

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2004
SPRINGTOWN SOCIAL HALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Rod Wieder with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were: Vice chairman Pete Lamana, Chuck Halderman, Rob Zisko and Jim Brownlow. Solicitor Jim McNamara was in attendance.

**Minutes of September 14, 2004 Meeting
Minutes of October 6, 2004 Special Meeting**

Jim Brownlow moved to approve the September 14, 2004 and October 6, 2004 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Bills for Approval

The Treasurer presented a bills list showing payments of \$134,495.19 for the period September 14, 2004 to October 8, 2004. Rob Zisko moved to approve the Bills List as presented. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

Road Department and Code Enforcement Officer reports are posted on the Bulletin Board at the Township Building.

Police Report will be given at the October 26, 2004 meeting.

Solicitor's Report – Jim McNamara reported on the following:

Evergreen Estates – The preliminary approval granted by the supervisors to the subdivision plan has been appealed by certain neighbors to the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas. At the same time, it is the understanding of the Solicitor that the final plan is before the Planning Commission which has determined that the plan is accepted for filing as complete. There is no supersedeas, or stay, in connection with this appeal and the matter should proceed through the final planning process unless Bucks County Court issues an Order staying any further proceedings.

Del Guercio Lawsuit. The Solicitor expects to file a Stipulation shortly with the United States District Court that will lead to the settlement of this federal court claim against Springfield Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

Dennis Steskal discussed the Agenda.

PLANNING

Naceville Materials Asphalt Plant – Land Development Preliminary/Final with Conditions.

Jim Brownlow stated the Planning Commission unanimously approved a motion recommending preliminary/final approval of the land development plan, subject to

compliance with items noted in engineering review correspondence dated September 28, 2004. Jim moved to grant Preliminary/Final approval for the Naceville Materials Asphalt Plan conditioned upon completion of outstanding items listed in Bob Wynn's review letter dated September 28, 2004. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

The Board set a budget meeting for Thursday, October 28, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building.

Resolution 2004-008 Support for the Application to protect Haycock Camp

Rob Zisko moved to approve Resolution 2004-008 which will support the application by the Township and Natural Lands Trust to DCNR to preserve Haycock Camp. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rod Wieder explained that each resident will be allowed to comment one time. Please identify yourself by name and address. The Board will not discuss personnel issues. Rod explained the Board will not tolerate the type of behavior that was exhibited at the September 14th meeting.

Jeff Yerger asked if the Board felt any shame.

Hans Reimann asked for a status report of the illegal junk yard on Route 309

Dennis Steskal asked for the date Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority will have the information for the Township.

Robert Bell referred to Resolution 2004-006 and the paragraph that described the conduct of the residents at the September 28th meeting. Bob described the behavior of the board as deceitful and cowardly. No one on the Board did anything to stop the alleged behavior of the residents in attendance at that meeting.

Bob Bell referred to copies of bills prepared by Reed and Smith, the firm that Joseph Rudolf is employed by. It is Bob's contention that the Supervisors intend to disband the police department. One of the notes on the billings indicate discussions concerning disbanding the police department.

Rod Wieder stated the Supervisors have no intention of disbanding the police department.

Deborah Yereger presented three petitions. The first petition was to remove Peter Lamana as Supervisor. The second petition is to reinstate Brian McLaughlin as Police Chief. The third petition is to increase the manpower on the police department to 5

officers as stated in the 1001 Comprehensive Plan and have 24 hour a day 7 days a week coverage.

The behavior of the residents at the September 28th meeting was not unruly or disruptive. There were 10 police officers in the room and there was no need to calm anyone down.

Colleen Bell asked about the status of the police department. Rod Wieder explained that Scott Huber is Officer In Charge. The Board has no immediate plans to hire a chief. There is no intention to disband the police department.

Alex Bodian discussed leadership and morale.

Tony Polito asked for the reason Brian McLaughlin was put back to patrolman.

Johanna Snyder asked about the Police Report.

Sean Queen asked why the Board hired Joseph Rudolf. Rod Wieder explained Joseph Rudolf specializes in Police negotiations and Labor Law.

Jim McNamara explained that a Township Solicitor who negotiates a police contract every three years or so does not have the expertise that a specialist like Mr. Rudolf has. It was Mr. McNamara's suggestion that the Board retain a specialist for the police negotiations. Remember, the Police Association retains a Labor relations firm.

Norma Queen asked about Brian McLaughlin. She feels he has so many positive qualities. Why couldn't he have been mentored?

Jim Brownlow stated the Board will not speak at all to issues with Brian McLaughlin. Refer to the Resolution 2004-006. The Board will not discuss any personnel issue out of respect for the individual. Monitoring was covered.

Jean Hauck asked why the Board pays Jim McNamara and then seeks outside counsel.

Harold Rick asked if the Board received the dissolution check list.

Carol Bolten discussed the meeting held on October 6, 2004 and asked why the original decision to wait until November 9th was not followed. The conduct of the people attending the September 28th meeting was unruly and the Board felt threatened. Jim Brownlow stated someone in the room shouted out we know where you live. How could this not be considered a threat?

Ann Dunlap feels there has to be respect on all sides. Mistakes were made by the Board and Brian. We have to put this behind us and go on. The Board feels they did the right thing. Go on.

Ernie Hauck stated Springfield Township is the laughing stock of the Lehigh Valley.

SUPERVISORS' COMMENTS

Chuck Halderman stated the Supervisors did not fire Brian. He has his job. He took the job understanding he was on a one year probation period. It didn't work out. We did not take his livelihood away. He knew he would be working with a total police force of 4 when he took the job. The Board is not trying to get rid of the police force.

Rod Wieder stated he was elected in 1996. When he came on the Board Gemstar was a huge issue. Rod agreed with most of the people that the tires had to go. He believes it was the right thing to do. Rod felt the people appreciated that he did the right thing.

Milford Trumbauersville Sewer Authority handling the Zion Hill sewer problems made no sense. He voted against MTSA. He felt it was the wrong decision for the Township, it turns out he was right.

DelGuerico law suit is currently being resolved. As a result of pending law suits, Rod has had to spend many hours out of time on issues that impact the township.

People should have respect and confidence that he made the right decision in this case. He can't make everybody happy.

Pete Lamana was a teacher for 38 years and a principal for 13. Pete has spent countless hours of time researching issues for the Board. His motivation is to make the Township a better place. It is unfortunate that some residents find it necessary to embarrass the man. Rod stands by his decision. The implied threats are a concern to his family.

Jim Brownlow thanked Ann Dunlap for the direction she took in her comment. Mistakes were made on both sides. Jim is comfortable with the ultimate decision made. We need to pick up on what Ann said and "let's move forward with what we have". Rob Zisko would like to move forward too.

ADJOURNMENT

Pete Lamana moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara A. Smith
Secretary

