

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

February 9, 2010

Jim Brownlow, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. An executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss land acquisition.

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Barbara Lindtner, and Volker Oakey. **Absent:** Rob Zisko. **Also present:** Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police; Scott MacNair, Co-solicitor; and Rich Schilling, Township Manager.

Bills for Approval

Barbara Lindtner **moved** to approve the following bills paid from January 27, 2010, through February 8, 2010:

1. General Fund	\$29,443.63	3. Open Space	\$ 1,069.35
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 5,054.33	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 3,453.09

Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Department – (Posted) Barbara Lindtner and Karen Bedics commended the Road Department for their long hours and for the outstanding job they did clearing Township roads during the recent bad snow storms.

Police Report – (Posted on website) Officers handled 140 incidents during January 2010. The State Police handled 23 incidents during January. Chief Laudenslager and Officer McDonald attended the Amity Township (Berks County) Crime Watch meeting in Douglassville. Their Board is willing to assist Springfield Township in starting a Town Watch program. Rich Schilling and Chief Laudenslager will meet to work up the financial and program needs to start a Town Watch. They will also contact and meet with the residents who expressed interest in being part of the Town Watch, and report back to the Board. Jim Brownlow wants this program to be run by resident leadership and workers, with the Township personnel offering guidance and assistance. Barbara Lindtner offered to help with research and work with interested residents. The Board is not against providing seed money for this project. Karen Bedics asked the Chief to give her a copy of the program guidelines from Amity Township.

Township Manager – The public meeting for the Act 537 Draft Plan was advertised for February 23 and will be held at the Springtown Fire Department.

PPL is now in compliance with township requirements for their activities on the Hickon Road property. The Road Department completed temporary repairs on Hickon Road and PPL will be billed for the expense involved.

Rich met with Mr. Sullivan, Upper Bucks Agricultural Collaborative, regarding the work being done to shore up the historic structure located at 3160 Route 212, Springtown. The township's building inspector will not inspect this work, as historic materials are being used this and this is outside the scope of their inspection criteria.

The Township signed a two-year contract with Liberty Power to provide electric for the township's needs. PPL electric costs were approximately \$8,839/annually. With the projected increase, the annual cost would have risen to about \$12,030. With Liberty, the cost for the first year will be approximately \$8,847. The savings will be about \$6,000 over the two-year contract.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Draft Open Space Plan Presentation

Dave Long, chairman of the Open Space Committee, requested the Board to accept the draft Open Space Plan update so that it can be advertised and the 30-day public comment period can begin. Barbara Lindtner pointed out that page 1 references an "appointed Parks & Recreation Board," which has not yet been established. On page 16, ¶ 2, it refers to the Township's 1991 Park & Recreation plan; no such plan was ever adopted. This paragraph will be removed entirely. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize advertisement of the Open Space Plan update (with the changes discussed) for the 30-day public comment period. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Public Hearing

Scott MacNair presented the draft ordinance to permit the Township to enter into an agreement to join the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) in order to obtain health insurance for Township employees. This advertisement for this hearing appeared in The Morning Call on February 2, 2010. The Ordinance was sent to the Bucks County Law Library and was available for review at both the Township and the office of The Morning Call. Scott opened the hearing for public comment; there was no public comment. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt Ordinance 155 as advertised, permitting Springfield Township to enter into an agreement with PMHIC to obtain health insurance for Township employees. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

1. Recreation Plan – The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) denied the grant application for funding to begin work on a Recreation Plan. DCNR received \$101 million dollars of grant requests with only \$18.9 million dollars available for 2010. Only townships that submitted multi-municipal applications were granted funds. Barbara Lindtner is concerned that this plan be in place before development begins so the Township can charge recreational fees to developers. Rich Schilling is exploring with Bucks County using County Open Space funds to help should the Township pursue developing a Recreation Plan independent of DCNR. The Board asked Rich to prepare a Request for Proposal for a Recreational Plan for them to review, with the Board being under no obligation to accept any of the bids if proposals are obtained.

New Business

1. Cost Increase in Appraisal Fees for Open Space Acquisitions – The Board previously authorized the Open Space Committee to pay \$2,000 for land appraisals. Because of recent changes by the IRS to the rules and regulations for these appraisals, David Palmer (the Township's current appraiser) increased his rates to:
a) \$2,500 for appraisals of conservation easements with or without improvements, and b) \$2,900 for appraisals of conservation easements with improvements and additional lots, which can be sold outside the easement. Such lots must be valued separately. Volker Oakey **moved** to increase the rate that can be spent for appraisals to no more than \$2,900. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion passed unanimously.

The Bucks County Natural Areas Program recommended the Hardy property for approval, but they require that a second appraisal be done. Volker Oakey **moved** to authorize a second appraisal for the Hardy property. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Public Comment - None

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics presented a memo to the Board containing a number of questions from the Planning Commission about future well monitoring. Discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

Scott MacNair asked if the Board wanted Clemons, Richter, Walsh & Reiss to file a *Notice of Intervention* on behalf of the Township in the AT&T appeal of the denial issued by the Zoning Hearing Board for their request to put a 180' monopole on the property of the Springtown Rod & Gun Club. Doing so would permit the Township to put conditions on any future settlement agreement. Scott estimates it will take one-half hour to file this *Notice*. Jim Brownlow **moved** to authorize the solicitor to file a *Notice of Intervention* regarding the AT&T appeal of the ZHB decision. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Adjournment

At 8:40 p.m., Jim Brownlow **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: February 23, 2010 (Springtown Fire Department)
Approved: March 9, 2010