

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 present.

MINUTES 10/25/05

Jim Brownlow moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was 4 YES. Rod Wieder abstained.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

The Treasurer presented a bills list for the period October 10 through November 18, 2005 indicating payments of \$42,367.31 from the General Fund. Rob Zisko moved to approve the bills for the period October 10 through November 18, 2005. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

Road Department and Code Enforcement Officer Reports are posted.

Police Report – Chief Scott Huber reported for the month of October, there was a total of 97 incidents. There were 7 accidents and 14 traffic arrests. Five traffic warnings were issued.

Chief Huber reported there was one officer and the Chief on duty Halloween Night for Trick or Treat. The only incident was a missing child. The child was located quickly and returned to the frantic parents. The intent of the police department was to reduce speed in Springtown by using traffic control devices and police presence. These methods were successful.

Solicitor's Report – Jim McNamara did not have a report for this evening. He provided the Supervisors with an update of all open issues on November 15th. Jim Brownlow and Rod Wieder thanked the Solicitor for the update. There are sixteen issues in active status.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

Hans Reimann –commented on the Freeh Property. Hans is hopeful the Environmental Council will be used for open space.

Sandy Berry asked about recycling cinders.

Bob Bell believes the Board is appointing a police chief this evening because it is the easy option.

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #132

CABLE TELEVISION CUSTOMER SERVICE ORDINANCE

Solicitor Jim McNamara announced this is a public hearing to allow comment on the proposed Cable Television Customer Service Ordinance before the Board. Solicitor McNamara asked if there is any comment from the public. This Ordinance outlines a method to deal with complaints and impose fines.

Ken Simmons explained that Dr. Jim King and Tina Shaffer are not present this evening. Ken believes the consortium is making progress on the agreement. He thanked the Board for considering the Ordinance, which is an important component in the negotiations.

Jim McNamara commented this ordinance provides “teeth” for the township.

Hans Reimann believes it is a good ordinance. It is also good for the township to cooperate with other communities.

Hans asked if the 5% franchise fee paid to the township is passed along to the users. Hans would be interested to know if the users are being charged the amount of the fee paid to the township by Service Electric.

Jim McNamara explained the charge of 5% is federally mandated to basic cable users. This fee is fixed by federal law.

Pete Lamana moved to adopt Ordinance #132 Cable Television Customer Service Ordinance. Seconded by Chuck Halderman.

Discussion: Pete Lamana thanked Ken Simmons, Jim King and Tina Schaffer for an excellent job representing Springfield on the cable TV Consortium.

Chuck Halderman believes Hans brings up a good point about the fees.

Jim McNamara explained this is not an exclusive franchise. Any cable provider would pay the same 5% fee.

Vote was unanimous.

PERSONNEL

Appoint Scott M. Huber Police Chief.

Pete Lamana moved that we as a Board approve the appointment of Scott Huber as a working Police Chief for Springfield Township, Bucks County, and that as a working chief he assumes the responsibility for overseeing all staff and auxiliary service functions on a part-time basis in addition to performing the regular duties of a patrol officer. Second by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Increase Salary for Scott Huber

Jim Brownlow explained when the Board brought Scott on as probationary chief levels of pay were discussed. This is the final part of the initial offering. Jim Brownlow moved to approve an increase of \$1,000. for Scott Huber. Pete Lamana Seconded. Vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Allan Keller – Request that Township contact MTASA regarding additional EDU’S for Springfield Township residents.

Mr. Keller would like the Township Supervisors to formally request Milford Trumbauersville Sewer to make additional EDU’S available for residents of Zion Hill. Solicitor Jim McNamara

referred to a letter sent to the Township by the Solicitor for MTASA, which explains there are no more EDU's available to Springfield Township. Originally a sewer area was defined and 80 EDU's were allotted to Springfield. There are five remaining. Mr. McNamara feels this is a final decision. The 80 connections agreed upon are the only connections they are willing to provide.

Mr. Keller feels if the Board makes a formal request and it is turned down, he will know where he is in the matter. Rod Wieder believes it is the consensus of the Board members not to write to MTASA and request additional EDU's.

Prime Building Group – The Township received a letter dated November 16, 2005 from Attorney Edward M. Wild, Benner and Wild, representing the Prime Building Group. The letter states that Kirk Clauss, the Project Engineer for Prime Building Group developers of Tax Map Parcel 42-3-36 attended the Planning Commission meeting on November 2, 2005. It is Mr. Wild understands that the Planning Commission, through the administrative and professional staff, confirmed that the subject property is part of the agreement with the MTASA and Springfield Township regarding the provision of public sewer in the Zion Hill area. It is his further understanding that five EDU's remain unallocated for that area. The pending application proposes five single family building lots.

Mr. Wild has been informed by the MTASA Solicitor that the request for a “will serve” letter by Prime Building Group to allocate the remaining EDU's to this tract requires a letter from the Springfield Township Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wild is requesting that the Supervisors request MTASA issue a “will serve” letter for the pending project.

Pete Lamana moved to request MTASA to issue a “will serve” letter for the Prime Building Group Project proposed for Tax Parcel 42-3-36. Second by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Penn Meadows Subdivision – Public Improvements

Rod Wieder referred to a letter dated November 14, 2005 from Tim Fulmer, Wynn Associates reporting on the status of the public improvements. The outstanding items are:

1. The internal roadway must be added to the list of Township streets receiving liquid fuel funds from PennDOT. The Township should prepare the necessary submission package for application of liquid fuel funds, which includes deeds of dedication and record plan. Documents pertaining to deeds of dedication of the internal roadway should be furnished by the Township Solicitor, upon recordation at Bucks County Court House and if additional plans are necessary for submission to PennDOT, these must be forwarded to the township by the applicant.
2. Upon Township acceptance of dedication, financial security to guarantee satisfactory completion of the 18-month maintenance period in the amount of 15% of the cost of installation of improvements must be deposited by the developer, and remain in place for a minimum of 18-months from the date of dedication. Developer must arrange the deposit of financial security (\$70,139.44), in a form acceptable to the Township and Township Solicitor, prior to the Township releasing balance of escrow funds held for the completion of improvements associated with the approved subdivision plan and Development/Financial Security Agreement.

3. Developer is responsible for payment of all outstanding engineering, legal and Township administrative costs incurred by the Township during the course of subdivision approval and/or development activity.

Solicitor Jim McNamara needs legal descriptions for the road. Pete Lamana moved to table the matter to the December 13, 2005 meeting. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Salt Bids – The Township received the following bids:

International Salt	\$59.74 /ton Dump Delivery Price
Oceanport Industries	\$62.20/ton Dump Delivery Price
Eastern Salt	Incomplete packet – no price per ton included
Cargill	Did not bid

Rob Zisko moved to award the bid for 500 tons salt to International Salt at \$59.74 per ton. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2005-09 Contribute \$1,000 per acre for the preservation of the Freeh Property

Rob Zisko moved that Springfield Township contribute the sum of \$1,000. per acre, in addition to the sums already contributed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and by Bucks County, in order to purchase Conservation Easements from the Charles M. and Catherine M. Freeh Trust on Tax Parcels 42-21-10, 42-21-11, 42-21-13, 42-21-85, 42-21-94 and 42-21-96. The actual amount of our donation shall be based on the survey prepared for the purchase of the Conservation Easements by the Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and shall be in the form of \$1,000 from Springfield Township and \$9,000 contributed from the Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. I further move to authorize our Solicitor, James M. McNamara, Esquire, to execute any and all documents on behalf of Springfield Township in order to conclude the purchase of the Agricultural Conservation Easements. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2005-010 – Resolution Authorizing Bucks County to prepare Hazard Mitigation Plan

Rod Wieder referred to a letter dated October 21, 2005 from Bucks County Planning Commission regarding the impact of natural disasters on the county community and individual Municipalities. The Bucks County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee is preparing a hazard mitigation plan that will recommend actions to prevent or reduce the long term risks to life and property from a variety of hazards.

In order to qualify for federal aid for technical assistance and post-disaster funding, local municipalities must comply with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and it's impending Regulations.

Each municipality must make a decision to develop their own hazard mitigation plan or request the Township be included in the Bucks County Plan.

Mr. Wieder read the Resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF BUCKS TO ACT ON BEHALF OF SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP TO PREPARE A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000

WHEREAS, the Bucks County Planning Commission shall prepare a hazard mitigation plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, THE Bucks County Planning Commission is able to act on behalf of Springfield Township in the analysis and development of a hazard mitigation plan;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors authorizes Bucks County Planning Commission to prepare the Bucks County Hazard Mitigation Plan on behalf of Springfield Township, which shall be reviewed and considered for adoption by the Bucks County Commissioners upon completion.

Rob Zisko moved to adopt Resolution 2005-010. Second by Pete Lamana.

Discussion: Chuck Halderman couldn't get any information from the County about what this will cover. Vote was 4 YES. Chuck Halderman voted NO.

Chief Robert Heist, Shelly Fire Company– requesting increase in donations to Fire Companies

Chief Heist explained the costs to all of the emergency services organizations are constantly increasing. He requested the Board look at the possibility of increasing the donations for the year 2006. Chief Heist presented statistics showing the responses in Springfield by Shelly. Jim Brownlow would like to see a map of the Township indicating the coverage areas of the fire companies serving Springfield.

The Board briefly discussed increasing the donations for 2005.

Pete Lamana moved to increase the donations by 20% for 2005 and increase the amount in the 2006 budget. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

Letter from Pat Christiansen requesting recognition for her son achieving Eagle Scout

Pete Lamana referred to the letter dated November 4th. Pete recalls this is the second Eagle Scout in Springfield this year. This young man has an excellent record, according to the letter.

Rob Zisko moved to send a letter of congratulations to Fletcher Paul Christiansen. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

Walentine Subdivision – Extension to November 2006 to complete improvements

Rob Zisko moved to approve the request for an Extension to November 17, 2006 to complete the improvements for the Walentine minor Subdivision. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

Rod Wieder acknowledged a letter from Joseph Raynock regarding the Debrigida Subdivision.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Steskal stated there was a 30% turn out rate for the municipal elections.

Dennis also commented on a negative Ad placed in the Penny Power by Rod Wieder concerning Chuck Halderman. Dennis stated Mr. Wieder's circumvented Zoning Regulations to sell his business in Richland Township.

Joseph Raynock discussed his requests to DEP for information. He also stated that the Township is required to have a substantial escrow established by any developer who could negatively impact Cooks Creek. Jim McNamara will contact Kelly Sweeney at DEP to investigate the matter.

Pat Raynock has lived in the township for 23 years. She is concerned that the increasing development pressure can have a negative impact on the exceptional value water way. Funds are necessary to insure that any problems created in the creek by a developer do not become the responsibility of the township residents.

Pete Lamana commented he has enough confidence in the Planning Commission that this will not happen.

Karen Freeh discussed a letter sent to the water system users.

Hans Reimann referred to an article in the Bucks County Herald regarding a meeting to discuss the Highlands Preservation Project.

Leonora Halderman commented on an ad that appeared in the Penny Power regarding her husband. Mr. Wieder was a member of the Board that waived the zoning permit fees. The statements are false.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Pete Lamana stated all of the users of the Springtown Water System will have to pay for improvements to the system. Pete referred to a situation in 2002 regarding contaminated water.

Chuck Halderman stated there are three sub committees to evaluate the water system.

Rob Zisko would like to stop the negative comments and move forward.

Chuck Halderman asked if we will advertise for vacancies on Township Commissions. We will.

Jim Brownlow had no comments.

Rob Wieder welcomed Karen Bedics to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Brownlow moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara A. Smith
Secretary

