

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
SPRINGTOWN FIRE COMPANY SOCIAL HALL
OCTOBER 26, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Rod Wieder. Members present were: Vice Chairman Pete Lamana, Chuck Halderman, Rob Zisko and Jim Brownlow. John Swensen representing Carroll Engineering was present.

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2004**

Jim Brownlow moved to approve the minutes of September 28 and October 12 as presented. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was unanimous.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

The Treasurer presented a bills list showing payments from the General Fund of \$168,409.90. This included a payment of \$87,096.80 to Blooming Glen Contractors for preparing and repaving Pleasant View Road. Rob Zisko moved to approve the bills list. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

Police Report – Officer In Charge Scott Huber presented the police report for the month of September. There were a total of 181 incidents. There were 10 traffic arrests and 3 non traffic arrests. There was a total of 8 traffic accidents 8 reportable.

The Ford Expedition that replaced the 1996 Tahoe is being outfitted and should be available in a few weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

Rod Wieder stated the comment time will be in accordance with Resolution 92-2. Each person will be allowed to speak one time for 5 minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS
NONE**

NEW BUSINESS

Salt Bids – Bids were opened on Monday from Oceanport Industries \$72.15 per ton for 500 tons and International Salt Company \$66.28 per ton for 500 tons. The low bid is International Salt. Chuck Halderman moved to award the Salt bid to International Salt at a price of \$66.28 per ton for 500 tons. Seconded by Jimn Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority – Springtown Water System. John Swensen, Representing Carroll Engineering

Rod Wieder stated the residents of the Township who are users of the Springtown Water System were invited to attend the meeting this evening. The Township took over responsibility for the

water system in late 2002. At that time, the Supervisors signed an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Bucks County Water & Sewer. The Township renewed this agreement in 2003, 2004 and at the last meeting for 2005.

The current system is in need of a substantial financial investment in order to bring it into compliance with DEP REGULATIONS. In March of this year, the Supervisors requested Bucks County Water & Sewer to submit a proposal indicating the types of repairs needed and a cost estimate for these repairs.

In an attempt to involve the users of the system, the Supervisors have invited Carroll Engineering, Engineers for Bucks County Water & Sewer and Springfield Township, to make a technical presentation explaining where the system is currently and what must be done in the near future. We have not received any financial information to date from Bucks County Water & Sewer as to costs.

The Supervisors will have a big decision to make. This decision will be made after reviewing all of the information and options available.

Rod introduced John Swenson. John stated in 2003, Carroll Engineering was hired by Springfield Township to model the water system in Springtown. There was concern that the current system would not be able to support fire hydrants in a new development above the Village of Springtown, and was not in compliance with water use standards.

The projects would include a 150,000 gallon water storage tank to be located off Lower Saucon Road and a pump costing \$650,000.

The second project would be to bring spring number three, which the county Health Department and state Department of Environmental Protection inspected and found it was being contaminated with surface water back on line with a filtration device. The estimated cost is \$60,000.

The third project, estimated at \$276,000, would be to replace nearly 2,000 feet of water mains on Center and Walnut Streets and Church Street and Greenwood Avenue. Many of these mains are 1 ½ inches to 4 inches and should be replaced with at least 6 inch mains. John Swenson stated.

The water system currently supplies water to 208 residences, but with the improvements, it would be able to service 237.

One of the most serious problems with the system is it does not have the ability to store the one day water supply mandated by DEP should a failure hit any water source. The water currently is derived from two springs and one well. The system stores 21,000 gallons in contrast with the 150,000 gallons that are needed to safely cover the village during fire or emergency.

Alex Bodian asked about NFPA regulations for fire protection. John Swensen replied these regulations require sufficient water to fight a house fire for two hours.

David Foley asked about water main sizes on Church Road and Lower Saucon and New Hill Way.

Carol Mease asked about fire protection regulations. John Swensen explained the regulations are based upon how close the homes are spaced.

Bill Dunlap asked with increasing demand would the proposed water storage tank be sufficient to handle additional growth. John Swensen replied additional height could be added to the proposed tank.

Financing the project is a question the supervisors are researching. There are several options available: have only users pay all or a portion, sell the system to an outside entity like Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority have the entire township finance the project.

Jim Brownlow stated if the County took the system over, it could install the upgrades and spread the cost throughout its customer base.

Chuck Halderman stated that while that is an option, it poses the danger that an outside entity could sink deep wells, allowing more water capacity and encouraging development.

Joe Vallone asked whether anyone besides Bucks County Water & Sewer has prepared a proposal. Rod Wieder stated the Supervisors are waiting for a proposal from Bucks County & Sewer. We need to know the scope of the project before we can pursue any of the options. You can be sure, we will pursue any grant money available. Rod reiterated the Board wants the users to be informed of the project all along the way.

Paul Rush asked if the project was put out for bid. Chuck Halderman explained this process is in the very preliminary stages. The Supervisors are gathering information, Chuck feels the project should be put out for bid.

Alan Kugler asked what happens if we can't meet the fire protection standards. John Swensen stated the system is not condemned. Fire fighting is currently being done with water tankers.

Rod thanked everyone for attending.

Police Secretary – Jim Brownlow moved to hire Linda Bartholomew as Secretary for the Police Department for 20 hours per week at \$12.50 per hour. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Bell asked if a criminal background investigation has been done on the new police secretary. She will be handling sensitive material. This will be ordered immediately.

Bob questioned whether Resolution 92-2 states that an individual can speak one time.

David Foley is concerned the water system is not being set up for expansion.

Alex Bodian questioned the fact that Carroll Engineering represents the Township and Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority. Alex asked if there is intent to get an opinion as to what is needed from BCW&SA.

Jim Brownlow explained Bucks County Water & Sewer is a public entity for the County. The Supervisors need an idea what we are talking about and need to know how the financial requirement would translate to rates.

Carol Mease asked if the Supervisors are planning to sell the water system to BCW&SA.

Paul Rush asked about the Wellhead Protection Grant

SUPERVISORS' COMMENTS

Chuck Halderman stated the Supervisors have a lot to think about regarding the water system: cost, size and how to pay for it. Should we keep control of the system in the Township or sell it.

Pete Lamana - discussed statements made at the last meeting about putting the past behind and moving forward. There are residents who find it necessary to keep the past alive.

Pete stated former Chief McLaughlin stated to the Board that his department was investigating "cold cases" cases that had been put in the files and never investigated. Perhaps the Attorney General's office should be contacted to investigate past practices.

Pete also mentioned the ridiculing of State Trooper John Brown. Pete feels that John's work in the schools had a significant impact on many young people. Pete asked how far back we want to go.

Jim Brownlow discussed significant projects before the Township this year. The water system being one of them. In November of 2003 the Comprehensive Plan was adopted. The Planning Commission recommended Urban Research to the Supervisors to be the consultant on the Zoning Ordinance re-write. The first meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2004. This will be a combined meeting with the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Jim encouraged the residents to come to these meetings.

Rob Zisko – No comments.

Rod Wieder explained state law sites requirements relating to public and legal requirements for public meetings. Personnel issues are to be discussed in private.

Some residents act as though all business should be conducted by the floor. This is why Supervisors are elected to make decisions based on the best information they have for all of the residents.

Rod Wieder announced a brief executive session following the meeting to discuss property and personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

Pete Lamana moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Seconded by Chuck Halderman.
Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara A. Smith
Secretary