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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM

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

I.

Vice Chairman Teel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were Vice Chairman Teel, Supervisor Due, Supervisor DeFranco, Supervisor Bermingham, Township Manager Nelson, Township Engineer Coyle, and Township Solicitor Karasek. Chairman Pinter was absent.

Public Comments: None

II.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Due announced the Sierra Club of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, along with other outdoors enthusiasts, are trying to change the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to a National Park.

Supervisor Bermingham announced the Halloween party was a success and thanked all the volunteers and those that made donations for making it a success. Also, a thank you to Lamtec and Custom Laminating for sponsoring Veterans Day Celebration event. On Thursday, November 11th, Veterans Day, Allegheny Creek Brewery is offering free dinners from 5-7 for all Veterans. Supervisor Bermingham is working with volunteers to help raise funds for the family of Ashton Dunbar, who passed away at the age of 17. The LSA grant for the Mt. Bethel Fire House Emergency Shelter is moving along. Working with a resident to help with Thanksgiving meals/food for those less fortunate. And the Post Foundation is willing to donate more money for the restrooms at the Community Park.

III.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the October 11, 2021, Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the October 25, 2021, Meeting Minutes.
3. Refuse Reductions, Application Refunds and Exonerations.

MOTION by Supervisor Due to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.

IV.

FINANCIALS

1. Bill List-Manager Nelson read the bill list. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to pay the bills in the amount of \$179,059.14, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.

V.

TABLED ITEM

1. Sithe Pennsylvania Holdings-Solicitor Karasek discussed the Stipulation of Council that Attorney Corriere discussed at the last meeting. The revised agreement has an increased fair market value from \$3.25 million to the new agreed upon value of \$4.25 million. **MOTION** by Vice Chairman Teel to approve Solicitor Karasek to sign the agreement, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 4-0.

VI.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 2021-10-Ciara Kerrigan-Supervisor Bermingham read the Resolution recognizing Ciara for her dedication to education and work performance at M&M Vineyards. **MOTION** by Supervisor Bermingham to adopt Resolution No. 2021-10, seconded by Supervisor DeFranco. Vote: 4-0.
2. Resolution No 2021-11-Katelyn Morehouse-Supervisor Bermingham read the Resolution recognizing Katelyn for her dedication to education and work performance at M&M Vineyards. **MOTION** by Vice Chairman Teel to adopt Resolution No. 2021-11, seconded by Supervisor Due. Vote: 4-0.

Supervisor Bermingham and Manager Nelson attended the ceremony held at M&M Vineyards and stated that Ciara and Katelyn each received a \$1,000 scholarship.

3. Slatford Rd. Bridge Rehabilitation Payment Request #1-Engineer Coyle discussed the application received from Bi-State Construction for payment request #1. Engineer Coyle stated the project has been completed (pictures presented) and is recommending the approval of payment to Bi-State Construction, in the amount of \$181,972.98. Engineer Coyle stated the project came in under budget. **MOTION** by Supervisor Due to approve the payment of \$181,972.98 to Bi-State Construction, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 4-0.

**VII.
SUBDIVISIONS**

1. William & Vickie Tinsley Lot Consolidation Preliminary and Final Plan Approval- Solicitor Karasek stated this is a simple plan combining lots. The Planning Commission did recommend Conditional Preliminary and Final Plan Approval, but at this time, the LVPC review letter has not been received. Solicitor Karasek stated he does not see any issue with this plan and recommends the Board to approve. Vice Chairman Teel, also the Chairman of the Planning Commission stated he sees no issue with this plan. **MOTION** by Vice Chairman Teel to approve the plan, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 4-0. Solicitor Karasek stated the unification deed and merger still needs to be prepared.

**VIII.
NEW BUSINESS**

1. Farmland Preservation-Messinger Farms-Manager Nelson discussed the appraisal that was approved by NC Farmland Preservation for Alvin P. and Heidi Messinger, 28+ acre farm. The Farmland Preservation Board approved to offer the Messinger's \$5,330 per acre. The County allocation for this farm will be \$10,000. The remaining amount will be furnished by the Township, approximately \$143,000 should the BOS agree. Manager Nelson stated the Township is out of balance with our tax structure and would recommend each Board member to come in and look at the appraisal and understand what we are doing and take into consideration the unbalance of our tax structure. Supervisor Bermingham asked Dave Friedman, a member of the OSAB, what he thinks. Dave responded the whole thing is being misconstrued, farmland pays more in taxes than they receive in services, therefore the farmland is subsidizing the Township. Manager Nelson asked Dave what services, Dave responded garbage, school tax. Vice Chairman Teel stated this was not up for discussion at this time.

**IX.
ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Supervisor DeFranco to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm, seconded by Supervisor Bermingham. Vote: 4-0.

