

## Board of Supervisors

### MINUTES

December 13, 2011

**Supervisors Present:** Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey, Dave Long and Rob Zisko

**Also present:** Terry Clemons, Solicitor; Officer-In-Charge Mike McDonald; John Oehler, Supervisor-Elect; Rich Schilling, Township Manager; Sandy Everitt, Township Secretary/Treasurer and Jason Wager, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss real estate matters.

### Approval of Minutes

Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt the November 17, 2011, minutes as presented. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt the November 22, 2011, minutes as amended. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Bills for Approval

Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the following bills paid from November 18 – December 8, 2011:

1. General Fund	\$ 22,194.88	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 6,482.25
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 3,890.75		
3. Open Space	\$232,419.56		

Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Reports

**Road Department (posted)** – The October and November reports were reviewed. Karen Bedics asked if the garage roof repair had been completed. Rich Schilling verified that the work has been finished. Rob Zisko asked if Rich Pursell has received any quotes for tree trimming of large leaning trees and high hanging branches. Rich Schilling believed there has been and will verify to see if any quotes have been received. Karen Bedics wanted Rich Schilling to remind Rich Pursell about replacing the “Welcome to Springfield Township” sign on State Road.

All roads have had the final mowing of the season and several signs were installed around the township. There has been major storm clean up from the snowstorm on 10/29/2011. They continue to prepare for the upcoming winter and Rich Pursell is interviewing for part-time snowplow drivers.

**Police Report** – The total calls for service in October and November was 321 along with around 100 calls taken by the State Police. Police schedules have been adjusted to cover more time on the road to handle the increase in serious calls for service. Officer-in-Charge Mike McDonald stated that many of the crimes being committed in the township are by people living outside Springfield Township. Mike is attempting to coordinate with Lehigh & Northampton counties to help remedy this.

The Springfield Township Police Department is the first in Bucks County to have all of their officers trained for CIT or the Crisis Intervention Team. This is a 40-hour program and certification to respond to mental health situations. The officers are able to respond to mental health situations in other townships to help those police departments. There was a \$1,000 grant provided by the Buckle-Up PA organization given for the Thanksgiving Mobilization. A Springfield police officer was able to be out for 22 hours performing traffic enforcement. Almost 30 citations were written along with some stationary seatbelt checkpoints.

The prescription medication return box will be arriving soon. Officer Jacoby has cleaned up and reorganized the evidence vault. In early 2012, the Springfield officers will be wearing new uniforms. There will be a savings of almost \$260 compared to the current uniforms. They should last longer and provide more comfort for the department along with easier replacement of items. Township resident Len Kramer noted how informative Officer-in-Charge McDonald was and resident Hans Reinmann thanked the police for being out there in the community. Supervisor Bedics noted that Officer-in-Charge McDonald left an excellent impression on the local Lions Club.

**Township Manager** – Rich has spoken with representatives from Upper Saucon Township to try to resolve the drainage problem being generated by a property in Upper Saucon Township that is affecting Nemeth & Ebert Roads and Giffert Way in Springfield Township. He was told that a former zoning officer who did not require stormwater management, which was a requirement of Upper Saucon Township at the time, issued the building permits. In additional conversations with representatives of Upper Saucon, Rich was told that the affected residents should file suit with the owner of the farm.

Officer-in-Charge McDonald, Jason Wager and Rich attended “Ready Notify PA” training at the Bucks County Emergency Management Center. Springfield Township is now enrolled in the county system. Springfield Township residents who own a landline telephone will be able to be notified in the event of an emergency.

A total of 41 permits were processed during October and November totaling \$7,631 in revenue.

### **Presentation**

John Pesiri, a representative from Newman Paperboard, discussed the recycling of cardboard in the township. Newman Paperboard would offer a multi-year agreement for a twenty-yard paper-recycling container at no charge to the township. The Township would receive payment for the tonnage in the container. Rich Schilling stated that two bids were received to haul the container to and from the recycling facility. At this time, the logistics of having the container may not be reasonable for the Township, but the Township Manager would look into this further.

Karen Bedics received a plaque from the Board of Supervisors for her outstanding service to the residents of Springfield Township. It was asked by many that she continue to be involved in the township after her term runs out.

The Springfield Community Day Committee members were awarded with certificates for their dedication and service to the community. Committee members receiving certificates were Rose Strong, Joanne Graziano, Cheryl and Michael Gawronski, Nancy Kemmerer and Dolores and Willard Weierbach.

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

Township resident Len Kramer expressed his displeasure with the tax increase of one mill in 2012. He commented on his frustration on not cutting expenses more than they already have. Resident Willard Weierbach commented on how thankful he was for support the Community Day Committee received by the Board, the township staff and Silver Creek. Hans Reinmann thanked Karen Bedics for her work within the township.

### **Governmental Matters**

The Board unanimously approved Rich Schilling to have the township join the PSAT Emergency Management Association.

### **Old Business**

Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt the 2012 Budget of \$1,467,756. Karen Bedics **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long and Rob Zisko. Voting **No**: Volker Oakey. The motion **passed**.

### **New Business**

**1. Resolutions to approve the acquisition of Conservation Easements on three properties** – Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor, discussed the three properties. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-17, accepting TMP #42-09-105, TMP

#42-09-105-1 and TMP #42-09-175. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-18, accepting TMP #42-9-34. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously. Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-19, accepting TMP #42-4-88. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously. The total acres preserved through these resolutions will be 191.837 acres.

**2. Lease of Township Land on Peppermint Road** – Rob Zisko **moved** to award Paul Longacre a 3-year lease at \$1,135 per year. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Authorize Open Space Mapping Project for GIS** – Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize the open space mapping of Springfield Township to William Brokaw for no more than 16 hours costing \$45/hour. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Resignation of Emergency Management Coordinator** – Michael Guarino resigned from the position of Emergency Management Coordinator stating that his family and job commitments have made it difficult to fulfill these duties. Barbara Lindtner accepted the resignation of Mr. Guarino.

**5. Selection of new Emergency Management Coordinator** – Rob Zisko **moved** to recommend Curtis Reiss as the new Emergency Management Coordinator. His name will be submitted to the Governor for appointment to the position. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously.

**6. Change in PLGIT & QNB Financial Signature Cards for 2012** – Barbara Lindtner **moved** to change the QNB check signers adding Jason Wager, Secretary Treasurer, and John Oehler, in-coming Supervisor and removing Karen Bedics, Supervisor. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to change the PLGIT authorized check signers effective 1/1/2012. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously. Barbara Lindtner also **moved** to utilize the Capital Reserve as needed during year-end and the first quarter of 2012. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously.

**7. Authorize Medical Benefits payments for Secretary/Treasurer** – Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize a monthly reimbursement of \$502.54 to Jason Wager, who is on his wife's medical plan, in lieu of using the Township medical and dental benefits. This will save the township \$775.17 per month and \$9,302.04 per year in benefit payments. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously.

### Correspondence

The Department of Environmental Pennsylvania received a complaint about Stewart and Nancy Ackerman pertaining to large amounts of concrete blocks placed into the Cooks Creek drainage area. An Earth Disturbance Inspection was conducted by BCCD agent Eric Wightman and it was determined that the Ackermans were in violation. They will need to remove the materials by December 27, 2011. Rich Schilling and Rich Pursell will meet with Mr. Ackerman in the future about his complaints of water drainage.

### Public Comments

**Terry Clemons** commented on how much he enjoyed working with Karen Bedics.

**Rich Schilling** thanked Sandy Everitt and Karen Bedics for their outstanding job they have both done during his time with the township.

**Willard Weierbach** voiced his concern over people talking on their cell phones while driving around the township and the dangers this is causing for other drivers.

**Jim Nielsen** inquired about the tree-trimming plan for the township after the October 29<sup>th</sup> storm. Rich Schilling informed the group that a plan was in place to take care of the hazardous areas around the township.

**Len Kramer** thanked Volker Oakey for "paying attention" and not approving the tax increase. Mr. Kramer also voiced his concern over the water drainage issue on Ebert Road.

**Bill Ryker** feels the Township Board has dismissed the Nemeth and Ebert Road water drainage issue. **Ryan Schaeffer**, who also lives on Ebert Road, also expressed his concern. He has put his own money and time into keeping the water out of his home and has been unsuccessful. Rich Schilling went over his findings again with Mr. Ryker and Mr. Schaeffer. Rich stated that Upper Saucon is unwilling to help at this time and suggested the residents of this area take legal action against the owner of Flint Hill Farm. Karen Bedics suggested that the residents being affected possibly get together and pursue this legally. Mr. Ryker expressed that he was not interested in pursuing this through legal means. Rob Zisko and Barbara Lindtner reiterated that the Township cannot get involved in a legal matter against another Township and that we could not force that township to fix the problem since it is outside Springfield Township's purview. Mr. Ryker, who has attended and stated the issue to the Upper Saucon Board, expressed that Upper Saucon has made him feel that they are not concerned with this issue at all and will not help him and his neighbors. Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor, agreed a letter from the Springfield Township to Upper Saucon stating our concerns and findings by Rich Schilling and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer, would be okay to do. Karen Bedics moved to authorize a letter stating our concern to Upper Saucon Township regarding the flooding of Giffert Way, Nemeth and Ebert Roads. Rob Zisko seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**Hans Reinmann** thanked Sandy Everitt for her service to the township.


### Supervisors Comments

**Rob Zisko** and **Dave Long** thanked Karen Bedics for her work within the township. They stated her willingness to do what was necessary to make the township better. **Barbara Lindtner** also thanked Karen for her tireless work within the community.

### Adjournment

At 10:10 p.m., Karen Bedics moved to adjourn the meeting. Rob Zisko seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A A Wager". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive style.

Jason A. Wager  
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: January 3, 2012  
Approved: January 24, 2012