

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

January 25, 2011

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the regular meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss legal and real estate matters.

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko.

Also present: Terry Clemons, Co-Solicitor; Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police (left at 8:15) Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer (left at 8:40).

Approval of Minutes

Karen Bedics moved to adopt both sets of minutes from December 14, 2010, as presented. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Volker Oakey moved to adopt as presented the minutes from the January 3, 2011, reorganization meeting. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics moved to approve the following bills paid from December 15, 2010 – January 25, 2011:

1. General Fund	\$ 38,616.33	4. Subdivision & Escrow Funds	\$ 5,754.53
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 21,542.09	5. Open Space EIT Fund	\$ 25,785.70
3. Special Fees Fund	\$ 5,391.08	6. Open Space Bond Account	\$771,087.39

Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Road Department (posted) – Rich Schilling requested permission to pay for salt from the Highway Capital Improvement portion of the Special Fees Fund until the 2010 Liquid Fuels funds are received. Rob Zisko moved to authorize payment of salt from the Highway Capital Improvement Fund. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously. The Highway Capital Improvement Fund will be reimbursed for these disbursements when the Liquid Fuels money is received. Rich commended the Road Department for their excellent care of the roads during the frequent and extended winter storms this year. Both Mike McDonald and Jules Sepulveda from the Police Department are trained to operate the case loader and have volunteered to plow the township lots to assist the limited road department staff. Karen Bedics noticed an increase in vandalized signs throughout the township and volunteered to help the road department clean the signs. Rich will contact Rich Pursell about prioritizing this for completion after the storms end.

Police Department – In December 2010, the Township police handled 129 calls. Of these, 10 were criminal offenses. The State Police handled 15 calls during the same period. Property stolen in December was valued at \$221.00 with \$40 worth of property recovered. Six crashes were handled involving 7 vehicles; 2 were injured; no fatalities.

Chief Laudenslager and Officer McDonald were able to work with a burglar who had burglarized homes from the Lower Bucks County area up into the Poconos to verify numerous burglary locations. The first Town Watch meeting was held with approximately 12 attending. Three additional meetings are scheduled between February 3 and April. Barb Lindtner asked that supervisors be given dates for future meetings. Amity Township has an effective, long-term Town Watch program. They have been helping our township in the program startup. They recommend working with a small, core group of leaders to complete the legal process of setting up the program before opening up enrollment for more volunteers. Those attending the first meeting indicated interest some months ago, responding either to the police Newsletter article in 2009 or the 2010 Community Day when the police booth highlighted the need for volunteers for the Town Watch. Rich Schilling noted that the goal for this group is to make it self-supporting and independent from the Township, although it will be under the auspices of the Police Department.

Township Manager – Rich Schilling attended 9 township committee meetings, including the Zoning Hearing for the Sharma Land Development in Pleasant Valley, where the ZHB granted the relief requested by Mr. Sharma. Rich and Barb Lindtner met with the consultant from Toole Planning regarding the Parks & Recreation Plan on January 20. He has spent considerable time following up the oil spill at Coopersburg Kenworth on Route 309. He is working closely in consultation and with site visits on the property with the property owner, DEP, Bucks County Health Department and Durham Environmental. At this time, it does not appear that the leak was as large as was first thought, but Rich will keep the Board updated as new information becomes available.

In zoning, he processed 38 permits in December for \$17,202.80. Most were from people building single-family homes who wanted to get the permit before the home sprinkler system was required (as of 1/1/11). Rob Zisko noted that \$11,628 of the total \$17,202.80 collected in December represented the building permits for new dwellings. In 2010, he issued 328 permits for a total of \$104,900.37. Karen Bedics asked Rich to check into the overhang on the Stony Point Store. This overhang was coming down before and now is much worse because of the heavy snowstorms. She is concerned that this could create a public hazard. The property is not fenced in and people often turn around in that parking lot.

No Public Comment on Agenda Items

Planning Matters

1. **Wieder Lot-Line Adjustment (Quarry Road)** – This property is located with frontage on Crowthers and Quarry Road within the Resource Protection Zoning District. Scott Mease gave a brief overview of the plan. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended preliminary/final approval of the plan. Rob Zisko moved to grant preliminary/final approval to the Wieder lot-line adjustment, conditioned upon completion of items 2, 3, 4 and 5 listed in the engineering review letter dated November 30, 2010. The approval includes the waivers listed in Item 1 of the engineer's letter, with the note added as stated in Item 1.A. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Dushant Sharma Land Development** – The township received an extension until May 24, 2011, for this land development plan located on Route 212 within the village of Pleasant Valley; therefore, no action is required.

Old Business

1. **Proposed Subdivision Ordinance** – Because not all supervisors had a copy of the current, changed SALDO draft, it was decided to table review and discussion of the SALDO until the February 22 Board meeting. A current copy of the revised document will be provided to each Board member who needs one from a CD Bob will provide prior to the February meeting. Barbara Lindtner asked Bob Wynn to prepare an executive summary identifying the specific areas of change.

2. **Open Burning Discussion** - Terry Clemons noted that following a question from a commercial property owner in Springtown regarding open burning of cardboard, his office reviewed the township's Ordinance 85 as well as current state regulations. Scott MacNair documented the results of their review in a memo to the Board dated December 27, 2010. Outdoor burning by commercial entities is also governed by DEP regulations which prohibit burning for commercial properties. Although the township can revise Ordinance 85, any commercial property owner will still fall under the DEP burning prohibition. Our Ordinance as now written is consistent with DEP's regulations and specifically provides that any state statute or regulation that is more restrictive than the township ordinance with respect to restrictions on open burning preempts the township ordinance.

Rob Zisko noted that to help this commercial property owner, he is picking up his cardboard for a use Rob has in his own business. In addition, Rich Schilling met with a township resident who is in the recycling business. This person expressed interest in implementing a curbside recycling program in Springfield Township. Although cardboard was not of particular interest to him, he would include it if it if the township required him to do so. Rich asked him to submit information for the Board to review at a future meeting. The logistics and legality of requiring residents to participate in a township-wide recycling program if their current trash hauler also provides recycling will also need to be investigated.

Because there is one immediate and one potential solution to the property owner's request, and because state law preempts the township ordinance, it was the consensus of the Board that no change should take place to Ordinance 85.

New Business

1. **UCC Appeals Board Appointments** - Rich Schilling provided a memorandum dated January 21, 2011, indicating that emails of interest were received from Dick Cernok, John Hershey and Will Helm to serve on the UCC Appeals Board. Dick Cernok and John Hershey currently serve on the Springtown Water Authority and have over 90 years experience in the building and plumbing

trades between them. Will Helm is Chief of the Springtown Fire Department and Fire Marshall for Springfield Township. Rich provided a synopsis of what the duties of this Board would entail:

The UCC Board of Appeals shall hear and rule on appeals, requests for variances and requests for extensions of time. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intent of the act or Uniform Construction Code has been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of the act or Uniform Construction Code do not fully apply or an equivalent form of construction is to be used.

Rob Zisko moved to appoint Dick Cernok for a three-year term, John Hershey for a two-year term and Will Helm for a one-year term on the UCC Appeals Board. Barbara Lindtner seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2. Change in PLGIT & QNB Bank Signers – Rob Zisko moved to authorize the treasurer to remove James Brownlow and add David Long as a signer from the PLGIT and QNB bank accounts. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously. The Board executed the required PLGIT and QNB documents to implement the changes.

3. Resolution to Authorize Acquisition of a Conservation Easement on the Stefanik Property TMP 42-005-002 (Because this was not an agenda item, a unanimous decision will be required to adopt it.) Terry Clemons indicated there is a prospect that this property, located on Passer Road, could go to settlement before the February Board meeting, and thus requested that it be discussed at this Board meeting. Karen Bedics moved to adopt Resolution 2011-003 approving execution of an agreement of sale to purchase a conservation easement on the Stefanik property (TMP 42-005-002). Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously. The Board executed the resolution and Barbara Lindtner, chairperson, signed the agreement of sale.

No Public Comments

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics requested that the Board send a letter to our legislators asking them to look into ensuring that gas drillers abide by a list of protective measures enumerated in a sample letter previously emailed to the Board. After discussion, Karen Bedics moved that the Board send a letter of concern on behalf of Springfield Township to Senators Toomey & Mensch, Congressman Fitzpatrick, Representative Clymer and Governor Corbett regarding concerns related to drilling for gas, using the model letter provided to the Board as a guide. Barbara Lindtner seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Jim Nilsen (resident) suggested that the township contact Delaware Water Basin, as they currently have a drilling moratorium in place. A copy of the letter will be mailed to the Delaware Water Basin group.

Karen advised the Board that the Ad Hoc Committee established to investigate ways to increase business opportunities within the Township had disbanded because of lack of interest by committee members. She will compile a short report for the Board.

She also noted that there was a request to do a repeat of the pet vaccination clinic in May. She will provide more information when available.

Rob Zisko asked whether the township could receive liquid fuels funds for a road that was a township road that was abandoned but not vacated. Terry Clemons noted that a road that has not been maintained by the township for 21 years is equivalent to being a vacated road and ownership reverts to abutting property owners. Terry was unclear what would happen if liquid fuels funds were being received for such a road.

Adjournment

At 9:12 p.m., Rob Zisko moved to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Lindtner seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary

Next meeting: February 22, 2011
Approved: February 22, 2011