

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

December 14, 2010

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

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

Also present: Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott MacNair, Co-Solicitor; Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

Approval of Minutes

Volker Oakey **moved** to adopt the minutes of the November 9 meeting as presented. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics **moved** to approve the following bills paid from November 10 - December 14, 2010:

1. General Fund	\$ 64,796.15	4. Subdivision & Escrow Funds	\$ 8,026.16
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 6,972.50	5. Open Space EIT Fund	\$238,145.02
3. Special Fees Fund	\$ 5,760.53	6. Open Space Bond Account	\$771,087.39

Barbara Lindtner **seconded**. Karen Bedics noted that the General Fund expenses included the Township's donations to the fire companies and EMS squads that service our township. Jim called for the question. The motion **passed** unanimously.

No Public Comment on Agenda Items

Presentation to Chairman Jim Brownlow

Barbara Lindtner, Vice Chair, noted that the room was more crowded than normal in honor of Jim Brownlow's last meeting as a supervisor. On behalf of the Board and the residents of Springfield Township, Barbara presented an outstanding service award plaque to Jim in appreciation for years of dedicated service to Springfield Township as a supervisor and as a member of the Planning Commission. Jim expressed his gratefulness for the opportunity he has had to serve in the Township. It has been his pleasure to work with all those present in the room. He is pleasantly and continually amazed at the dedication of township residents. He is leaving with some misgivings to follow a dream which he has had his entire life.

Barbara then presented Jim with a beautiful photograph of Knecht's Covered Bridge with signatures on the matting of the supervisors, committee chairpersons and various others with whom Jim has worked closely. Jim was overwhelmed and he will be hanging the photograph in a place where he will be reminded of Springfield Township. Barbara opened the floor for public comment.

Ken Simmons pointed to Jim as a shining example of the good people found in Springfield Township. He pointed out that some of the decisions Jim has made helped to make the township what it is today; specifically noting Jim's zeal in keeping the Springtown water system under the control of local people.

Peter Lamana recalled when Jim was approached to fill a position on the Board and he did not refuse. Ever since, Jim has done a commendable job through some rough times, and Pete appreciates that. He thanked Jim for his service and for his loyalty to the Township.

Bobb Carson said he normally does not now attend Supervisors meetings, because the Planning Commission (on which he serves) has come to rely upon the Board to 'do the right thing.' Prior to Jim's involvement on the Board, they felt they needed to

come to every supervisors' meeting because unplanned things would take place that no one was prepared for. Bobb attributes a lot of the current smooth operation to Jim's leadership, for which he thanked Jim.

Rose Strong said that Jim's presence on the Board has made it a pleasure for her to prepare newspaper reports of this township's Board meetings over the years he has served. Prior to Jim's involvement, the meetings could become volatile and difficult at times. It has been a pleasure watching Jim keep order and keep things under control. With regard to her service as a volunteer, Jim has helped to make it a real pleasure, and he will be missed. Jim has helped to make her proud of the supervisors.

Willard Weierbach thanked Jim for the good job he has done. He also thanked Jim for thanking him for his display at Community Day.

Sandy Everitt said that the article on leadership that appeared in the December *Township News* sounded like it was written about Jim. It highlighted things such as listening to people, summarizing what was important to people, etc. Jim often sits in meetings, saying very little and not appearing to take notes, while everyone gives their excited comments about whatever the topic is, and then Jim summarizes with something like, "If I heard correctly, this is how you feel . . . 1), 2) and 3). He manages to condense all the divergent views into upon which everyone can agree. She added that Jim was gifted to be a leader.

Jeff Lindtner said Jim inspires people in his own special way. It has been a pleasure to watch Jim lead. When times are good, Jim brings a sense of humor to this group. When times are bad, it is a lot harder, and Jeff does not recall watching any other individual serving as chairman lead the group in confrontational meetings in such a way that people who may be on the other side actually thanked him at the end of the meeting. That is an uncommon trait which he wishes more people could emulate. Jim will be missed.

Jim thanked each person for their part in making Springfield Township a place he was very proud to be part of--Water Authority, Community Day, Tire Recycling, etc. He received a standing ovation from those present.

Appointment of New Supervisor

Jim added the selection of a replacement for his position to the agenda at this point. Because this was not on the agenda, a unanimous vote will be required. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to appoint Dave Long as a supervisor to fill Jim Brownlow's position, effective December 16, 2010. Karen Bedics **seconded**. Rob Zisko feels that Curtis Reiss would bring a police background to the Board, which is now lacking, but because the other supervisors feel differently, in the spirit of getting Dave prepared for Board service, Rob will support the motion. Jim called for the question. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko. **Abstaining**: Jim Brownlow. The motion **carried**. The Board welcomed Dave.

Governmental Matters

Rich Schilling noted the recent PA Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council's vote mandating sprinklers in all new one- and two-family residences and townhomes built in PA that will take effect on January 1, 2011. This could add from \$15,000 - \$30,000 to the cost of a home which is serviced by a well. Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize Rich Schilling to send a letter to our legislators voicing our opposition to this requirement. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Planning Matters

1. Cuff Subdivision (Passer Road) - This three-lot subdivision completed required improvements other than the storm water facilities. There is an existing house on one lot and neither of the other lots have sold. The applicants live in South Carolina, and with the completion of the maintenance period, they have requested that the Township release the remaining escrow funds, with the future purchasers of the two lots assuming the responsibility of posting storm water escrow funds prior to issuance of a building permit. Bob recommended return of the escrow. Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize the release of the remaining escrow funds to applicants Peter Cuff and Lisa Entstrasser. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Summit Farms/aka Mandarin Subdivision (Moyer Road) - The maintenance period has been successfully completed for this subdivision. Bob recommends accepting completion of the maintenance period, but withholding \$19,101.50 to guarantee lot improvements. Following a question from Barbara Lindtner about how long we hold escrow funds, Bob stated he will be reviewing some of the older escrow accounts to see if there are any funds which can and should be returned to the applicants. Karen

Bedics **moved** to accept completion of improvements but to retain \$19,101.50 to guarantee completion of improvements. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

1. Resolution for a Conservation Easement on TMP 42-021-126 - Scott MacNair indicated the Resolution pertains to the 30.2023-acre Mesko property conservation easement. The township cost will be \$3,393/acre with an equivalent amount coming from Bucks County. The resolution approves payment from township open space funds of \$102,476. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt Resolution 2010-022 to purchase a conservation easement on the 30.2023-acre Mesko property at a cost of \$102,476. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Dave Long requested authorization to remove the requirement for two families who were inadvertently given incorrect information to reimburse the township for second appraisal costs of approximately \$4,400 if they do not proceed with closing. Karen Bedics **moved** that an exception be made to the policy (for two families only) that requires the township to be reimbursed for second appraisals if they do not proceed to closing. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. 2011 Budget Adoption - Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt the properly advertised 2011 budget with total estimated revenue and expenses of \$1,449,826. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Authorize Advertising for Act 537 Final Review and Adoption - Bob Wynn clarified that the Act 537 plan has already been adopted and approved by DEP. No additional action is required at this time. What will be required in the future is adoption of an Ordinance pursuant to the Act 537 to require on lot septic system maintenance. The Ordinance will not be sufficient in and of itself. It will require adopting a resolution to establish registration forms, a fee schedule, a procedure for notification to property owners, etc. The resolution will also outline to what extent the township will inspect properties. This will require discussion to prepare. Bob Wynn suggested that he work with Bobb Carson and Rich Schilling to come up with a draft of the resolution for the Board to review. When they are satisfied, both the ordinance and the resolution could be adopted at the same meeting in the future. Adoption of the Ordinance and supporting resolution are not required immediately after adoption of the Act 537; Bob thinks there is up to a six-month period in which they can be prepared and adopted. Rich asked when DEP can be billed to reimburse the Township for half the costs of adopting the Act 537. Bob Wynn stated that billing could be done now.. Bob does not think DEP needs to approve the ordinance and the resolution.

4. Proposed Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance - Bob Wynn said that the Springfield Township Planning Commission reviewed and revised the proposed SALDO in response to suggestions made by the Bucks County Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors needs to discuss the SALDO before it is again forwarded to the BCPC. A discussion of the SALDO will be placed on the January 25, 2011, Board agenda. Rich Schilling will provide hard copies of the SALDO pages containing changes that Bob Wynn recently emailed to him.

5. Bonuses in Lieu of Increases - The police did not receive an increase in 2010. The Board deferred a discussion of bonuses to this agenda from the November meeting. If the police receive 2% bonuses, the cost would be \$4,911.40. Rich noted that the police department did not receive increases in two of the past four years. Jim clarified with Rich Schilling that he also had not received an increase in 2010 or 2011. Jim feels that Rich should also receive the 2% bonus, which would be between \$1,600 and \$2,000. Using the Special Fees Fund to fund the bonuses was discussed, but the Board decided not to use this fund, but to use the General Fund for this expense. Volker Oakey **moved** to award 2% bonuses to the police and to Rich Schilling. Karen Bedics **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey. Voting **No**: Rob Zisko

New Business

1. Authorization to Purchase Printer for the GIS Program - Rich Schilling presented information on a Canon imagePROGRAF iPF700 printer he located on Municibid. The printer is offered by Tunkhannock Township and has been used only about 10 times. Tunkhannock Township purchased the printer for \$5,000 and is willing to sell it to Springfield Township for \$1,000. With this printer, the Township will be able to print 36" maps. Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize Rich Schilling to purchase the printer for \$1,000 to be taken from the Special Fees Fund. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Authorize Final Payment for Act 537 Update - Barbara Lindtner moved to authorize the final payment of \$4,277.41 from the Special Fees Fund to Lombardo Associates for their consultant work in completing the Act 537 plan. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

No Public Comments

Supervisors Comments

Volker Oakey again thanked Jim Brownlow for his service and welcomed Dave Long to the Board.

Karen Bedics will miss Jim and has appreciated his help in keeping her 'on track.'

She requested clarification on tire recycling revenue and expense. Karen advised the Board that Dushant Sharma received approval from the Zoning Hearing Board recently to move forward with his plans for his service station in Pleasant Valley. He will be returning to the Planning Commission with revised plans. Karen was impressed with the Zoning Hearing Board meeting and noted there were a number of happy people who left the hearing that evening. Karen questioned Bob Wynn about high engineering survey costs for a particular conservation easement.

Barbara Lindtner again thanked Jim for his mentoring in her life; she will not forget him.

Rob Zisko expressed his appreciation for all Jim's efforts on behalf of Springfield Township. He thanked Jim for making the Board a cohesive unit. He encouraged Jim to become involved in his new location.

Rob asked for an update on the burning ordinance. Rich will follow up with Terry on this and the Board asked that he place this on the January 25 agenda for discussion.

Jim Brownlow expressed his appreciation for the people who make up Springfield Township. They made it easy to serve. Although they did not always agree on everything, they were able to talk through the issues and reach a consensus that permitted the Township to move forward.

Adjournment

At 8:45 p.m., Barbara Lindtner moved to adjourn the meeting. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary

Next meeting: January 3, 2011 (Re-Organization Meeting) - 7:30 p.m.

Approved: January 25, 2011