

## Board of Supervisors Meeting

### MINUTES

October 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Jim Brownlow and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**All Supervisors Present:** Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Chuck Halderman, Rod Wieder and Rob Zisko.  
**Also present:** Scott MacNair, Solicitor; Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; and Rich Schilling, Township Manager. (Absent: Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor, and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer)

Jim Brownlow noted that the Supervisors had an executive session at their September 25, 2007, meeting to discuss personnel matters.

### Minutes

The minutes of the September 25, 2007, meeting and the October 2, 2007 Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance will be reviewed at the October 23, 2007, meeting

### Approval of Bills

Karen Bedics **moved** to accept the bills (\$23,797.63) for payment as listed on the September 22 – October 5, 2007, bills list (appended to these minutes). After several questions, Chuck Halderman **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Reports

The **Road Department Report** is posted. Karen Bedics asked who owned the bridge on Slifer Valley Road in front of the Dunlap's property. She is concerned about the increased number of tri-axle dump trucks using the road and bridge and about safety issues related to the integrity of that small bridge. She requested that either Chief Laudenslager or Rich Pursell check about the owner of the bridge and the weight load it is designed for, Rob Zisko mentioned that he had a complaint from a Pleasant View Road resident about the number of tri-axle dump trucks using that road. Karen questioned if we could have weight limits for small township roads, thereby forcing heavy trucks to use Routes 412 and 212. Rich Schilling will discuss these issues with appropriate township staff.

Rod Wieder publicly complimented the township's road department for the great job they do on township roads. The other supervisors agreed. Karen Bedics also thanked the road crew for their "above and beyond the call of duty" Community Day assistance in setting up and moving things around at the Silver Creek Athletic Association.

The **Code Enforcement Report** is also posted. Chuck noted that 36 enforcement actions were recorded in the report which indicates the Zoning Officer is out in the township working. Karen Bedics read a summary of the September 17 Cohen Zoning Hearing. The Cohens applied for and were granted a Special Exception to allow placement of a driveway with replacement of an existing pipe in a floodplain in order to access Lot 1 of the proposed Cohen Subdivision.

Another zoning hearing application came in from the Underkoflers on State Road for a variance to permit them to build a porch on the front of their existing home which does not meet the set-back from the street in the front. Rob Zisko stated that the Underkofler's home falls within the newly required 90' setback from the road which forces them to have to come to the Zoning Hearing Board to receive a variance to put on a front porch. This is an example of the concerns that Rob Zisko had with passing the new Zoning Ordinance. He feels that it will cost people \$550 to go before the Zoning Hearing Board to receive permission to build additions or make improvements to their properties under the new Ordinance. Rob is also concerned with the large amounts of money people have to escrow

in order to ensure that the storm water facilities they install on their properties are properly completed. He noted that the Underkoflers had to escrow \$6,313.59 for a storm water management improvement escrow.

Rich Schilling presented the **Police Report**, since Chief Laudenslager could not attend the meeting. There were 92 calls for service in September. There were 3 accidents involving 6 vehicles, with 4 people injured. The value of property stolen was \$126,910. One of the items stolen was a brand new tractor that pulls trailers which is valued at \$125,000. Karen indicated she was pleased to note that the traffic offense summary indicated that more people were being cited by our police for speeding, etc.

**Township Manager's Report** – On September 19, Rich Schilling met with Linda Sanchez, Loss Control Consultant for Optimus Risk Services, at which time a safety inspection was performed. A report on the results of that inspection is expected shortly. The Zoning Officer's duties recently placed on Rich are taking a large amount of time, compounded by the fact that questions over the last month have had to be answered using both the old and the new Zoning Ordinance. He will be helping the new Zoning Officer in his transition from part-time to full-time employment. He will continue working with Bob Wynn and Bobb Carson in obtaining a qualified consultant for Act 537. Rich noted that Bobb Carson provided a rated listing of the top four Act 537 consultants that were interviewed which was given to each supervisor. Rob Zisko asked what portion of the cost for the revision of the Act 537 plan would be reimbursed to the Township. Chuck Halderman stated that 50% would be reimbursed. Jim Brownlow asked how many of the applicants the Board wished to interview. It was the consensus of the Board that all four applicants should be interviewed. Rich Schilling will arrange convenient times with the Board and advise the Board when the appointments have been scheduled.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

**Hans Reimann** encouraged the Board to move quickly in approving the procedures drawn up for the Open Space Committee. He stated that the Open Space Committee accomplished a great deal in just one year and they are anxious to continue moving forward.

Hans also followed up on the sign in Springtown put up by a landscaper which would require him to go before the Zoning Hearing Board as mentioned by Rob Zisko at the last Board meeting. Rather than the 24 square foot sign mentioned by Rob, the sign is closer to 50 square feet. Hans suggested that Rob should take care to be accurate when making public comments about issues. Rob indicated he spoke to the landscaper on the phone who told him the sign was 8' x 3', which is where he obtained the size he quoted.

### **Old Business**

**1. Springtown Water Authority Update** – Although the Board received a written report, because there was not a Water Authority representative present, Jim Brownlow **moved** that the verbal report should be tabled until a Water Authority representative could be present to make the report. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**2. Open Space Committee Update** – Pete Sleeman presented for the Open Space Committee, and a number of the committee members were also present. The current committee reformed a year ago, and has met twice monthly throughout the year. Recently, three documents were completed—an evaluation form to quantitatively compare candidate properties for preservation, an application form for township residents to apply for the Open Space program, and finally, a great deal of work went into the procedures. Mr. Sleeman asked the Board for their endorsement of the forms so that they can move forward and begin using them.

Rich Schilling sent the documents to Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor, to review, and he gave a good endorsement of the documents. Karen Bedics thanked the Open Space Committee for their exemplary work and the long hours they worked to produce these forms. In particular, the committee worked very well together and they have produced documents which are easy to read and understand. Rob Zisko, Chuck Halderman and Jim Brownlow echoed Karen's comments. Hans Reimann thanked Rob Zisko for his support as Board liaison to the Open Space Committee. Jim Brownlow added that the procedures written by the committee are probably the most clear, concise document he has seen since he has been on the Board. He is very appreciative of how easy it is to follow and he looks forward to putting it in use.

Rod Wieder moved to adopt the *Open Space Procedure for the Purchase of Conservation Easements or Property* as presented. Rob Zisko seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

**3. Zoning Hearing Board Expansion** – There was a proposal to extend the Zoning Hearing Board from its current 3-members to 5-members. Previous action taken by the Board resulted in an advertisement to see if there are qualified, interested applicants.

Karen Bedics stated that four applications have been received from people who want to serve the township. She does not know what zoning experience these individuals have, but she feels they can learn as they go along. The applications received will enable the ZHB to be increased to five members and an alternate.

Rob Zisko indicated that Terry Clemons mentioned at an earlier meeting that his wife was the chairperson of a ZHB in another municipality and she felt that the smaller ZHB was better. Rob Zisko and Rod Wieder both feel that the current 3-member ZHB with an alternate is adequate. When asked why he preferred the 3-member ZHB, Rod Wieder said that the current system has worked in the past and he doesn't see the need to change it. Karen is not sure that the current system is working. Chuck feels that the new Zoning Ordinance is much stronger and will require more Hearings. As it now stands, the Board sometimes has difficulty obtaining a quorum at meetings. He also feels that more diversity is needed on the ZHB and that more individuals are needed to review things from different perspectives.

Jim Brownlow asked whether a majority or a quorum vote was needed on the ZHB. Rich Schilling stated that the Board needs a quorum vote, but the various committees need a majority vote. Jim asked what was involved in making a change to a 5-member ZHB. Scott MacNair said it was a fairly simple procedure whereby the Board would appoint two additional members. The existing members would serve out their existing terms and then the Board would be set up so that one member would come up each year for a new term. Scott suggested that the person appointed this year could have a 4-year term and the second person appointed would have a 5-year term. Rich Schilling pointed out that the new Zoning Ordinance specifies a 3-member ZHB; therefore, the Zoning Ordinance would need to be amended to reflect the change. Scott feels the expansion could take place without amending the Zoning Ordinance, because the MPC overrides the Zoning Ordinance, although Scott did recommend that the township should be in the process of amending the Zoning Ordinance when additional appointments are made. Jim asked if there would be two alternates if we increased to a 5-member ZHB. Scott MacNair indicated that the township should have at least one alternate, but no more than three. This would apply no matter what the size of the Zoning Hearing Board. Alternates are permitted to sit in hearings when the ZHB solicitor requests their participation. When an alternate sits in on the initial hearing, they continue to serve through any continuances that take place.

Jim Brownlow has mixed feelings about changing the size of the Board. Jim is concerned that when the ZHB reviews an application, they need to have the items submitted by the applicant that are required under the Zoning Ordinance. He is more concerned about following the process than he is with the number of members on the ZHB. If a motion was made to change the Board to 5 members, he would probably vote for the motion.

Rob Zisko feels it is premature to make a motion to increase the size of the Board before the applicants are interviewed. Rob is concerned because one of the applicants states in her letter that "my neighbor, Walt Dearden [the Township Assistant Zoning Officer], recently told me that you may be looking to fill a position on the zoning committee." He is concerned that we not make a motion to increase the ZHB size and then after interviewing the candidates, find out that the applicants we have are not qualified for the position.

Jim Brownlow suggested that the Board conduct the interviews first and then decide whether to increase the size of the Board. Chuck Halderman said the decision now before the Board is whether to go from a 3- to a 5-member Zoning Hearing Board. He is certain applicants can be found to fill the position, and feels we should make the decision to increase the size now and then worry about getting competent applicants to fill the positions later.

Rob Zisko is also concerned about the money that will be required to amend the Zoning Ordinance when it just became effective this week. Rich Schilling stated that the original motion was to advertise to see if competent people responded before the ZHB was expanded.

Rob Zisko and Rod Wieder would not be against interviewing the candidates prior to making a decision. Karen is concerned that this decision is dragging on, and she does not see a problem with appointing these people. Chuck requested a transcript from the Cohen Hearing before the next Board meeting to be sure that everything that was required under our ordinance was supplied. Chuck is concerned that he has to oversee the activities of the ZHB to be sure they are following the ordinance. Now that the ordinance is much tougher, it will require that the ZHB must be a fair group of people who follow the procedures contained in the ordinance. Chuck also feels the township is wasting more money by having to have the township solicitor challenge a decision made by the ZHB that was made without all the evidence required by our ordinance.

Rich Schilling stated that the MPC gives the township the right to have either a 3- or 5-member ZHB. Currently, the township has chosen to have a 3-member ZHB. Rich feels it is important that we amend the Zoning Ordinance to reflect the changed ZHB size before we increase the size. Scott MacNair agreed that would be a safer route to take in terms of potential litigation. Scott suggested that when the ordinance is revised, the language used in the MPC would be better: "3- or 5-member Zoning Hearing Board, based on the Board's determination." Jim asked what the process would be for changing the size of the ZHB. Scott MacNair said the Board would prepare a resolution to make the change, which does not require advertising. If the motion is made at this meeting to increase the ZHB size, the change would take effect immediately, and until the new members were appointed, all three of the current ZHB members would have to be present for a hearing. After a review of the MPC, Scott MacNair said that it states implicitly that appointment of new ZHB members would have to take place at the same time the motion to increase the size of the Board was made. Rob Zisko pointed out that a resolution now in place requires that the Board must interview candidates for any committee before they are appointed.

There was a discussion about the resolution which requires the Board to interview every individual who applies for any committee prior to their appointment. There were mixed thoughts among the Board about whether it was necessary to interview every applicant. Rob Zisko felt that applicants for the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board should be interviewed, but doesn't see that it would be necessary to interview candidates for the Historic Commission, Community Day Committee or the Open Space Committee. Chuck feels that it is difficult to interview selectively. Karen Bedics noted that David Reitz, Zoning Hear Board appointee, was not interviewed by the Board; Rob Zisko added that interviews were not conducted with appointees added to the Open Space Committee. The Board and Scott MacNair will review the existing Resolution about interviewing applicants and determine if it needs to be changed at a later date. Chuck is especially concerned that this issue be resolved before the township needs to advertise for all the committees at the end of the year.

Rich Schilling will poll the Board for good times and then set up interviews with the four ZHB candidates. Further action on this matter was tabled until after the applicants were interviewed.

**4. Sewage Enforcement Officer Appointment** – Rich Schilling stated that the applicants were interviewed by the Board several months ago. There was discussion at the September 25 meeting about whether the Bucks County Department of Health would have precedence over the township's sewage enforcement officer. Scott MacNair researched that question and he summarized that the PA Sewage Facilities Act provides the Bucks County Health Department with the authority to choose if they want to be the sole entity to have enforcement powers over sewage enforcement. Bucks County decided back in 1954 that the County would be the municipality that has enforcement and maintenance powers over the Sewage Facilities Act, and every municipality in Bucks County has relinquished their enforcement and maintenance authority to the Bucks County Department of Health by Resolution. Scott does not know when Springfield's Resolution was adopted (back to 1954), but every township or borough in Bucks County currently has relinquished their authority to the Bucks County Department of Health. There are no township SEOs who have enforcement or maintenance authority, which means there are no SEOs except the ones who work for the Bucks County Department of Health who have enforcement powers. Scott spoke to an individual at the Bucks County Department of Health, and he said they welcome having township SEOs provide information to them, give oversight, come out and do inspections with them so they can point out things the township might otherwise not see or that they want to give the township a "heads up" about. However, under the current system, local SEOs would have very limited authority—no permitting or enforcement authority—and would really just be able to have oversight and bring matters to the attention of the Bucks County Department of Health. Chuck questioned how townships can be responsible for ensuring that sewage management systems work properly by having Operation and Maintenance Agreements for systems on marginal soils (Springtown Knoll being a recent

example), yet the townships have no powers of enforcement. Scott MacNair explained that the O&M Agreements actually make homeowners responsible for the proper operation of sewage maintenance systems. If the homeowner fails to abide by the O&M Agreement, the Township has the authority to step in, draw from on the posted financial security and actually call out a pumper to come in and service the system and pay for it with the homeowner's escrow account. The township does have the authority to send their Zoning or Code Enforcement Officer out and inspect that everything is as it should be on a property for which an O&M Agreement has been established. However, that is a specific contract between the Township and a particular homeowner.

Jim Brownlow expressed confusion about how the township can be responsible for on-lot systems, but not inspect, review or issue permits for them. The State approves all of those areas, yet the township is responsible for them— Jim does not understand how, having no input at all into how systems are designed and built, the township can be held responsible if there are problems with them. Chuck mentioned that the township would have a lot of input on centralized systems. Jim agreed; however, centralized systems are different because they are covered in our Zoning Ordinance, thereby giving the township enforcement power. However, individual septic systems are not under the township's control. Scott said that Jim is correct, except as formerly stated when the township has an O&M Agreement with an individual homeowner in cases where there is very poor soil on a lot.

Jim read from a new draft recently put out by the State entitled *New Directions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. *It is going to require that sewage management be done before DEP is allowed to approve the sewage facilities plan. If the regulations are passed as currently written, all on-lot sewage systems will fall under sewage management. The municipality will be responsible to administer and keep track of all systems in their municipality and to fund the sewage management requirements.* Again, Jim does not understand how municipalities can be held responsible for policing sewage systems and yet have no permitting or enforcement authority. Scott MacNair asked if the information Jim shared was from PSATS. Scott stated that the term "municipality" under the PA Sewage Facilities Act can be the county in areas where the local municipalities have relinquished enforcement issues to the County. Scott feels that the section Jim read falls into that category, because Bucks County townships have relinquished permitting and enforcement powers to the County. Chuck has been talking to other local municipalities and their understanding is different than Scott's interpretation—they believe local municipalities will be held responsible. Scott agreed there was a lot of confusion about this. He also cautioned Chuck to be aware when he talked to other municipality contacts that that municipality may not have relinquished sewage permitting and enforcement to their county Health Departments. If they have not done so, they are correct that the local municipality will be held responsible. Scott added that there are quite a few counties in Pennsylvania where local municipalities have retained their own permitting and enforcement powers and who have their own SEOs doing permitting and enforcement of sewage systems.

Karen Bedics feels that Springfield Township will need knowledgeable help to make recommendations as to where sewage systems should be located on a property and what type of systems will work best when developments come into the Township. That individual will not only guide us, but could also assist the Bucks County Department of Health by providing educated input about the best way to manage sewage treatment in developments. Scott MacNair agreed with Karen and said that having a township SEO would provide the township with an element of security in the areas she mentioned by looking out for the township's interests as opposed to the County's interests. The local SEO would likely have more time than the County enforcement officer to look into the details of the developments and determine exactly where systems should be placed. Karen is hopeful that the BCDH will take the local SEOs seriously and value their input. Chuck Halderman pointed out that when the township raised issues about Springtown Knoll's proposed system, the DEP listened to the township's concerns and made the BCDH do what was required to correct the situation. Chuck did not feel the BCDH would have participated at all without pressure from the DEP. Karen felt that could have occurred because the homes and sewage systems in Springtown Knoll were not "up and functioning" yet, and the BCDH deals more with existing systems. Chuck feels that if we are not responsible for the systems, we should let the County bear the responsibility. Chuck feels the township needs to be vigilant now so that we are not forced in the future to provide public sewer systems.

Karen felt that Rettew & Assoc. was the best applicant reviewed for the sewage consultant position. They were well prepared, knowledgeable seemed to work well together, and had "done their homework" on Springfield Township. They also indicated they would work with the residents.

Rob Zisko wants the sewage development officer's authority to be limited to subdivisions of 5 or more lots. Rob bases this on the fact that the Township would be adding costs ranging from \$85 - \$130 an hour for a sewage enforcement officer that we are appointing to go out into the township and review systems. A property owner who just wants to subdivide his property so that two of his children can build homes will already have the expense of the consultant they must hire to design their septic system, do soil probes and all the other tests required for new sewage installations. In addition, they'll have to pay the Department of Health to have Art Carlson come to their property. Now, the township will be sending their own SEO to their property, who really has no authority, and that small homeowner will have to bear the expense for all those specialists. The township does not require a water resource impact study or internal roadways, or many of the other heavy duty studies for development under 5 lots. By the same token, Rob does not feel we should involve the local SEO in systems on developments of fewer than 5 lots.

Chuck does not agree and feels that the SEO should be involved in reviewing all sewage systems. He feels that helping property owners place their sewage systems in the best location/soils will in the end help them by ensuring they will have long-term success with their systems. Rob reminded Chuck that even though our own SEO may make recommendations about location, if BCDH issues a permit for a location that perks well, there is little the township can do on the local level to make the homeowner change the location. Chuck feels that we can deny waivers a homeowner requests to encourage them to move their system to soils the township feels are better for the system.

Karen Bedics understands the logic of what Rob Zisko is saying (no water resource study, internal roads, or other significant tests are required for subdivisions under five lots) and is willing to compromise on that issue if the other Board members will be more amenable to hiring an SEO. Karen moved to appoint Rettew & Associates as Springfield Township's sewage consultant for developments of five lots or more. Jim Brownlow seconded. Rob Zisko would have preferred Hanover Engineers, but is willing to go along with the candidate the Board wants. Jim Brownlow called for the question. Jim Brownlow called for the question. Voting Yes: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Rod Wieder, Rob Zisko. Voting No: Chuck Halderman.

#### **New Business**

**1. Resolution in Support of the Referendum for the Bucks County Bond Issue for Open Space Preservation –** Before Bucks County at this time is a referendum for an eighty-seven (87) million dollars for the acquisition of open space. Rich Schilling had discussion with some concerned township residents who told him there is a group that is requesting that one million dollars of that total be set aside for historic preservation. Knecht's Covered Bridge could possibly receive some of that money designated for historic preservation. Some concerned residents have already met with Congressman Murphy about Knecht's Bridge, and he will aggressively push to try to obtain federal funding to protect the bridge, but our residents feel that \$1,000,000 of the county's proposed funds should be set aside for historic preservation.

Rob Zisko feels this is a "win-win" situation for Springfield. He believes that twenty-five (25) million of the total bond amount has been designated for farmland preservation, eleven (11) million dollars goes to natural areas protection, twenty-six (26) million goes to municipal grants, seven (7) million goes to Delaware River and a portion goes to parks and recreation. Because all of Cooks Creek Watershed is considered a Priority 1 National Areas Site, a good portion of the 11 million dollars designated for natural areas protection could come to Springfield Township for preservation of Cooks Creek. In addition, a good portion of the 25 million set aside for farmland preservation could also come to Springfield Township because the township has so much prime agricultural soil.

Rich Schilling reminded the Board that they have the option to select between the referendum endorsement provided by Bucks County or the amended referendum endorsement submitted by citizens concerned about historic preservation.

Chuck Halderman is not comfortable voting to support either referendum until he knows exactly how the money will be spent. He feels that a lot of the money might be used to buy houses along the river, which to him is not preserving open space. He wants to see exactly how the money will be spent before he votes for either resolution.

Rob Zisko stated that the Open Space Committee had endorsed the eight-seven (87) million dollar bond issue being proposed by Bucks County. Rob Zisko moved that we adopt Resolution #2007-14, a Resolution by the Board of

Supervisors of the Township of Springfield, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to support the referendum for the Bucks County Bond Issue for Open Space Preservation. At Chuck Halderman's request, Rob read the entire resolution:

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2007 The Board of Commissioners of Bucks County approved a resolution to place a referendum on the November 6, 2007, ballot that would ask for the consent of the electorate to increase the debt of the County of Bucks in the amount of \$87 million for the acquisition of open space, *which includes one million (1) dollars to be utilized for Historic Preservation;* and

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield recognizes the importance of the preservation of open space within the Township and County as a whole.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Springfield hereby supports the \$87 million bond issue for the purpose of continued open space preservation throughout Bucks County.

Rob amended his motion to include the italicized section in the first paragraph above which sets aside \$1 million of the \$87 million bond for historic preservation. Rod Wieder **seconded** the motion; it **passed** unanimously.

**2. Appointment of Chief Code Enforcement & Zoning Officer** - Rich Schilling stated that based upon the executive session and interview conducted last Tuesday with David Taylor, the Board has expressed an interest in hiring this applicant. Rob Zisko **moved** to hire David Taylor as Chief Code Enforcement & Zoning Officer at a starting salary of \$58,000 per year effective upon full-time employment. Karen Bedics **seconded** the motion; it **passed** unanimously.

**3. Drop Pension Ordinance** – Scott MacNair stated this item is on the agenda for a decision by the Board as to whether it should be advertised. This Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) is required as part of the collective bargaining agreement. When a police officer is eligible to retire, this deferred retirement optional plan basically takes the officer's pension money and diverts it into an interest bearing account. The officer remains employed for five years, but neither the officer nor the township contributes any more to his retirement fund. One advantage for the township is that they will know when a police officer plans to leave. It may also encourage some long-term, experienced police officers to remain longer because they will be able to earn additional money on their retirement money without having to continue contributing to the fund. At the end of five years, the officer receives that money in a lump sum. This is one of the best retirement options available, and it is only available to police departments.

Rod Wieder **moved** that the township solicitor be authorized to advertise this amendment to the Springfield Township Police Pension Plan to authorize a Deferred Retirement Option Plan for participants in the Police Pension Plan. Rob Zisko **seconded** the motion; it **passed** unanimously.

**4. Grading Ordinance** – Jim Brownlow stated the Board received a copy of Solebury Township's ordinance relating to erosion control and grading. The question is whether the Board wishes to authorize our solicitor to draw up a similar ordinance for Springfield Township.

Scott MacNair offered to give a summary of the ordinance or answer any questions the Board might have. Rob Zisko asked whether these issues are not usually controlled by the Bucks County Conservation District. Scott stated that the BCCD is not technically to be dealing with earth disturbance of less than 5,000 square feet, and this ordinance pertains to disturbance of 1,000 or more square feet. Without a local ordinance, there would be a gap in legal enforcement for situations where earth disturbance between 1,000 and 5,000 square feet occurs. Scott MacNair is the attorney for the BCCD, and he has advised them they are actually not permitted to handle any erosion and sedimentation control issues where there is less than 5,000 square feet of disturbance. Rob Zisko asked what statute confines BCCD to earth disturbance enforcement for 5,000 square feet or more. Scott MacNair said the regulation appears in the PA Clean Water Act, Title 25 of the PA Code. Scott said that local township ordinances are permitted to be more restrictive than the BCCD regulations.

Jim Brownlow stated that the question before the Board is whether they want the solicitor to draw up a grading ordinance similar to Solebury's. Scott MacNair said that Bob Wynn has worked with this ordinance for at least five years and may want to have some input on some modifications to it.

Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize our solicitor to write a grading ordinance similar to the Solebury ordinance, review it with Bob Wynn and the newly appointed Code Enforcement & Zoning Officer and bring it back for the Board to review. Chuck Halderman **seconded** the motion; it **passed** unanimously.

**5. 2008 Budget Discussion** – Rich Schilling asked the Board if they had anything they wanted included in the 2008 budget.

Rich stated that Chief Laudenslager wants to expand the department, and Rich wants to know the feeling of the Board on this before they move forward with those discussions. Jim Brownlow wants to do the most that can be done globally with the funds currently available without any increase in taxes

Chuck would like to cut taxes if at all possible. Chuck would prefer to see a full-time police officer instead of two part-time officers. He feels this would be more productive in the long run.

Karen Bedics would like to allocate \$6,000 in the budget for next year's Community Day.

#### **Correspondence**

Jim Brownlow noted that a number of correspondence items had been received (listed on the agenda) and copies were distributed to the Supervisors.

#### **Public Comments - None**

**Karen Bedics moved** that the township staff make up and send certificates of appreciation to members of the Community Day Committee, Laila Mednis (program design), Rolling Pin Pastries (donation of pastries for the volunteers), the list of volunteers provided by Rose Strong and the Palisades Marching Band (list provided by Cindy McGurdy. Jim Brownlow **seconded** the motion; it **passed** unanimously.


**Karen Bedics** also asked that a website announcement be made that *Vials of Life* are available at the township for people with health issues or who take numerous medications. Health information is recorded on a form which is placed in a vial that is kept in or on the refrigerator. There is a sticker that is put on your refrigerator indicating where the *Vial of Life* is located so that emergency workers can locate valuable medical information about you quickly should you be unable to communicate the information.

**Rod Wieder** said some residents called him about the Springfield Elementary School sign. He understands that students sold items to procure a new sign for the school, and because it is lighted from the inside instead of the outside, they may need to get a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board to keep the sign. The residents are concerned about this, since the sign didn't cost the school anything. Rob Zisko asked what the Board can do, and Rich Schilling said they can waive the Zoning Hearing Board application fee, but he cautioned against waiving fees for private businesses or the elementary school. No action was taken on this issue.

#### **Adjournment**

At 9:45 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Rod Wieder **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra L. Everitt  
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meetings: October 23, 2007

Approved: