of replacing trucks. Chairman Bermingham Jr. asked for this to be on the March 25th meeting. No action.

AGENDA – PART VIII (Old Business)-None

AGENDA – PART IX (New Business)-None

AGENDA – PART X –Public Comment-5 minutes- Charles Felker commented on the sound system at the park was not very good. Richard Wilford-Hunt asked about attending the sewer meeting at Portland. Manager Fisher stated that it is open to the public. Charles Cole commented on repairing blighted properties and would that include blighting properties with failing septic systems. Manager Fisher stated that water and sewer are not part of the program. Jim Potter asked about the fire study. Supervisor DeFranco asked Solicitor Karasek if the Township could appoint a Fire Commissioner to oversee the fire companies. Solicitor Karasek stated that the fire companies are independent companies, separate from the Township. Solicitor Karasek stated that a Board Liaison could be appointed, establish a fire committee, or hire a consultant. Lindsey Manzi suggested putting the Nixle program in the next newsletter.

AGENDA – PART XI-Executive Session-The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:25 pm. The meeting reconvened at 9:47 pm.

1. Personnel-Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that the Kasebier Case was discussed in Executive Session. Solicitor Karasek stated that the Board should discuss a motion on back pay and pension. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated the Arbitration awarded Virgil Kasebier his position back, back pay and pension. **MOTION** by Chairman Bermingham Jr., seconded by Supervisor Due, to follow the Arbitrator’s decision to award Virgil Kasebier back pay from April 9th, 2018 of \$38,532.00 and pension of \$5,016.00. Vote: 5-0.

AGENDA – PART XII-Adjournment-**MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary