

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

October 28, 2008

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko.

Also present: Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

Jim Brownlow, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Approval of Minutes - Not Ready for Approval

Bills for Approval

Rob Zisko commented that \$7,180 was being paid to Lanzalotta & Associates for PPL litigation expenses. Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the bills for \$74,260.91 from October 15 – 28, 2008. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**. Jim Brownlow indicated the bills were high because of funding of the pension plans. Sandy Everitt noted that \$35,000+ was received from State Aid with the remaining 25,000+ coming from the general fund. Jim called for the question. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Sandy Everitt, Township Treasurer, indicated that two significant increases of PPL's electric rates have taken place within the past year for streetlights within the township. The 2009 street light tax will need to be increased for those property owners who have streetlights, but there will be a shortage in the separate street light account of between \$500 and \$900 (dependent upon how much additional street light tax comes) in 2008 to pay street light electric bills. She requested approval to cover that out of the General Fund. While this should not occur, these were unannounced increases; thus, no tax increase was made in 2008. Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize the Treasurer to transfer funds up to but not exceeding \$900 from the general fund to the street light account to cover the remaining electric bills in 2008. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Public Hearing on Nuisance Ordinance

Advertisement of this hearing appeared in the Morning Call on October 21 and proper notice was filed in Bucks County Court House. The draft ordinance was available at the township building for review by residents. The ordinance pertains to *“prohibiting nuisances, including but not limited to storing or accumulating garbage or rubbish, junk material, abandoned or junked motor vehicles, abandoned or unoccupied buildings or parts of buildings in a state of dilapidation or disrepair; providing for the abatement of such nuisances after notice to the owners to do so; providing for the collection costs of such abatement or removal by the township; and prescribing penalties for violation thereof.”* The current ordinance will replace Ordinance 48 which permitted the township to declare a vehicle a nuisance if it was unregistered or lacked an inspection sticker. Under the new ordinance, the township would have to prove that such vehicles posed a risk to children or residents.

Rich Schilling opened the public comment period. He closed the public comment period when there was no public comment. He opened the floor for supervisors' comments. Volker Oakey feels the new ordinance is well written and more defined than Ordinance 48. Karen Bedics feels it provides more benefits to residents because it addresses public safety issues with regard to unsafe structures, rubbish accumulations, etc. Rob Zisko still has some concern about the possible conflict between this ordinance and the zoning ordinance as pertains to removal of an unsafe a “historic” structure. The Zoning Ordinance prohibits removal of historic structures.

Volker Oakey **moved** to adopted Ordinance 151, thus repealing Ordinance 48. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Planning Matters

Curry Subdivision – Cowan Associates wrote a letter dated August 22, 2008, on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. John Curry regarding modification of conditions of their approved 2-lot subdivision plan approval. Todd Myers, Cowan Associates, presented for the applicants, who were also present. The deferral request is for construction cost estimates as relates to public improvements for Lot 2. Lot 1 contains an old log cabin, which Mr. & Mrs. Curry are renovating and restoring, including an addition being added to the rear of the home. Due to current economic condition, the Curry's have been unable to sell the created Lot 2 to recoup some costs to permit them to finish work on their log cabin on Lot 1. They are seeking the Board's approval to place a letter in the file stating that the construction cost escrow amount (approximately \$21,550.15) is deferred until the time of building permit issuance to the future owners of Lot 2. Bob Wynn indicated that all the required improvements are on Lot 2. They are the typical storm water, construction entrance, silt fence, tree protection fence, and infiltration trench, requirements. The Curry's have agreed to pay the costs associated with the ordinance and signage to change the speed limit on Ebert Road to 25 mph. They will also make a contribution of \$3,000 to the Highway Capital Improvement Fund for road improvement fees waived as art of the subdivision approval. Bob Wynn pointed out that if the Board grants this request, it would require a motion to amend the original plan approved for the Curry Subdivision. The Curry's hope to complete work on their log cabin restoration/addition by the end of 2008. Rob Zisko **moved** to amend the Curry Minor Subdivision approval to allow the posting of security for development of Lot 2 at the time of the building permit application. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

Paul Longacre reviewed and signed the lease for use of township property on Peppermint Road and paid the \$1,000. lease for the first year. Mr. Longacre has \$2,000,000 liability insurance on the property. Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize the Board Chairman to execute the Ground Lease Agreement between Springfield Township and Paul Longacre. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

New Business

1. 2009 Budget Discussion – Rich Schilling, Township Manager, presented details related to the 2009 draft budget. The budget process began a month and a half ago. Like all other municipalities, Springfield Township is struggling with decreased income resulting from the economic downturn. He anticipates projected revenue for 2008 will come in, with a possible shortfall in real estate transfer tax and possibly some Earned Income Tax. However, looking at revenues for 2009, he projected shortfalls in these budget areas:

- **Real Estate Property Tax** – down 15,250 (5%) from 2008
- **Real Estate Transfer Tax**]
- **Earned Income Tax**] 2008 budget was \$1,298,500; anticipate a 10% drop
- **Local Services Tax**]
- **Permits, Subdivision & Land Development Application Fees, etc.** – Each of these income categories will likely be lower in 2009 than in 2008, with an anticipated total \$50,600 shortfall (42% below 2008).

Overall, the draft budget currently reflects a \$307, 375 shortfall of income in the 2009 draft budget vs. the 2008 budget revenue.

Following meetings where department heads turned in their budget requests, it was impossible to cover department heads requested expenditures without incurring a \$395,000 budget deficit . Rich Schilling met with all employees today to go over the budget situation and the reasons for the shortfall. He advised employees a hiring freeze was in effect for 2009 and part-time positions (other than the road department and cleaning staff) will be eliminated. This eliminates the part-time zoning officer and police secretary. The Road Department will use part-time road workers only when necessary for help in snow removal and storm cleanup of roads. Rich was clear that other cuts may be on the table in order to further decrease the deficit, including no pay increases (other than police who receive an increase according to their collective bargaining agreement).

Rich indicated that he is hopeful that a viable draft budget document will be ready for the Board's November 11 meeting. Volker noted that, unlike the federal government, the township is required to have a balanced budget, so a number of additional cuts will be required. Rob Zisko emphasized that he will not vote for a tax increase in 2009.

Jim Brownlow stated that a mill of tax in Springfield Township would bring in an additional \$80,000+ in revenue, so to make up this anticipated shortfall with taxes would require our current tax of 3.5 mills to be doubled.

There is \$500,000+ in the Operating Reserve Fund specifically for situations like this; however, Barbara Lindtner pointed out that if the township uses the entire reserve in 2009, there will be no cushion for future emergencies.

Jim Brownlow noted that expenses for PPL litigation were not a budgeted expense for 2008 and all these costs have come from the General Fund (\$118,766 to date). He also noted that half the costs related to revising the township's Act 537 plan (now at \$105,970) will come back from the state after DEP approves the new plan, although that may not occur before 2010. With the anticipated total cost at over \$200,000, the amount coming to the township will probably be over \$100,000.

Barbara Lindtner noted that the current year's budget shows actual revenue of \$1,280,174 versus a projected budget income of \$1,735,850. There was a budgeted transfer from the Operating Reserve Fund into the 2008 budget, which is not reflected in the 455,676 deficit shown for 2008 income, bringing the actual 2008 deficit to date down to \$340,676. Rich anticipates there could be a 2008 year-end deficit of up to \$150,000. This will be easier to forecast by mid-November, and the Operating Reserve may need to be used to cover 2008 expenses. Potentially, the Operating Reserve may be decreased to \$350,000. Unless additional cuts or revenue sources are utilized, the anticipated 2009 shortfall of \$300,000 would virtually eliminate the Operating Reserve Fund.

Jim Brownlow summarized that the 2009 budget will be tight no matter what. It will either involve more cuts, a tax increase, use of most of the Operating Reserve Fund, or some combination of all three to enable a balanced budget for 2009. Jim noted that Springfield Township is not alone in this budget crunch. He referred to an article in The Intelligencer today about Doylestown Township, with 17,000 residents (compared to Springfield's 5,000 residents). They have a \$10,700,000 budget compared to Springfield's \$1,700,000+. They are anticipating a revenue shortfall of \$400,000 and are also having trouble making budget cuts to eliminate that deficit.

Rich opened the floor for several township groups to present their budget needs for 2009—Springtown Farmers Market, Community Day, Springtown Water Authority, and EAC.

2. Farm Market Wrap Up – Maria Weick, Farm Market Manager, presented a report on the 2008 market. After the sobering budget discussion, they completely revamped the amount they planned to request for 2009. Maria thanked the Board for their support of the Farm Market this year. They would like to hold the Market again in 2009 and would like it to function as a township entity. They would appreciate if the Market could function under the township's "umbrella" and be supported for between \$400 and \$500 (the same as in 2008).

The Market started out strong the first two weeks with 21 vendors and a steady customer stream. The vendors were pleased with market performance through July 16, after which a noticeable and continuing decline in customers occurred. Vendors began to drop out in August and currently there are 10 vendors. A September customer survey failed to pinpoint a correctible problem. However, Maria heard from a number of vendors and other market managers that it is normal for farm markets to start out slowly. It takes time to grow a market and bring it to a successful level. Last week Maria spoke with the founder of the Bucks County Food Shed Alliance and manager of the Wrightstown Farmers Market, one of the most successful markets in the Bucks/Lehigh Valley area. She indicated that the growth pattern for the Wrightstown Farmers Market's first year resembled the pattern of the Springtown Farmers Market's first year. Maria feels "stick-to-itiveness," consistency with the location and market dates are important at this time. She pointed out that the committee has a six-month planning window before the 2009 market opens, while the 2008 market was put together very quickly with little planning time available. Goals for the 2009 market are obtaining more volunteers, having a vision for what activities or events will pull customers to the market, soliciting additional private donations to help underwrite the market, and researching any grant possibilities. The Springtown Fire Department already offered their grounds for use by the Farm Market.

Major 2009 Market needs are funding and another market manager. Maria will not be available to manage the market for the 2009 season. She hopes the Board will continue supporting the Market.

Rich pointed out that if the Farm Market is a township committee, committee members will need to submit letters of interest to the Board of Supervisors requesting reappointment to the 2009 Market Committee. The Committee will be listed in the Township Directory, will receive support from the township staff, and agendas and minutes of Committee meetings will be required.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Jim Brownlow commended the leadership provided by Maria and others on the committee this first year, which was far above expectations. He said he could not praise Maria and her group enough

for the hard work that went into making the first year a success. Personally, Jim would like to see the Market continue and he will push for its continuance as well as personally supporting it. The rest of the Board echoed Jim's sentiments. Karen felt that Markey Survey comments indicated that additional workers for the market were needed. She thanked the committee and Maria for their time, dedication, and weekly updates, and for providing a community base for buying healthy food and sustaining our township economy. She will help in whatever way she can. Tom Colbaugh (The Happy Farmer) thanked Rich Schilling for the amazing amount of work he did as far as being involved and helping the market move forward.

Community Day – Rose Strong presented a printed report of the 2008 Community Day with a cost projection for the 2009 Community Day. She offered to answer any questions the supervisors had about the report. Jim Brownlow noted that Community Day cost \$5,192.91 in 2008 and the budget request for 2009 was \$6,506.81. Rose said that Mike Gawronski (Springtown Fire Department) will be submitting a letter of interest to serve on the 2009 Community Day Committee to help obtain donations from community residents and businesses. Rose noted that 2008 business donations to the event were almost \$3,000. With the estimated increase in donations, the Committee is requesting an increase from \$4,000 to \$6,506.81 for 2009. It was the consensus of the Board that this was a good community event and they wish to continue to support this event.

EAC – The EAC is requesting \$1,250 for their budget in 2009, based upon the income earned at the tire-recycling event held in September 2008. Rich asked Hans Reimann to have the EAC submit a project list of how they plan to use the \$1,250. This is an increase of \$750 over the \$500 normally provided in the budget for EAC. Karen identified several of the projects: Rain Garden by wet area on the corner of the Municipal property (plants & supplies), Septic System Maintenance Information Brochure (printing cost & postage). The EAC will seek a grant to help with funding of the brochure. Barbara Lindtner suggested the EAC might want to approach salvage yards in the township for their tires for a future tire-recycling event.

Planning Commission – Bobb Carson, Chairperson, presented information related to purchasing hardware, software and training to support a GIS using information forthcoming from the Act 537 revision. This system would benefit the Planning Commission, but also the Zoning, Road and Police Departments. Bobb is recommending \$9,879 + (for Arc View, ArcGIS Publisher and training) and hardware (probably \$2,000) for the 2009 budget. Lombardo & Associates thinks most major data will be complete by the end of 2008, with all information compiled in 2009. Public meetings are not likely before 2010. Bob Wynn said although the Act 537 plan may not be approved until mid-2009, it may be possible to input information for the GIS much earlier. Parcel information will require manual inputting into the system. Bob Wynn said some townships have used interns to input information. The Board requested Bobb Carson to attend the November 11 budget meeting to discuss this. Jim Brownlow concurred that this is a valuable system, but once begun, the township is committed to keeping it up to date year after year. Rich Schilling will look into any grant funding available to offset costs for the system.

Rich Schilling asked the Board to submit costs for any 2009 projects they want. These needs must be placed in the draft budget for discussion. Currently, \$3,000 is in the budget for cardboard recycling and \$2,000 is in for Parks & Recreation start up. Volker Oakey asked if there would be any revenue from the cardboard recycling and was advised there probably would not be for the level of recycling the township will offer.

3. Springtown Water Authority Request – Ken Simmons, Chairman, gave an update on the 5-year plan to replace old, undersized water lines; install a 150,000 gallon tank; and install fire hydrants in the village for protection and to provide water for fighting fires within the township. The 2006-cost estimate for this 3-phase project was \$770,000. Due to price increases since that time, the project cost has gone up considerably. The Authority is considering or has considered a number of potential revenue sources to complete the plan. The recent rate increase to system users will net approximately \$27,000 annually, which covers the monthly Quakertown National Bank loan payment of \$2,500 which will fund completion of two phases of the plan. The Authority is talking with legislators Clymer and Wonderling to see if any funding will be available to the Springtown system if the bond issue passes on the November 4 ballot, but are proceeding as though no funds will be available. Various grants and other sources of funding are not available to them at this time. Although Springtown Fire Company was contacted for support in obtaining a grant to augment installation of fire hydrants in the village and township, they will not be helping in that respect, as they need grant money for their Fire Department for various equipment needs. In the 2006 budget, \$140,000 was the estimated cost for a fire hydrant was \$1,200. Today, the cost of a single hydrant (to the Authority) is over \$2,200, with various valves, equipment, excavation, labor to install, restoration, etc., bringing the per hydrant

installation cost to between \$7,000+ to \$21,450. The Authority would like the Township to assist with the cost of installing fire hydrants, at a 3-year cost of \$50,000 per year, beginning with 2009 township budget.

Dick Cernok said the Authority is installing a 150,000 gallon tank (90,000 gallons larger than required by the water system) to ensure adequate fire protection for the township. The Authority has repaired 11 major leaks over the past year, reducing the consumption of 60,000+ gallons/day down to 30,600 billable gallons/day. Before these repairs, a large quantity of water lost was not billable. Although a number of hydrants are currently installed, they cannot be used because of inadequate water pressure (piping too small). Dick showed a badly deteriorated 60-year old pipe removed from Greenwood Drive. The biggest water user on the system is the Fire Company (69,000 gallons/quarter, most recent reading). The Fire Company is not billed because one of the Authority's back up wells is on Fire Company property. The village fire hydrants will not only provide water for Springtown Fire Company, but for neighboring Fire Departments when they need it. Dick reviewed the 3-year installation plan for fire hydrants and distributed a copy to supervisors. Larger, cast iron pipes must be installed before fire hydrants can be installed.

Barbara Lindtner asked a number of questions regarding some of the revenue sources and regarding the hydrant installation plan. Volker Oakey requested a copy of the Springtown Water Authority budget, which Ken Simmons will provide for him. Aimee Douglas reviewed the financial *Funds Availability Analysis* provided to the supervisors. Although \$694,707 cash is currently available, the estimated amount due for the 3 contracts outstanding is \$352,275, and with retention of a \$75,000 capital reserve amount, this lowers this cash balance to \$267,432, which is all earmarked for water main replacement. If no grant money can be located, another rate increase will be required in order to borrow additional funds for fire hydrants. If additional funding cannot be obtained, the 5-year plan will have to be spread over a longer period. At this point, Aimee said the Authority is hopeful to receive some financial help from the Township so that the entire burden does not fall upon the 215 users, because the fire hydrants, etc., will actually benefit much of Springfield Township.

Jim said that if the township was not in the economic situation it currently faces, they would likely provide some help. However, he suggested that, like the Township is being forced to do, the Authority may need to rethink the timing of their 5-year plan. He added that the Authority may actually be better off than the township at this point!

Ken Simmons thanked the Board for considering their request. Jim Brownlow commended the Authority for the stewardship they have displayed in the work they have done on an antiquated system. Jim offered personal and/or Board support should it be needed with the Authority's legislative outreach for funding options.

4. Historic Commission – Signage & Trespassing Issues – Karen Bedics presented the budget request for the Historic Commission of \$1,530.00 as outlined in their emails presented to the Board. The project breakdown was: \$80 for maintenance of Gallow's Hill Cemetery, \$50 incidental expenses (postage, etc.), and \$1,400 for Historic District signs for Springtown (2 @ approximately \$700 each). A grant will be sought which can help defray some of the sign costs.

The Supervisors had several questions about the signs. Rose Strong said the Historic Commission contacted Rich Schilling to find out what procedure they needed to follow to install these signs (Are there zoning regulations? Do they need to check with PennDOT? Who will install the signs? etc.) Rich Schilling needs sign specifications, details, sign location, etc., in order to contact PennDOT. Karen Freeh is having difficulty obtaining sign price quotes because she does not have funds to place an order. Karen suggested that we contact the benefactor who helped with the township sign for possible help with these signs. Rich suggested that the Historic Commission contact Springtown businesses for help in purchasing the signs. Jim is not comfortable funding signs from the 2009 township budget with the current budget deficit.

Karen Bedics presented a second problem regarding trespassing issues. One individual on the Historic Commission has trespassed on properties on behalf of Historic Commission work at least three times. This was addressed several times with that person, who has reluctantly agreed not to trespass anymore "because there are no more properties they need to visit." Karen feels the Board should draft a policy letter to all committees—Open Space, EAC, Historic Commission, etc.—who work with individual property owners, stating that express permission is required from a property owner before a property can be entered. This will inform everyone without singling out one individual, as other individuals have also trespassed on private property in the past. Jim does not feel this requires a "policy;" rather, just a letter stating that trespassing is illegal. Barbara Lindtner had a personal problem with this same individual from the Historic Commission trespassing on the Lindtner property. She feels something should be done,

as this person was warned when that trespass occurred and has now trespassed again. Rich feels he should write a letter to all Commissions and Committees stating that they need to obtain a property owner's permission before entering their property, and stating that there have been incidents of illegal trespassing taking place by Committee members. He will quote the Second Class Township Code regarding malfeasance, which can result in dismissal from a Committee/ Commission. In the future, any Committee/Commission that experiences this type of problem should write a letter describing what took place and asking the Board to remove that individual from their committee. It was the consensus of the Board that Rich should write the letter as described.

5. Helen Anger Request Regarding Peach Tree Way – Mr. and Mrs. Anger requested to be on the agenda regarding a problem they are having. They moved onto Peach Tree Way five years ago. They were not informed that the last property owner to purchase a property on Peach Tree Way was responsible for collecting the road tax from the other neighbors who live on that private road. The first several years they lived there, their mortgage company paid the entire bill, as the Anger's did not realize there was a separate bill for the TMP which was Peach Tree Way. The third year, they received an actual tax bill and discovered they were responsible to collect the tax from the other property owners on the road. The neighbors are not always cooperative. The Angers would like to see this changed so that people are billed individually. The Angers had spoken with Dave Greene, a Pennsylvania legislative attorney, so Irene Elinich wrote a letter to him dated August 27, 2008, in which she outlined the problem and the procedure she is currently following. The Supervisors received copies of that letter.

Mrs. Anger wants help from the township to resolve this issue. Rich Schilling discussed this with Scott MacNair who stated that this is the only situation like this in Bucks County. Rich added that the Board does not have jurisdiction over the tax collector. The Board asked Rich to contact Scott MacNair by phone and a conference call took place regarding this issue. Scott MacNair suggested that the Township refer the Angers to an attorney who can assist in getting a homeowner's association established and then the tax map parcel would become a common element, which would not be taxable. Scott indicated that the deed has a number of names associated with it, but the bill goes to the top name on that list, which is the most recent purchaser of one of the homes. Terry is going to contact someone at the Board of Assessment to see if this parcel can be reduced to a "no tax" parcel, but if that is not possible, the homeowner's association will have to be put in place in order to get this resolved. Scott suggested that Mrs. Anger call his office tomorrow. If the tax map parcel cannot be abandoned, Terry will recommend a good attorney for the Angers who can help set up a homeowner's association.

6. Equipment for Road Department - \$35,000 was budgeted in 2008 for the road department to purchase a used dump truck. Because of the economic situation, Rich Schilling asked if they could repair their current dump truck and forgo purchasing another truck. Rich Pursell agreed, but the current salt/cinder spreader must be replaced. The Road Department has requested permission to purchase a stainless steel tailgate direct drive spreader with standard hose kit for \$3,600 or for a slightly cheaper model for \$3,261. Rich Schilling recommends that if the Board approves the purchase, it should come from the Highway Capital Improvement Fund, because of this year's budget deficit. The second piece of equipment that is needed for installing break-away posts is a wacker, which can be purchased for \$3,250. Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize the road department to take up to \$7,000 from the Highway Capital Improvement Fund to purchase the wacker BH-24 and the spreader.

7. Salt Bid Award – The following bids were received for Sodium Chloride (Salt) for 2009

Company	Bid Amount (Includes Mileage)	Bid Awarded
International Salt Co., LLC	78.63 per ton = \$39,315 / 500 tons	Bid Awarded to Inter. Salt
Cargill, Inc.	No bid submitted	
Oceanport LLC	86.79 per ton = \$43,395 / 500 tons	
Eastern Salt Co., Inc.	79.85 per ton = \$39,925 / 500 tons	

Cargill forgot to enter the amount of their bid on the bid document. Although their bid would have been \$6.00 a ton lower than the lowest bidder, the supervisors awarded the bid to the next lowest bidder who complied with bid requirements.

Jim Brownlow **moved** to award the bid for sodium chloride to International Salt Co LLC, pending receipt of the required bond. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rich Schilling noted that the township paid \$55.74/ton for salt, while this year's low bid was \$78.63 per ton.

Fuel Bid Award – Only one bid was received for Heating Oil, Diesel Fuel and Unleaded Fuel. Bid details were:

Company	Bid Amount (Includes Mileage)
Inergy Propane LLC, dba Farm & Home Oil Co.	Heating Oil – 2,4835 Gal 2,000 gal - \$4,967
“	#2 Diesel Fuel – 2,7265 Gal 5,000 gal - \$13,632.50
“	Unleaded Fuel – 89 Oct. – 2.53 Gal 7,000 gal - \$17,710

Karen Bedics **moved** to award the bid for heating oil, diesel fuel and unleaded fuel to Inergy Propane LLC, dba Farm & Home Oil Co., pending receipt of the required bonds, Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Correspondence – Noted

Public Comments

Bill and Lisa Burland – The Burlands are building an equestrian center on their Old Bethlehem Road property. Associated with the building was a requirement for storm water management. To date, the Burlands have put out about \$70,000 (engineering costs, improvement escrow bond, etc.). The Burlands have invited both Barbara Lindtner and Rob Zisko to view their property. They feel the requirements are excessive for the amount of runoff that could potentially be generated. The driving factor in the cost was the size of two riding rings (over an acre) which are considered impervious surface, which is what drives the volume up. The Burlands do not think the riding rings are impervious surface; the water goes through them. In the summer, they dump 500-600 gallons of water a day on the rings to keep the dust down. Although the Burlands have complied with the storm water requirements thus far, they suggest that the township review the riding rings on their equestrian center and then in light of that review, as other property owners come before the township with the same kind of circumstance, reconsider whether a riding ring is actually “impervious surface.” Mr. Burland said the rings are made of stone dust and sand. Bob Wynn said the building associated with the rings was very large and the stone parking areas and drives were increased over the original plan. Basin modifications were required, because it did not fit the site topography, which was accomplished after construction started. There was excess fill and topsoil; and rather than incurring the cost to haul the fill away, the contractor made a decision to raise the berm of the basin. (Bob Wynn provided photographs for the Board to review.) The basin will now have much more capacity than is required, and if more impervious surface or buildings are contemplated in the future, the storm water capacity will likely handle any future facilities. Mr. Burland said his argument is not against storm water management; rather, when the township reviews a riding ring, to have it classified in the same way as a parking lot or a building does not make sense. Rob Zisko feels that there should also be a larger exception than 1,000 square feet before storm water management is required.

Jim Brownlow appreciated the insights Mr. Burland brought to the Board and his clarification about how a riding ring is maintained. He reminded Mr. Burland that normally, the township has an ordinance restricting public comment to 5 minutes. However, since the Burlands are here, he permitted them to present a second issue.

The Burlands would like relief from doing some of the required plantings around the storm water facility. The trees in a nearby woods are adjacent to the storm water facility and maintenance of additional trees around the facility would be very difficult. Karen Bedics **moved** to grant relief to the Burlands, in that they will not be required to install the plantings required as part of their approved storm water plan. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Supervisors Comments

Rob Zisko referred to a letter sent to the township by Charles Diehl to waive the \$1,879 fee he paid associated with rebuilding the garage bay that burned down on his property. Mr. Diehl told Rob that his insurance would not cover the entire fee. Karen suggested that Mr. Diehl provide documentation to that effect. Rob does not believe that the township required documentation that insurance would not cover waived fees when they waived fees in the past for various property owners who experienced fires. Rob considers this a tragedy and he does not feel the township should charge a permit fee to rebuild the garage. Rich Schilling cautioned that if this fee waiver is granted, it could turn into an expense for the township, rather than just a waiver of a fee. Barbara Lindtner would not be comfortable waiving this fee, without having a policy in place to permit waiving fees when certain events take place. Volker

Oakey asked if Rob Zisko could hold on making a motion to waive Mr. Diehl's fee until he finds out exactly how much insurance was received. Rob agreed to table further action until he has this information. Rob reiterated that fees have been waived several times in the past and he feels that requiring this fee is not appropriate. Rich Schilling again stated that the building is a commercial structure. There are PA State Building Code requirements for a commercial structure over which the township has no control. The fee is to cover township expense for the plan review and inspections required during the rebuilding. Rob agrees with all of the information given, but again stated that the township has waived fees for other property owners whose buildings burned.

Adjournment

At 11:05 p.m. p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
 Sandra L. Everitt
 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: November 11, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.
 Approved: Approved November 25, 2008 (as amended)

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
 BILLS LIST SUMMARY & TOTAL
 October 15 - 28, 2008**

	<u>Oct 15 - 28, 08</u>
Atlas of PA, Inc.	681.50
BCATO	150.00
California Immobilizer Corp.	25.00
CCP INDUSTRIES	89.90
COOPERSBURG MATERIALS	1,072.80
David M. Kemmerer	450.00
DAVIDHEISER'S INC.	84.00
FARM & HOME OIL COMPANY	1,119.10
International Code Council, Inc.	34.50
James Stevens	199.05
John Hoferica	35.00
Lanzalotta & Associates LLC	7,180.00
PenTeleData	99.95
Pitney Bowes, Inc.	31.11
PP&L	370.40
Ray W. Stever	87.00
Red The Uniform Tailor	726.54
Richard Pursell	176.95
RMC CLEAN SWEEP, INC	300.00
School Nurse Supply, Inc.	159.05
Springfield Township Non-Uniform Pension	22,304.30
Springfield Township Non-Uniform Pension.	17,337.70
Springfield Township Police Pension Fund	12,745.32
Springfield Township Police Pension Fund.	7,936.68
Staples Credit Plan	91.70
Taser International, Inc.	275.00
THE MORNING CALL	291.64
VILLAGE CENTER AUTOMOTIVE	206.72
VOID	0.00
TOTAL	<u>74,260.91</u>