

## Board of Supervisors Meeting

### MINUTES

December 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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:** Terry Clemons, Solicitor; Bob Wynn, Township Engineer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police; Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; and Rich Schilling, Township Manager.

### Minutes

Rob Zisko **moved** to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2007, meeting as distributed. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rob Zisko **moved** to accept the minutes of the November 27, 2007, meeting as distributed. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Approval of Bills

Karen Bedics **moved** to accept the bills for payment as listed on the November 22 – December 7, 2007, bills list (\$3,616.46) and on the December 8 – 11, 2007, bills list (\$86,930.29). Karen noted that the \$60,000 payment to UBREMS was included in the December 8 – 11 bills listing. Rob Zisko asked whether the \$9,585.47 payment to Clemons, Richter Walsh & Reiss listed on the December 8 – 11 bills list was all paid from the General Fund and was told that it was paid from the General Fund. Jim Brownlow **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Reports

**Road Department Report** – (Posted on bulletin board) Jim Brownlow acknowledged a “Thumbs Up” to the Township’s Road Department in a recent edition of the Penny Power. Rich Schilling said that Rich Pursell, Road Master, is in the process of screening applicants to fill the budgeted full-time slot in his department.

**Zoning/Code Enforcement Report** – (Posted on bulletin board) Rob Zisko has concerns about the citation issued under Ordinance #48 (Nuisance Ordinance) to a township resident. He requested a copy of Ordinance #48 and asked for specifics about the citation. Rich Schilling said he thought the citation was for non-operable trailers parked on the property. Rob Zisko asked why there was a problem now with storage trailers that had been on a property for 35 – 40 years, probably placed there before the adoption of a nuisance ordinance. Rich said that a use on a property can be grandfathered, but junk on a property cannot be grandfathered, regardless of the length of time it was there. Not having seen the citation in question, Terry Clemons could not comment. Rich deferred Rob’s request for a copy of the citation issued to the resident to Terry Clemons, although he questioned whether it is appropriate for a supervisor to become involved in an issue in the initial stages of litigation.

**Police Report** – (Available for review on Township website) Chief Laudenslager said the police responded to 3 traffic accidents in November, involving 5 vehicles with 4 injuries. Additionally, they responded to 87 incidents, 21 involving criminal offenses. He said that he and Officer McDonald attended a two-day mandatory training course and both qualified with their duty side arms. Mark distributed a letter regarding the purchase of two speed curtailment devices—one a trailer and the other a post-mounted device—at a cost just \$100 more than the amount authorized by the Supervisors at a prior meeting for one device. These will permit effective monitoring on more township roadways. Mark also gave the Supervisors a copy of the Route 412 safety audit. Chuck indicated that the speed limit on Route 412 may be lowered to 40 MPH from Stoney Point to Route 611, according to a letter from Representative Paul Clymer. Mark said the pole-mounted device (for roads where the speeds are 45 MPH or lower) indicating motorists’ speed will also record various traffic data, i.e., traffic count, speeds, etc. The pole-mounted

units can interface with police computers. This information will help police follow up on complaints of speeding on roads. Mark doesn't know if the larger devices that sit along the side of larger roads with higher speed limits can be calibrated to record traffic data. He will check to see if they can be calibrated to provide this monitoring information for an additional cost. Rich can authorize the additional cost if it is under \$1,000, but if it is over \$1,000, the Board will need to authorize the purchase. Mark will report to the Board after he looks into this.

**Township Manager** – Rich Schilling highlighted key activities from his report. He said 2007 brought numerous challenges. Major transitions took place in the Police Department and the Zoning Office. In both cases, employees worked together to get the work done and effect smooth transitions. Rich requested that the Board authorize on a one-time basis that the staff be given a paid day off on Monday, December 24, as a reward for their excellent service during 2007. Rod Wieder **moved** to declare a one-time paid day off for Monday, December 24, 2007, in addition to the Christmas holiday on December 25. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rich said that arrangements to invest the \$5,000,000 Open Space Bond money in PLGIT were completed.

### **Presentation**

Jim Brownlow recognized Rod Wieder's 12 years of service as a supervisor and presented Rod with a plaque recognizing his service. Jim commended Rod for how much he invested himself into his service and for his care for the residents of the township. Rod said it was a pleasure to serve as a supervisor and he has tried to make a positive difference in the Township, although in recent years, health issues had required him to miss more meetings than he would have liked to. The residents and Board gave Rod an ovation.

Pete Lamana expressed his regret that Rod is leaving the Board. Pete served as a supervisor with Rod for a number of years, sometimes through difficult times, and always found him to be truthful and forthright. Pete added that he thought Barbara Lindtner is a good addition to the Board and will do a good job as a supervisor.

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

**Rose Strong** – Rose asked Chief Laudenslager if he could issue press releases about police activity to the newspapers. She is aware of some break-ins in her part of the Township. She and her neighbors are worried and rumors are being shared that may or may not be true. Mark indicated that the incidents she mentioned had been released to four different newspapers—Quakertown Free Press, The Morning Call, Intelligencer and Bucks County Herald—the day after the break-ins took place. Karen Bedics said she read the police report in the Bucks County Herald about the three burglaries. Mark agrees that it is important to keep people informed, as it helps raise peoples' awareness. Jim Brownlow suggested that these police reports also be placed on the Township website, and Mark will do this in the future.

### **Public Hearings**

**1. Hearing to Consider an Increase in Compensation for Supervisors** – Terry Clemons opened the hearing on this ordinance to increase supervisors' compensation (who take office after the date the ordinance is instituted) from \$25 to \$50 a meeting. The existing rate of \$25 per meeting rate took effect in 1995 with no increases made since that time. The statute permits a salary of \$1,875 for supervisors in townships with a population under 5,000. Springfield's population in the last census was 4,963. The ordinance was advertised in The Morning Call on December 4. There was no public comment.

Jim Brownlow **moved** to adopt Ordinance #143 increasing supervisors' pay from \$25 to \$50 per meeting. Rod Wieder **seconded** the motion. Karen Bedics feels that the amount paid to the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board members should also be reviewed for possible increases. Jim Brownlow would like hold this discussion until the next meeting in order to have more information about what we spend now and what would be spent if increases were given before taking action on increases for other committees. Jim called for the question. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, and Rod Wieder. Voting **No**: Chuck Halderman **Abstaining**: Rob Zisko

**2. Hearing to Consider an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance** – Terry Clemons office prepared this ordinance to amend the recently adopted Zoning Ordinance. The advertisement for this hearing appeared in the Morning call on November 27 and December 4, 2007, the Springfield Township and Bucks County Planning Commissions reviewed it and it was available for public review at the township building and on the website. Terry

briefly described some of the options it provides. Terry opened the hearing for public comment. There was no public comment.

Jim Brownlow **moved** to adopt Ordinance #144 to amend the Zoning Ordinance as advertised and as described by Terry Clemons. Chuck Halderman **seconded** the motion. A discussion followed about the mining provision contained in the proposed ordinance.

Rich Schilling provided each supervisor with a copy of a December 10, 2007, letter received from Ray Bodnar expressing his concern about the proposed ordinance. Jim Brownlow called for the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously. (The ordinance is available on the township website.)

**3. Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance #136 (EMS Tax) and Institute an Ordinance to Conform to the Local Services Tax that replaced the EMS tax** - Terry Clemons noted that the EMS tax was adopted in December 2006. Pennsylvania recently passed legislation changing the name of the tax and changing the deduction from a one-time deduction of \$52 to a deduction taken incrementally from each payroll throughout the year. Chuck asked if there was a section in the proposed ordinance indicating a certain percentage of the money collected from this tax must go to the local emergency services (EMS, police and Fire). He was advised that change was located on page 10, Section 501.D. where 25% is earmarked for local emergency services. Jim Brownlow opened discussion to the public. There being no public discussion, Chuck Halderman **moved** to adopt Ordinance 145. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Planning Matters

**1. Adler Land Development & Lot Consolidation Plan (Clay Avenue/Route 309)** – Jerry Adler, applicant, and Eric Tobin, Attorney for the applicant (Eastburn and Gray, P.C.), were present. Bob Wynn said this plan received preliminary approval in September 2007. Since then, the applicant submitted a final plan, which the Planning Commission reviewed. Referring to his review letter of November 20, 2007, Bob indicated the Planning Commission had recommended final approval of this plan conditional upon satisfactory completion of Items 1, 5 and 6 of his engineering review. These items involve consolidation of TMP's 42-4-54-3 and 42-4-54-6 into a single deed, dedication of the ultimate right-of-way of Clay Avenue, and execution of a Development/Financial Security Agreement for required improvements.

Eric Tobin indicated that all of the conditions are acceptable to the applicant. Rob Zisko **moved** that conditional final approval be granted to the Adler Land Development & Lot Consolidation, based upon completion of the items listed in the November 20, 2007, engineering review letter. Rod Wieder **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. (The waivers involved received approval along with the preliminary plan in September.)

**2. Metzger Subdivision (Route 212)** – The Board acknowledged that an extension until March 31, 2008, had been extended by the applicant, Donald Metzger, for this plan.

### Old Business

**1. 2008 Budget Adoption** – Rich Schilling, Township Manager, reviewed highlights of the budget. He covered these points:

- Expected revenues and expenditures are \$1,735,850.00. The Board authorized that \$95,000 be taken from the General Fund Reserve to begin the revision process of the township's Act 537 plan and to purchase equipment needed by the Road Department.
- The budget includes a provision for hiring two additional, full-time police officers by March 2008. This is actually only an increase of one officer, as three officers were budgeted for 2007.

Jim Brownlow said that the required advertisement of the budget took place and the document has been available at the Township and on the Township website for public review. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt the 2008 budget as presented. Karen Bedics **seconded** the motion.

Karen Bedics told residents one of the main reasons the Act 537 plan needs revision is that the DEP is mandating that townships begin managing sewage within their townships. Revising the Act 537 will help the township be prepared for that change. Chuck Halderman added that this study will provide information about the status of

existing systems and will help the township address future sewage needs. Jim Brownlow added this topic will be on the January agenda for discussion.

Although Rod Wieder feels the Manager is doing an excellent job, he expressed concern about the 13% increase included in the 2008 budget for him. Speaking on behalf of the taxpayers, Rod feels this increase is too high and he cannot vote for the budget with that large an increase.

Jim Brownlow acknowledged that 13% is a significant increase. However, he is looking at this from the perspective of how much it would cost to replace our manager with another competent manager. After reviewing the market numbers, Jim feels it would cost at least as much to replace the Manager as is being proposed for his salary in the 2008 budget.

Rob Zisko agrees with Rod that the budget numbers have increased significantly. His concern is not just the Manager's increase, but also moving from a \$40,000+ zoning officer to a \$60,000+ zoning officer, higher legal costs, etc. Although Rob understands we need to keep pace with the "market," he feels there is too much difference between what township employees are paid and what employees in the private sector are paid.

Karen Bedics said the supervisors reviewed a chart comparing salaries received by other managers in Bucks County. The average manager's salary in Bucks County is \$86,000. Our manager's salary will be well under that average (\$82,000). He saved over \$47,000 in medical insurance costs in 2007, while at the same time, adding two full-time employees to the staff. He saved additional money in the 2008 budget by switching insurance carriers. An additional \$50,000 was saved during negotiation of the new police contract. While the manager's raise is substantial, he has saved the township a lot of money by cutting operating costs.

Rich noted that two part-time managers were included in the survey figures that Karen averaged. Averaging salaries of just full-time managers, the average wage in Bucks County is \$91,000. Rod questioned whether the salaries averaged represented managers from comparable-sized townships. He said in the past, Springfield Township has attempted to be in parity with townships in Upper Bucks County, and he feels the salary average for surrounding, comparable-sized townships, would be lower.

Chuck pointed out that Rich puts in a lot of extra time attending various meetings in the evenings, which never happened in the past. Chuck pointed out that in an executive session, the supervisors present at that session made their decision on what to pay the manager after a careful discussion about what percentage they felt the Township should pay its manager in comparison with other managers in the county.

Jim called for the motion to approve the budget. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Chuck Halderman, Rob Zisko. Voting **No**: Rod Wieder.

**2. Grading Ordinance** – The supervisors received grading ordinances from Wrightstown and Solebury Townships to review. Terry feels that Bob Wynn's insights will be valuable in reviewing these ordinances, as his office provides engineering services to Solebury Township and has experience working with their grading ordinance. Chuck Halderman **moved** to authorize Terry Clemons and Bob Wynn to review the Solebury Township Grading Ordinance and prepare a draft ordinance for consideration by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Karen Bedics **seconded** the motion. Rob Zisko feels the township is enacting too many new ordinances. Chuck thinks a grading ordinance will help the township manage and enforce water runoff problems in the future. After additional discussion, Jim Brownlow called for the question. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Chuck Halderman, Rod Wieder. Voting **No**: Rob Zisko.

**3. Appointment of a Township Representative to the UBREMS Board** – Chuck Halderman **moved** to appoint Rod Wieder to represent Springfield Township on the UBREMS Board. Rob Zisko **seconded**. UBREMS Board meetings are on the third Monday of each month at various locations. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Chuck Halderman, Rob Zisko. **Abstaining**: Rod Wieder.

**4. Zoning Hearing Board Expansion** – Terry Clemons said to increase the Zoning Hearing Board from its current 3 members to a 5-member Board would require enactment of a resolution by the Supervisors. The resolution should also provide for appointment of the ZHB members on a staggered term basis as well as identifying how many alternates would serve on the ZHB.

Rod Wieder contacted 11 surrounding townships (Tinicum, Durham, Nockamixon, Haycock, Milford, Lower Saucon, Upper Saucon, Richland, East Rockhill and West Rockhill) and inquired how many members served on their Zoning Hearing Boards. All of these townships have 3-member ZHB's except Plumstead Township, where he questions the validity of the information he received—four members on the ZHB. Rod pointed out that our solicitor advised against moving to a 5-member ZHB. Although there are enough applicants to fill the proposed five ZHB positions, it has been difficult in the past to fill ZHB positions. Rod feels the current 3-member Board system is working adequately, and he is against increasing the ZHB to 5 members. Rob Zisko agrees with Rod Wider.

Karen Bedics does not agree that the current ZHB is “working,” in that the Supervisors recently learned that a decision made by Springfield Township’s ZHB was overturned in the Courts. She said another decision made by the ZHB is heading to the Courts. She thinks with more people on the ZHB, there will be more input, more thought going into decisions, more questions asked, and more eyes on the issues being presented. She also feels there are good applicants available for the additional positions.

Chuck Halderman pointed out that he expects there to be more Zoning Hearings with the new Zoning Ordinance and township growth. He thinks we need additional people on the ZHB to support those increased hearings. He also thinks more diversity is needed on the ZHB, and that there are qualified people who have indicated their interest in serving on the ZHB.

Jim Brownlow asked what Chuck meant by “diversity” on the ZHB. Chuck said he meant a diverse group of people representing the township. Jim feels the concerns expressed are more with how the existing ZHB is functioning. He isn't sure adding members will resolve the issues, rather it may actually “muddy the waters.” Jim feels that the Board should raise the concerns they have with the ZHB, not about a particular finding; rather, how they are doing their jobs. Terry said the ZHB is a quasi-judicial body with specific guidelines under the Municipal Planning Code. There are several courses of action possible:

- 1) If there is disagreement with a hearing finding, the Board can appeal their decision.
- 2) If the Board feels there is a consistent problem, a member can be replaced when his term expires,
- 3) If there are issues with attendance of a ZHB member at hearings or preparedness for a hearing, that may be an issue to discuss with that ZHB member.

Terry does not feel it would be appropriate to tell the ZHB how to do their job. Jim understands there are five basic questions that must guide each hearing decision. If those questions are not guiding the hearing decision or if the ZHB is not receiving and reviewing all the information required at each hearing, then he feels the Board needs to address these issues. Terry stated he has served as solicitor for a number of ZHB's, and if every ZHB strictly adheres to those five requirements, there would be very few variances granted. It has been his experience that if all the neighbors around an applicants' property have an opportunity to express how they feel about the request, and the ZHB determines no harm would occur by granting an applicant's request, they granted it. The township always has a right to appeal the decision. He stated the Board can set the tone of how the ZHB operates by expressing their expectations regarding zoning issues, i.e., whether you expect the ZHB to strictly follow the five guiding questions or whether the Supervisors are comfortable if the ZHB offer some latitude, based on neighbors' reactions, etc.

Rich pointed out that the ZHB has its own solicitor who should assist them as necessary by pointing out what the MPC states on various issues they are discussing. If the ZHB members are not receiving the legal guidance they need, this could also result in legal challenges to their decisions. Although appointment of the ZHB solicitor is outside the purview of the Board of Supervisors, they do set his compensation rate at the Re-organization meeting.

Karen is concerned because she does not know the recently appointed ZHB member that the Board placed as a permanent member without conducting an interview. Chuck added that member has had to recuse himself many times because he is a developer. Chuck does not object to a developer being on the ZHB, but if there are two developers and one non-developer, he does not think there is enough diversity on the ZHB. He also thinks it is important that they make their decisions solely based upon the township's zoning, not what feels good. Chuck is not only concerned about what it costs an applicant to go before the ZHB; he is equally concerned about what it costs other residents or the township to challenge improperly made decisions of the ZHB.

Jim feels careful selection of ZHB members is a better solution to the concerns expressed than increasing the number of people on the ZHB. Chuck thinks that the size of the ZHB (one of the most important committees) should be more in line with other committees, most of which have five to seven members. Jim pointed out that one

of the seated ZHB member's terms is up this year and it would provide an opportunity to appoint a different individual to replace him.

Chuck Halderman **moved** to expand the ZHB to five members and two alternates. Karen Bedics **seconded** the motion. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Chuck Halderman. Voting **No**: Jim Brownlow, Rod Wider, Rob Zisko. Motion **denied**. Jim suggested that the problem be resolved through the ZHB appointment process.

### **New Business**

**1. Resolution for Interviewing Candidates for Vacancies on a Board or Committee** – The Township adopted the existing resolution covering this procedure in 2000. It requires that the Supervisors interview applicants for any vacancy. The newly proposed resolution has three parts:

- a. Advertising for potential vacancies would occur annually in December, although residents could submit a letter of interest at any time for any opening during the year. The Township would retain all applications for the following year.
- b. The Supervisors can interview candidates at their discretion.
- c. Appointments to fill openings will take place at the January Re-organization meeting from the list of interested applicants. Should vacancies occur during the year, appointments would take place at a regular meeting of the Board, choosing from among applications received from citizens interested in serving.

Rich Schilling said it does not appear that the Board complied with the 2000 resolution that “requires” that the Board interview every candidate, according to any notes on file. He thinks the Board was not aware of the resolution requiring interviews.

Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt Resolution 2007-017. Rod Wieder **seconded** the motion. Chuck asked for clarification about how it would be determined when to interview an applicant. Jim said that if any supervisor wanted to conduct an interview, and a majority of the Board voted to conduct the interview, it would take place. Jim called for the question. The motion **passed** unanimously.

**2. Sealed Bids for 1988 Corsair Travel Trailer** – After advertising the travel trailer, the township received two bids:

- \$600 bid from Art Heist
- \$855 bid from Michael & Carol Tyson

Rich Schilling said that the trailer was donated to the township. Rob Zisko **moved** to award the bid to Michael & Carol Tyson, the highest bidders. Rod Wieder **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**3. Planning Commission Projects** – The Board received a letter dated December 6, 2007, from Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson of the Planning Commission, outlining projects that the Board prioritized for the Planning Commission at their June 26, 2007, Board meeting. The items listed were:

- Draft SWM Ordinance (Draft will be reviewed at the January 17 Planning Commission meeting)
- SALDO Amendments to bring SALDO into compliance with new Zoning Ordinance (Draft will be reviewed at the January 17 Planning Commission meeting)
- Cooks Creek Watershed Overlay District
- Central Business District
- Private Organization C-11
- Park & Recreation Plan

Barbara Lindtner noted that the Board never officially authorized the Planning Commission to proceed with work on the items. The Board also received a memo dated December 6, 2007, from Bob Wynn outlining the SALDO revisions necessary to bring the SALDO into conformity with the recently revised Zoning Ordinance.

Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize the Planning Commission to move ahead with reviewing and making recommendations to the Board on the items listed in the December 6, 2007, letter from Barbara Lindtner, and to authorize Bob Wynn to draft an ordinance to make the needed SALDO changes for the Planning Commission to review for recommendation to the Board. Chuck Halderman **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**4. November 26, 2007, letter from Scott Douglas requesting a letter or certificate acknowledging James W. Douglas achieving the rank of Eagle Scout** – Jim Brownlow **moved** that the township recognize and congratulate

James Douglas for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Karen Bedics will represent the township at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on January 12, 2008. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Correspondence

Jim Brownlow noted that the supervisors received copies of the correspondence listed on the agenda.

### Public Comments

**Bruce Whitesell (Route 212)** – Bruce feels that the residents would received decisions made by the ZHB better if there were five members on the ZHB. He thinks residents feel as though the Zoning Hearing Board is a “closed” club and expanding it would help to change that perception

**Rose Strong** – Rose asked for comment on the PP&L letter listed under correspondence. Rich gave Rose a copy of the PP&L correspondence.

She requested clarification on the January Board Meeting date. Rich Schilling said the law requires that the reorganization meeting be held on January 7. The Board must decide whether to hold their regular meeting on January 8. The Board decided to hold two meetings—the Re-organization Meeting on January 7 and the regular meeting on January 8. Terry Clemons will only attend the January 8 meeting.

**Pete Lamana** - Pete commented on the salary increases included in the budget. Pete questioned why the Road Master did not receive an appreciable pay increase, when he is on call virtually every day. Regarding the averaging of local township managers’ salaries, Pete feels that factors like industry in the township, people supervised, etc., need to be considered as well as averaging similar townships together. Springfield Township has fewer than 5,000 residents, virtually no industry, and a small staff. Pete is not disputing the caliber of the work done by Springfield Township’s manager, rather the basis of comparison upon which it was determined.

Pete does not think sexuality should be an issue when discussing candidates for any appointment. Pete feels the Township should recognize young people who excel in various ways rather than just when young people do wrong. He would like the Board to begin recognizing outstanding scholarship achievements, even if it is only verbal recognition of the achievement.

Pete applauds Rod Wieder for contacting other townships regarding the size of their Zoning Hearing Boards. Pete agrees with the Board’s decision to keep Springfield’s ZHB at three members.

**Willard Weierbach** – Willard asked about the date for the meeting with PP&L and township residents. Rich Schilling said the meeting will be held on February 19 at the Springtown Fire Hall. A press release and the Township’s website will alert residents to the meeting. PP&L will be more responsive to the needs if a large number of residents attend. Residents were encouraged to talk with their neighbors about attending this important meeting. Chuck is interested in learning what township residents have already signed easement agreements with PP&L, as this will help identify the proposed route of the line through the township.

### Supervisors Comments

**Karen Bedics** – Karen asked Pete Lamana what comment he took exception to about women filling township positions. Pete said that Chuck had made a comment about a woman serving on the ZHB. Chuck indicated his comment followed a comment Rod Wieder made about a woman who applied for a position on the ZHB. Karen assured Pete that she, as a woman, had not taken exception to any of the discussion that occurred during this meeting. She felt that female representation, as well as other types of representation, was part of the discussion about having “diversity” on the ZHB.

She also questioned what Pete meant about recognizing young people—athletes, scholars, etc. Pete said he meant Springfield Township youth who attend schools in the Palisades School District. Karen said that if the township was made aware of young people who excelled, they would be glad to recognize them. Pete said The Morning Call normally lists young people’s achievements. Karen does not think the township has adequate staff to go through the papers looking for this information. She pointed out that the township recognized the Eagle Scout’s achievement

because a letter was received advising the township of the achievement and requesting the township to participate in the award ceremony by in some manner acknowledging the achievement.

Karen asked about a letter received from a township landowner who lives in Wyoming regarding the elected township tax collector. It was the consensus of the Board that the manager should respond to the letter writer acknowledging that the Board received their letter, but has no control over the tax collector, because the tax collector position is an elected position.

Karen questioned Bob Wynn about the letters received from the Bucks County Conservation District about an Auto Salvage company in violation of the The Clean Streams Law. Bob Wynn said that this is an ongoing issue. Chuck asked if having a grading ordinance in place would have helped in controlling this problem. Bob is uncertain if the property owner is expanding the use beyond what is permitted, but Rich Schilling added that Dave Taylor, Zoning Officer, is following up on this issue. Chuck requested Terry Clemons to obtain information about this. Terry Clemons will:

- 1) Review the previous court order spelling out what this salvage company can legally do on the property,
- 2) Determine what has occurred on the property since that order was issued and whether what has happened is within permissible bounds,
- 3) Determine if there is a violation of the court order. Should that be the case, Terry will recommend that the Board and/or Township take appropriate action against the salvage company.

**Chuck Halderman** and **Rob Zisko** thanked Rod Wieder for his twelve years of service as a supervisor. Rod noted he has fourteen file boxes of material accumulated during his tenure as a supervisor. He showed the Supervisors a copy of the original 1966 Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance, which was much smaller than the ordinance recently passed. He has enjoyed his time working with various supervisors, and encouraged them not to lose sight of the fact that they are working with taxpayers' money when they make decisions. He feels very comfortable with Barbara Lindtner assuming the role of supervisor and wishes her well in her new position.

**Rich Schilling** responded to Pete Lamana's observation about the Road Master not receiving a significant pay increase. Rich agrees that the Road Master's pay was too low in the past. The first year Rich Schilling became Manager, the Road Master received a 4% pay increase. This last year, following discussion initiated by the Manager with the Road Master, a pay increase of 12% was put into the 2008 budget to bring the Road Master's pay rate up to what it should be.

### **Adjournment**

At 10:23 p.m., Jim Brownlow **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Rod Wieder **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt  
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: January 7, 2008  
Approved: January 22, 2008